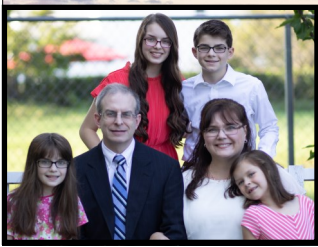


## 600,000 Russians in New York City need a church that speaks their language...



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Sent by Grace Baptist Church of Urbana, Ohio, through Baptist World Mission -  
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Dear Friend,

Spring 2021

We have written about the Mamatkazin family many times. Katya and her young daughter, Iolanta, first came to our church almost seven years ago. You may remember that Iolanta was blind from a cancer that took her sight as a baby. Later, Katya's husband (Ruslan) and her son (Rodion) joined them here in America. Ruslan wanted nothing to do with our church, but Katya and both children came to our services each week. As time passed, Katya was saved and began to change. Rodion was saved, and Ruslan became friendly and sometimes came to church. After they moved from Brooklyn



to Manhattan, they came only rarely, but would sometimes watch our services online. They moved back to Brooklyn and had another son but rarely came to church. Covid happened. Dan texted them earlier this month, and Katya replied by saying that she and Ruslan had been in a car accident two days previously. They were not seriously hurt, and that weekend, they came to church. After leaving church, Katya called Dan later that afternoon and said that Iolanta wanted to be baptized! During their long absence from our church, she continued to listen to our online services with her Dad. We arranged a time for Sherry to talk to Iolanta, and she led her to Christ! We are planning to baptize her in a couple of weeks, along with two others who have placed their faith in Christ. Please continue to pray for Ruslan to be saved!

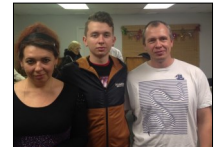
We rejoice that in the past month, we have seen a few people returning to church whom we have not seen for the past year. Although we began meeting together again nine months ago, there are many who have continued to stay away since Covid closed our doors last March.

A church like ours is always somewhat fluid, but we are sad to see quite a few of our people moving away from New York City. One man is planning to relocate to Cincinnati. Another is Olga Bilan, who was saved in our church. Since we have more than one lady by that name in our



congregation, we usually refer to her among ourselves as "right-hand Olga" because she is such a help to us. America has been her home for 11 years, and she has been the primary breadwinner for her family in Uzbekistan during that time. She has put two of her grandchildren through college. She recently told Sherry that she wanted to go back to Tashkent and enjoy her family while she still has good health. We may have her for a few more months, but the clock is ticking. We will miss her, but are so glad for what the Lord has done in her life!

Yesterday was the last service for a family of three. Sergey, Inna, and Bogdan Shumenko will be moving to Jacksonville, Florida, in two days. Inna is saved. Sergey does not claim to be a believer, and Bogdan has not made a clear profession of faith. Dan has tried to find a good Russian-speaking church in the area for them, but the best one seems to be about an hour from where they will be living. It doesn't look to be an ideal situation, but Bogdan said that they might continue to watch our online services. Please pray for them!



Yuri and Katya are a faithful young couple that moved away earlier this month. Yuri, who developed our church website, took a job in New Hampshire as the IT director at a community college. We do miss them, especially as Dan asked Yuri to consider teaching a class for teen boys.



As a final prayer request, we are interested in starting another Russian outreach approximately 30 miles away from our current church. We would really appreciate your prayers as we weigh different options!

Serving our Saviour,

*Dan, Sherry, Symphony, Lacey,  
Shastya, Gabriel, Emma, & Kelsie*