

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



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Dear Pastor Blount & friends at Lighthouse,

Spring 2017

Happy Spring! This is a time for new growth, and we are glad to share with you some encouraging signs of God's hand at work here in New York City.

Baptism is often the first step of obedience for new Christians, and we have four people who have enquired about taking this step. One of the four is Bobur, an Uzbek man, who is burdened to see other Uzbeks come to Christ. He told Dan that, other than himself, he did not know of a single Uzbek who was a follower of Jesus Christ. The very next Sunday, he sat in the front row of our church, and directly behind him sat Matlyuba, a woman from... his home country of Uzbekistan! After the service, Dan was glad to introduce them to each other. Matlyuba is another of the four desiring to be baptized. While distributing gospel tracts on the street, Dan met another young Uzbek (this one still unsaved) whom he put in touch with Bobur. Please pray for this young man (John) to be saved!



We were very excited earlier this month when Alexey, a solid younger man from the Ukraine, stepped behind our pulpit for the first time and delivered his first sermon to our church—a 17-minute gem from John 21 on Christ's call to "follow thou me." It was well prepared and delivered, and we look forward



to more service of this kind from him!

You might soon be able to hear our services yourself, as another young man, Iurii, has bought a camera and began recording our Sunday evening services.

His goal is to post these on YouTube, although that hasn't yet happened. This tech development follows another innovation that we are utilizing. When the oldest man in our church moved away to be near his daughter, he bought a laptop (his first computer at 80+ years old!) so that he could Skype our church services! He attends a local church but can still view two of our services each week.

We wrote last time about Olena, a Bible college senior who visited us for two weeks during Christmas break. She was a blessing to our church during that time, and we asked you to pray that the Lord would clearly show her what she should do after graduation. He did, and she told us that she will be returning to Russia to serve Him as a missionary there. It wasn't what we had hoped, but we wouldn't want her here out of God's will. However, two weeks ago, a Ukrainian lady named Alexandra came to our church for the first time, and after the service, she went right up to Dan and asked, "Pastor, what can I do to serve the Lord here?" She seems to be a mature Christian and an experienced servant of the Lord, and we pray that she will prove to be a great asset to Christ's body here.



On the same Sunday that Alexandra came, our hearts rejoiced when the door opened and an old friend walked into the church. Oleg and his family had been faithful attenders years ago, and we had wondered what great things the Lord had in store for them. Then, other things had attracted their attention and consumed their time, and they stopped coming to church altogether. We had not seen them for three-and-one-half years. Their lives have become troubled, but God can still calm (or raise) storms. Please pray for Oleg and his wife Olga.

We have many times written about Katya and her unsaved husband, Ruslan. This great story is still not finished, but gives us great hope. Our family recently had dinner with them in their apartment; this, from a man who once feared us as cultists and declared that if we ever came to visit his wife, he would leave rather than be in the same place as us! Now Ruslan and Dan greet each other with hugs. God's power to change hearts is amazing! Ruslan's father, Vladimir, was also very friendly to us. Please continue to pray for their salvation!

We were blessed, *really* blessed, to be in three of our supporting churches (two near Dayton, Ohio, and one in Chicagoland) so far this year, and have been contacted by a non-supporting church about organizing a ministry trip to NYC for them this summer. Thank you all for your prayers and support; come over into Macedonia and help us!

We have written much about helpers past and future in this letter. We cannot close without mentioning the death of our pastor's wife, Mrs. Rita Jo Fortna, on March 17. The full extent of her impact on our lives is known only unto God. We loved her, and learned from her, and look forward to our eventual reunion. She rests from her labors, and her works do follow her. Our works will follow us, too. Let's gather sheaves and crowns to lay at the feet of our Saviour! Thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!



Serving our Saviour,

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