

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



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Dear Pastor Blount & friends at Lighthouse,

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Summer is here! But while we stock up on barbeque sauce and ketchup for the grill and sunscreen for our skin, let's not be slack in offering the "balm of Gilead" (Jeremiah 8:22) to those around us who are suffering and dying without it.

Our family had a neat encounter just yesterday. We had picnicked in town at a small park. It didn't offer much for our children to do, and the playground equipment that they did have was in full sunlight, so we decided to seek some shady activities at a state park located less than two miles away.

We reached the second park, spent some time there and had one last event planned: a ride on an antique carousel. On our way there, we walked straight into the picnic area of Oleg and Olga (whom we mentioned in our previous prayer letter) and their family! They live



half a mile from our church, but we found them two counties and twenty miles away in a 740-acre park with six separate picnic areas after a spur-of-the-moment decision. Please pray for this hurting family to return to the Lord!

We have also crossed paths with several other missionaries since our previous letter. The first of these is the Adam and Brandie Crabtree family. After being forced to leave Athens, Greece, in 2009 after five years of service as church planters, they came to NYC's 130,000-member Greek immigrant community (the largest in the world) to continue their ministry. Their story is similar to our own,

and when Adam discovered a Russian-speaking group of immigrants in his College Point, Queens, neighborhood, we agreed to offer a Russian Bible study at the same time as their usual Wednesday service. After a year of doing so with little Russian response, this outreach has been discontinued, at least for now.

It could conceivably be replaced by a similar outreach in the Bronx. Missionaries (and good friends) Ben and Andrea Hamilton are planting a church there near the area where the Russian Mission to the United Nations owns a 16-story residential building for its personnel. At this point it is only an idea, but it is an intriguing ministry opportunity.

Missionaries visited us on three occasions. Tim and Melanie Skirkey, longtime friends from one of our supporting churches, made another trip from their New Hampshire home to fix another part of our 113-year-old house. Previously, they had gone to Yap (a Pacific island north of New Guinea) to work on a radio tower. We, however, didn't ask them to climb any higher than the second floor. And while we don't have a radio tower, we do now have a YouTube channel. Some our recorded services can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIPwCwes9skPTsXoCTFJvcg> and more are added each week.

A group of high school seniors from Bob Jones Academy ministered in one of our services during their annual weeklong senior missions trip to NYC, and at the end of April, we were very pleased to host Jacob and Viola Hughes, missionaries to Moldova, for a few days. Sherry has known the Hughes family for more than 30 years, and it was a treat for us and a blessing to our church to have them with us!

Our Sunday morning attendance crept into the 40s on four occasions

during the previous three months, and reached 50 on the last Sunday in May when we baptized three people from our congregation: a young man from Uzbekistan and ladies from the Ukraine and from the Republic of Georgia! And on Easter Sunday, 64 people attended our morning service, and a total of 80 different people attended our services sometime that week!

Alexey (whom we mentioned in our previous letter) has delivered two more sermons to our church since then, and his son Nikita has expressed an interest in being saved! Pray for them.

Sherry traveled to Pennsylvania during Mothers' Day weekend to speak at a church's ladies' banquet, and our entire family is looking forward to October, when the same church has invited us to come for their Missions Conference! However, we will be without our oldest daughter, Symphony. She is graduating from high school this year, and in August, we will take her down to Crown College near Knoxville, Tennessee, where she is planning to major in Missions. Although the Lord has not yet indicated the country to which He will be sending her, at this point Symphony has an interest in India. Please pray for her as she takes the next step in His plan for her life!



In May, our church again obtained space to have a literature table during Bayfest, a local street festival, and we have also obtained our space for the Brighton Jubilee street festival to be held on the last Sunday in August.

May the Lord make His face to shine upon you!

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