

600,00 Russians in New York City need a church that speaks their language...



Dan & Sherry Hyden Family

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Sent by Grace Baptist Church of Urbana, Ohio, through Baptist World Mission -
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Dear Pastor Blount & friends at Lighthouse,

The week between Christmas and New Year's Day is a great time for both thinking back through the current year and ahead to the coming year. We are sure many of you are, like us, thanking God for his goodness and faithfulness in 2017 and praying and planning for what He will do in 2018.

Much of what we do in the ministry seems mundane. We do the same thing over and over, pray for the same people day after day, make the coffee, clean the pot, sweep the floor, pick up the hymn books. We listen, we counsel, we look to God to do what we can never do. God is faithfully at work in hearts even when we don't know it. And it's worth it even when we don't see results, but how exciting when we do! We've asked much prayer over the last few years for Ruslan, Katya, Rodion and Lana. We know you know them by now. This fall, after not seeing this family for awhile (they live in the Bronx now), we were so glad to greet them on a Sunday evening. Katya shared that Ruslan became concerned about us and determined to drive to the church to check on us. Why the concern? We have a YouTube channel that one of our young men (Yuri) manages for us, and Dan's Sunday evening sermons are uploaded there. However, for about two months this fall, no new sermons were added when Yuri went back home to the Ukraine for a visit. "Ruslan has been secretly watching and listening to your sermons, Pastor Dan," Katya shared, "and when he discovered you were not there, he came to me and asked me



what happened to you." Wow! This is the same man that two years ago was scared of Dan and threatened to leave his own apartment if we came for a visit. Now he is reminding us of Nicodemus, coming secretly with questions to Jesus. We share this to encourage you as we have been encouraged. The wait has been long, but please don't give up praying for this man to come to Christ. He is very concerned about his wife's health (she has had cancer and is not well now), and God may use this to continue drawing Ruslan to Himself.

We have other praises and prayer requests we will briefly mention in this letter:

Praises:

1. Great Sunday morning attendance of around 40 the past couple of months
2. Highest-ever crowd of 90 people for the special Thanksgiving service



3. Wonderful Christmas Eve services with special music, reading and several guests
4. New family coming regularly from Long Island for the Sunday evening service
5. Some ladies have begun The Exchange Bible study

Winter 2017/2018

Prayer Requests:

1. Alexei, Tanya and family – personal family needs
2. Marina (in red hat) – health needs



3. Zarina – encouragement and wisdom
4. Oleg, Olya and family – personal family needs
5. Bobur – spiritual growth and salvation of girlfriend

We're looking forward to seeing what God will do in 2018! We're praying for faithfulness in ourselves and our people, for growth and decisions for Christ. We want to thank each of you for your ministry in praying for our family and for the Russian people in NYC and beyond. We also thank you for your faithful giving which helps our family live and work here where God has called us. Faithfulness does not seem so mundane when the fruit shows up. May 2018 yield a bountiful harvest!

Serving our Saviour,

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

Thank you for your support
in prayer and giving in
2017! You are a blessing!
Thank you for the increase
in support too!