

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



Sent by Grace Baptist Church of Urbana, Ohio, through Baptist World Mission - PO Box 2149, Decatur, Alabama 35602 - (256) 353-2221 - www.baptistworldmission.org.

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Dear Pastor Blount & friends at Lighthouse,

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About five years ago (October 29, 2012), Superstorm Sandy blasted into New York City with 33-foot-tall waves and a storm surge almost 14-foot-tall. Almost 50 New Yorkers died, in addition to approximately 100 people in other areas. Our brother, Sergey Druchuk, who preaches with Dan each week in our Sunday evening service, had just moved his family from a basement apartment into a second-story apartment. Sandy flooded that basement apartment up to the ceiling. Although Sergey's family escaped much of the suffering that would have been theirs, others in our church (and our rented church building itself) were hard hit.

But believers from as far away as Wisconsin and Florida came to help us recover and rebuild. One of our supporting churches in Pennsylvania came more than once. Other churches from across the country sent funds to help.

In recent days, attention has turned from Houston (Hurricane Harvey) to Florida (Hurricane Irma) to Puerto Rico (Hurricane Maria), and our people have responded with aid to all of these places.

For those of you who would like to help but are not sure of the best way to do so for these or future events, we recommend Operation Renewed Hope (www.operationrenewedhope.org), a Christ-centered disaster relief, medical missions, and medical supply ministry that came to our aid in the aftermath of Sandy.

Other storms have darkened our way as well. Sherry's dad died on July 28.



He entered the hospital in December and never returned to his house, spending the last seven months of his life moving back and forth between hospital and nursing home until he spent his final

week in hospice at the home of Sherry's youngest sister. Now he is HOME and whole! Praise God for His mercy and grace, His sacrifice and redemption, His promise and comfort!

We drove to Illinois for the funeral, where Dan conducted the graveside service. We were able to spend some time with our oldest son, Christopher, who lives there and see friends and other relatives from four of our supporting churches. Especially meaningful was the sight of Pastor Michael Poole, who drove three hours with his wife to attend the funeral. He is the pastor of Sherry's middle sister, and the church he pastors also supports us.

We were further saddened when Sherry's home church, where we were married 24 years ago and which has supported us for more than twenty years, finally closed their doors after a long decline. A light has gone out in that city. May the remaining lights shine even brighter! The church was extremely generous in the final dispersal of their assets, but we do pray for others to take their place.

The trip gave us the opportunity to visit three new churches, which is always exciting. Each was a blessing. At one, we surprised dear friends with a joyful reunion. Another was an unexpected but timely opportunity to assist the pastor by preaching. The third was a privilege to meet a whole new group of friends, some of whom our two oldest daughters had heard many times as they daily listened to them on their Faith Music Radio app. What a treat it was for them to be asked



to sing live over the air a song that they had written! It was a neat memory and ministry opportunity, and just four days later, we left Symphony at Crown College to begin her freshman year.

Another storm lay in wait for us later that same week as we learned of major problems that were occurring in one of our church's most respected families. Heartbreak! Now, everything with them is in disorder, and much prayer is needed. Will you please pray with us for Alex and Tanya, and for their children Nick and Liza?

But among the storms there have been bursts of glorious sunshine. We've mentioned some of them already. We also had our literature booth open at the Brighton Jubilee street festival; a somewhat impromptu church picnic organized by some of our people; and a time of ministry in the Bronx with our church-planting



friends the Hamiltons. Moreover, the glorious light of the Gospel has shined into the hearts of two ladies here (Nargiz and Alla) and into the heart of one of our faithful young women's mother, who lives in far off Kazakhstan! They have been saved! The Good News of the Gospel sent to a distant land has resulted in good news coming back from that land and is the cause of rejoicing in heaven!

We might write more about that later. For now, thank you for supporting us. Pray for us! Pray *with* us! And rejoice in God!

Serving our Saviour,

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