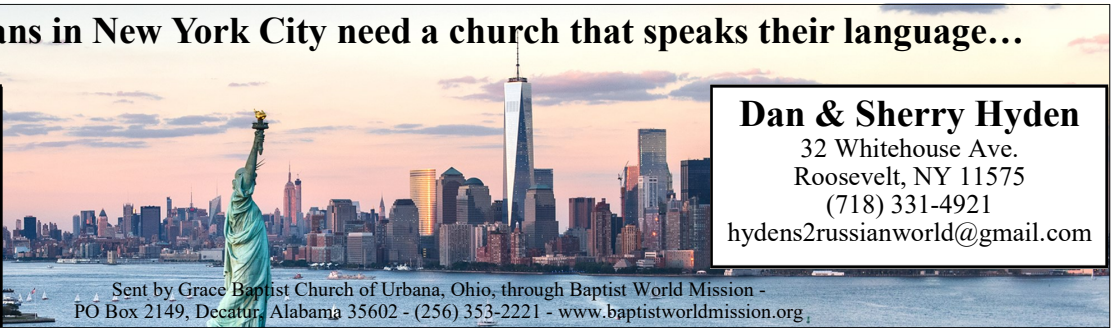


## 600,000 Russians in New York City need a church that speaks their language...



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

September 2023

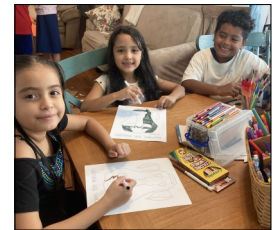
An area of southern Brooklyn called Sheepshead Bay is where our church for Russian-speaking people gathers. We also have a weekly Bible study in the Forest Hills neighborhood of Queens. Thousands more Russian-speaking people live beyond the borders of New York City, farther to the east on Long Island. We would like to start another outreach in this area, where many of these people find it difficult to travel into NYC. We know of three specific areas that contain both a Russian Orthodox church, as well as a Ukrainian Catholic church. Dan has been looking for a meeting place in one of these communities. Please ask the Lord to guide us in this endeavor and open up a door for ministry!

In July, Dan went to Manhattan to support one of our men in his immigration process. We thank the Lord for a favorable decision in this case, but three days ago, one of the ladies in our church (Olena) told us that she has received just the opposite: an order of deportation back to the Ukraine. We have written previously about another of our families: Olga and her two young sons, Anthony and Matthew. Matthew spent the summer in Belarus with his grandmother and was going to return here to New York in time to start school. But the Belarussian government has decided that there is a problem with the same paperwork that they previously approved. Now Matthew cannot travel to the U.S. in the care of his grandmother. Instead, his mother must go there herself to get him, but there is credible reason to believe that if she does so, none of them would be allowed to leave the country, even though both she and her sons are all American citizens. Please pray for Olena and Olga as they face difficult decisions.

At the end of July, we enjoyed a great visit from our mission board's field director and his wife, Dr. Dave and Nancy Canedy. The weekend was hot, but we had a lot of good fellowship (including baseball and some putt-putt competition). We're thankful for their ministry to our family and to our church! But soon after they left, sadness came.

There is crime in our neighborhood, and drugs. There is noise and trash. We sometimes don't like living where we do. But God has us here for a good purpose. We have neighbors who need to know Him. On August 3, a young man who lived across the street from us died tragically and suddenly in the night. Dan had spoken with him several times about the Lord, but we know of no decision to trust Christ. It is beyond sad. However, through this tragedy, we have had the opportunity to show Christ's love to his family. Please pray for them and us as we continue to reach out to them.

The following week was our church's annual English VBS. Although we live 25 miles from our church, we were so blessed to be allowed to take 4 neighboring children with us each night. One boy, 9-year-old Joshua, had never been to Brooklyn before in his life, and one young girl, Sarah, prayed to receive Christ as her Savior! What an amazing answer to prayer! The children were at our home each day making crafts before the evening program and we continue to have almost daily interaction with some of them. With children filling most of our rented facilities, our Russian adults had to squeeze into the only space we had left: our smallest classroom. One man even had to stay outside. Our church in Brooklyn is also in need of more space. Please ask the Lord with us to give us more space, and then more ministry!



August 27 brought another annual Brighton Jubilee street festival. For most, it is a time to eat food from street vendors, shop the wares, or make money. For us, it provides a great opportunity to get out some gospel literature. This year we were able to pass out some 1,500 tracts as well as some Bibles. Our theme was "Peace - Do You Have It?" Our large banner and many tracts displayed this searching question in English, Spanish and Russian.

And then, two weeks later, came the weekend of 9-11. Understandably, no place remembers and mourns that day like New York City. We reached out to first responders and their families. Please ask the Lord to bring fruit from the seeds that were planted and life from death, as only He can. One gentleman has said that 9-11 was not just an attack on America, but an attack upon all of humanity, because people from 90 countries perished when the World Trade Center was destroyed. And the death toll is still rising, as injuries and illnesses that began on that day continue to snuff out lives. September 11 was but one brutal act in the attack on humanity that began in the Garden of Eden, masterminded by the devil. But our Lord Jesus Christ is the Victor! Let us reach as many as we can.

Serving our Saviour,

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