

600,000 Russian-speaking people in New York City need a church that speaks their language...



**Dan & Sherry Hyden**

32 Whitehouse Ave.

Roosevelt, NY 11575

(718) 331-4921

hydens2russianworld@gmail.com

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

Dear friend,

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Earthquakes, an eclipse and a shipwreck, calliope music and cotton candy, and the resurrection of Christ all played a role in our recent ministry! At the end of March, our family took part in our citywide Easter Singspiration. Last year, Dan preached at the event, but this year, he read Scripture, and our daughters Emma and Shastya sang as part of a ladies' group.

In April, NYC was impacted by the strongest earthquake in the region since 1884. A few days later, 90% of the sun was eclipsed here in the city for a few minutes. These unusual events played a role in Dan's sermon that weekend. The following Sunday was the 112th anniversary of the HMS Titanic's fatal iceberg collision as the ship was enroute to New York City on its maiden voyage. That day's sermon was devoted to lessons drawn from that disaster. Dan also spoke in May at a prayer meeting for area pastors, preached for our English partner church, and conducted a funeral for the 96-year-old father of a man in our church. Later that day, we went to the 80th birthday party of another lady in our church who is now homebound due to Alzheimer's disease. Between those two events, we were distributing invitations for our church anniversary when we met the imam for the mosque located about four blocks from our church. He invited us into the building, received a stack of our flyers to make available to his people, and expressed interest in any future youth activities we organized! We welcomed missionary and friend Sam Wilson to our church for a great service on June 2; we have had four new visitors to the church, including one in each of the past two Sundays and a young lady who attends our weekly Bible study in Queens made a profession of faith and was baptized!



In family news, Gabriel celebrated his 16th birthday, Sherry also had a birthday, and Shastya graduated from high school! Sherry also traveled to Wisconsin for a spiritual retreat with her own high school classmates and then was able to spend some time with our daughter Lacey, who is a nurse in that state. Our daughter Symphony moved with her husband from our county to Pennsylvania, where they are attending one of our supporting churches!

We asked you to pray for Alex and Rod. We are thrilled to report that Alex completed his addiction recovery program and has a transformed life! Rod has also made progress. And regarding our property search, an interesting new possibility has come to light, which we are pursuing. Please continue to pray for these requests!

Our focus for much of the past couple of months was the English church's 25th Anniversary, which was a tremendous success! We closed the street in front of the church and filled it for a few hours with free food, music, carnival games and prizes, puppet skits, balloons, and more! Hundreds of people came, the Gospel was proclaimed throughout the day, and our ties with our neighbors, the city, the NYPD and the FDNY (fire department) were strengthened. One officer told us she attended another event at our church three years ago!



We have a church picnic coming up soon, and then Vacation Bible School and the Brighton Jubilee are both in August. Have a blessed and fruitful summer!

Serving our Saviour,

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

