



Russian Evangelism

August 10 - 28, 2012



Vernon, Susan, Shannon, Dana, Mac & Lorna

Encouraging Our Brethren

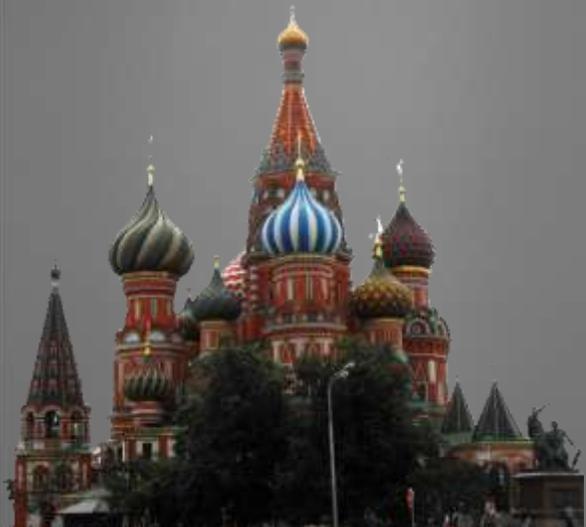
Since 1994 we have been involved with the work in Russia in several ways. This was my sixth trip and it was a pleasure to have my wife Dana along. This was Dana's second trip. Her first trip was in 1997 and things have changed much since that time. My last trip was in 2006.

Our team of workers included Dana and I, Carl and Lorna McMurray and Vernon and Susan White. Carl (Mac) and Vernon are elders with the church in Anderson, IN. We all got along great and worked together very well.

The purpose of this trip was for encouraging the saints in Moscow and Tula. We considered it similar to Paul returning to various cities encouraging them on his second trip.

*"When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."
(Acts 14:21-22)*

The need is great for us to not only go and preach to those who have not heard but, also to return and encourage our brethren





Natsha, Elijah and Dasha

Think of this:

Moscow is a city of over 11 million people.

Russia spreads over 11 time zones.

Only a handful of faithful churches.



Meeting with Christians in Moscow.



Alex translating for Vernon.

Encouraging Our Brethren Continued ...

in the faith. It is a hard work to continue on in a culture that is still very irreligious and so suspicious of any who come to preach and teach from God's word.

The freedoms we once had for advertising, renting meeting halls or school rooms are no longer available in Russia. The Russian Orthodox church has great influence and has persuaded the government to start teaching and reading from their literature in the school system.

MOSCOW



Alex Serogin

Alex Serogin and his sweet wife Natasha has hosted the church meeting for worship and bible studies in their flat for a number of years. They have two children, Dasha who is 15 and Elijah who is a little over 2 years old. Elijah kept us entertained often by talking and describing things to us in Russian. He did not seem to care when you

talked to him that you were not speak Russian.

We worshipped with the saints there and had bible studies each evening during the first week of our trip.

The work is challenging and lonely but, Alex continues on faithfully preaching and teaching the word of God. Alex has previously hosted an "English Club" for seeking contacts who are interested in the word of God. He uses the bible as his text for the English readings and teaching. As they discuss the text and as questions come up there are those who show interest. This gives Alex an opportunity to invite them to a bible study or worship time. Alex is beginning another English club to seek contacts for the gospel.

The brethren in Moscow very much appreciate good, encouraging bible teachers to come and assist them in the work they are doing.

The opportunities to go and teach in Russia may not continue on. It is best that we take the time and effort it takes to go now while we are able to go.

TULA

The work in Tula began in 1994 and did very well for a number of years. Alex lived there before he moved to Moscow. We saw the church growing and doing well in 1995 and 1997 when we returned. On our last trip they were still pressing on seeking opportunities to spread the word of God.

The church in Tula has struggled for the last couple of years however.



**Worship with
Christians
in Tula**



Bible study



**Discussing
the church's
needs in Tula**

What Now?

It has been too long a period of time since our last trip. The brethren there in Russia appreciate and love for us to be in contact and to come visit in order to teach God's word and encourage them in their service to the Lord.

There has been a great improvement in communication opportunities through the internet. There are many people who now have WIFI in their flats and even some are on Facebook and some can video chat on Facetime or Skype.

Lord willing we will return next year to seek to spread the news and encourage the brethren yet a little more. Every bit helps and draws us closer to each other and to the Lord.

What Can You Do?

Pray, pray, pray! Look forward to and plan for the opportunity to help myself or others go on trips like this and look for an opportunity to go yourself. Brother Vernon White is a great example. He is still working full-time as an electrician and yet he has made the time to go on two trips. Would you like to go? Let me know.

If you would like an email address of brethren you could write to for encouragement send your request to me at shafferlifeline@gmail.com. If you would like to read more info from our blog we kept during the trip please go to <http://shafferlifeline.blog.com/>.

Encouraging Our Brethren Continued ...

The Tula area is a retirement town for old Soviet military. As a result those who now make up the church in Tula are older and live mostly on pensions.

Since returning home we have found out there is another group of Christians meeting in Tula. Praise God for this great news!

The few folks that we worked with have some more brethren they will be able to work and worship with in Tula.

Pray that Eugene and Nina (husband & wife), Sasha (who works at a college), Valia & Vera (single ladies) will have a good reception with the other group that is meeting. They need a great deal of encouragement as well as a place to meet.

The other group we have learned about has two Russian brethren who are preaching there. There is a brother from the USA that goes over each year and works with the preachers and teaches the group while here is there. Pray that they may all work together to praise God!



Anatoly questions



Video chat w/ kids



Nina & Eugene

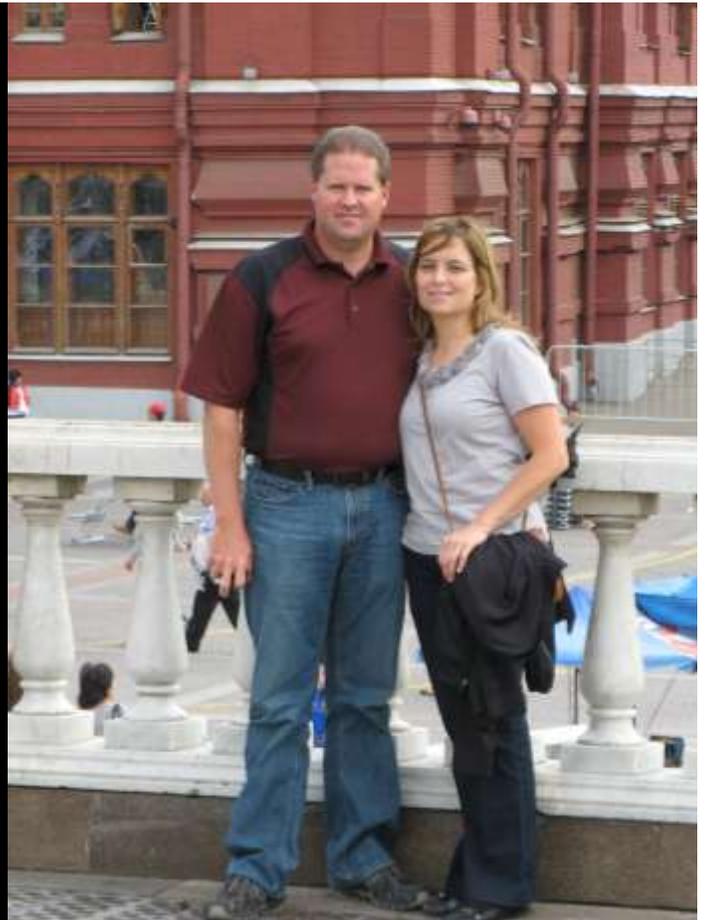
Thanks So Very Much!

...to all who helped make this trip possible. Individuals and congregations gave financial support. The local church here in Martinez, GA encouraged and allowed us the time to go and maintained our support at home. Others did very practical things like help with the kids, took Emily to Florida College while we were away, cut grass, took care of our animals, and many other valuable and helpful things.

Here is a list of our supporters and helpers. I pray that I do not exclude anyone.

New Hope church of Christ - Fairview, TN
N. Boulevard church of Christ - Tampa, FL
Central church of Christ - Westland, MI
Southside church of Christ - Somers, KY
Benton church of Christ - Benton, IL
John & Lisa Doran
Jo Martin
Ann Franklin
Ron & Janice Wilson
Marvin & Becky Voyles
Jacob & Nickie Gwin
Sally Shaffer
John & Denise Churchwell
TJ Davis & Alisha Doran

Shannon & Dana Shaffer Cell: (615) 289-1721
308 Barnsley Drive, Evans, GA 30809



“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”