

The Hearron Family Newsletter

Second Quarter 2017

Missionaries to Russia

Serving Since 1993



Change of Seasons

We had a relatively mild winter this year. It rarely got below -30F. Praise the Lord all of our home's systems (water, heating and plumbing) worked like a charm. This was one of my concerns coming back so late from our furlough, arriving in November well into winter. It also helps to have lots of kids to keep the furnace full of coal on a regular basis. This was a change from past years. Our older three are home schooling now, so trips to the boiler room to add coal to the stove provided frequent breaks from lessons.

Opposition to Evangelism

The new laws restricting evangelism have hurt every ministry in Russia. Among several other rulings affecting people of faith, Russia's highest court upheld lower court rulings against the Russian Jehovah Witnesses, which total in number over 140,000 members, proclaiming them an extremist organization and prohibiting them from assembling. All of their properties have been confiscated by the state.

Although they deny Christ's deity, for which the Bible defines them as anti-christs, in any free society, they would be guaranteed the right to assemble and practice their faith peaceably. However, things are now different in Russia. It is only a matter of time before other confessions are deemed extremist and banned. It is only a matter of time until our ministry is affected.

As a result, we are doing things differently so as to keep below the radar. If there was ever a time needed to pray for Russian Christians and your missionaries it is now. We need wisdom, peace of mind and courage. We know our God goes before us. We trust him for protection and to lead us to those He has prepared to receive His Gospel message.

One added note, be careful of your communication to us. It is all being monitored and listened to.

Influencing Lives

In spite of the hindrances mentioned above, we still have friends that visit us throughout the week and have shown an openness to God's truth. Although we have not seen much spiritual fruit, we are encouraged in the fact that the seed of God's Word is being sown.

We are surrounded in spiritual darkness. But the Light of the Gospel is able to burn away the dark, change lives and restore the lost to a holy relationship with the God of Heaven. Not long ago, the kids and I were coming home in the car. We were unable to turn into our gate because a young man's lifeless body lay in our way. I stopped the car and approached with the kids looking on. Pooled around his head was coagulating blood. I bent down to feel for a pulse, at which time, I saw two small eyes open. Inside I praised the Lord that the man was alive. I helped his muddy and stinking body from the road. He was blind drunk. His face and hair was a matted mess of mud and blood. I helped him to his house just a few steps away.

A few days later, I saw him walking by our gate in a better state of mind and invited him to visit with us. He has yet to come. Satan's rule is firm, but I praise the Lord that our God's Word is stronger and possesses the power to free the shackled from their bondage and break the rule of Satan over them. But it first requires a heart that is willing to seek truth. Pray for those to whom we minister that they will come to the light.

Four Goats and a Milking Stand

We purchased two milking goats and were given two newly born kids from one of them. This has been a great learning opportunity for our children. They have done a great job taking care of the goats by cleaning their pen, milking and putting them to pasture every day.

We had not had the goats even a week when our biggest dog (180 lb.) got off his chain and cornered our best milker. We only noticed a week later that a fang had punctured just below the spine and between two ribs. She developed a serious and deep abscess. For more than a month, Abigail and I cleaned, irrigated and bandaged this wound. She eventually got better only for it to come back. Eventually we had to put her down and sold her to two Tajik friends who butchered her for meat.

The goats have provided so much food for thought and have brought to mind many parallels to this life. They are a head strong and stubborn animal just like many people. They are resourceful and tricky, just like people. What they see and want, they will usually get, just like many people. However, the abscess of sin, if left untreated, will fester and eventually lead to death, just like with so many people.

As the kids and I watched the Tajiks cut the goat's throat, bleeding her out, then skin and butcher her, she provided one last lesson for my family. The example of God's animal sacrifice for sin in providing coats of skin to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness was made final in Christ's sacrifice upon the cross - **Amen!**



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