

The Hearron Family Newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2018

Missionaries to Russia

On the field since 1996



We are back in Russia as of January 1, 2019. My new telephone is: +7 (978) 069-6506

Medical Furlough Ended

Again, gratitude is the only word that comes to mind when I think of our many supporters who have prayed for me and my family during our furlough to the USA. Our plans to travel and raise extra support never materialized. And yet, some of our supporters increased their giving to our church planting ministry. Although we are still far from the BIMI recommended support level, we continue to trust the Lord, since He knows best our needs.

I praise God for His mercy to endure and undergo medical testing and for healing, after two major operations. My stomach issues that I had in Russia have seemed to pass. Testing showed no trace of erosion in my stomach or cancer in my digestive tract. This has put my mind at ease, since both of my parents are cancer survivors. Surgery, to repair the tendons in my left elbow, has worked. The severe arm pain these last two years is gone and I am gaining more strength each passing day.

Although, it seemed that the insurance company was not going to cover my spinal implant surgery, your prayers prevailed. My surgeon was successful in implanting two spacers and splinting my C5, C6, and C7 vertebrae. Following surgery, I was in a neck brace for one solid month and forced to sleep in a recliner. This is probably one of the more difficult episodes in my life to endure. But again, your prayers lifted my spirits and my sending church helped with transporting the family to and from church events. Please continue to pray for healing to my neck. It is crucial that the implants successfully fuse.

Developments in Russia

Missions in Russia has been rocked from two sides. First, the 2014 annexation of Crimea and then the 2015 and 2016 changes to Russian law severely restricting the freedom to evangelize and assemble for the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a result, Russia has seen an exodus of missionaries leaving works in progress without a shepherd. Temptation for our family to throw in the towel and bow out has been great. But we have no direction of the Lord to follow such a course.

Like the Disciples of old, our family too has had to make changes to better position ourselves to stay the course, during difficult times. One of these changes was the sale of our Russian village home last summer. This event was truly of the Lord and allowed our family to take furlough and put us in a better position upon our return. Since 2016, using our home for our ministry was in violation of Russian law. In addition, almost all of our church family were driving 65 kilometers from Krasnoyarsk for services. So, while on furlough, our people were put under the care of the Krasnoyarsk Baptist Church, led by Missionary Pastor Kevin Jones. Our plan was to return, live in Krasnoyarsk, and continue our church planting ministry. That was, until the Lord revealed to our family a bigger plan.

With the annexation of Crimea in 2014 by Russia, I began to follow and offer counsel about Russian immigration law to the various BIMI missionaries who were no longer missionaries to Ukraine, but to Russia. In a short time, all lost their residency status and were required to convert to Russian visas which limited them to 3 months in Russia followed by three months out of Russia. Needless to say, their Church planting works suffered greatly in their absence. In short, only two of these missionaries remained in Crimea as of our July furlough date. One was able to get a better visa status and the other, Bro. John Spillman, who was actively planting the Simferopol Baptist Church, was not so fortunate. After exhausting all avenues to improve his resident status, he contacted me at the end of August and asked if I would pray about coming to Crimea to continue his church plant in hopes of helping it one day transition to a national pastor. We counseled with our sending church pastor, BIMI mission director, and Missionary Kevin Jones in Siberia, under whose care we left our church people, after which, we agreed to pray.

It was not long before the Lord gave peace and direction to accept Bro. Spillman's offer. In reflection, we now see the great plan the Lord was unveiling, unbeknown to us, with the sale of our home, our furlough to the USA, the seamless integration of our people into the the Krasnoyarsk Baptist Church in Siberia, and having permanent Russian Residency Status. The door to our family's continued church planting now in Crimea, Russia was opened after the small group of 18 believers voted in October to accept me as their missionary pastor. Our family departed Oklahoma City on December 31. Destination: Simferopol in the Russian Republic of Crimea. Please pray for our return to Russia, the country that has been our home since 1998 and smooth transition into Crimea.

Sending Church: Higher Plain Baptist Church, 6810 N.W. 122nd St., Oklahoma City, OK 73142 Tel. +1 (405) 702-7715

Field Address: C. Duane Hearron II, **SANCTIONS PROHIBIT MAIL COMING TO CRIMEA, RUSSIA** Tel. +7 (978) 069-6506

Mission Agency: Baptist International Missions, Inc., P O BOX 9, Harrison, TN 37341 Tel. +1 (423) 344-5050 (Account #: 776)