

Reasoners In Russia

Ron and Kathy Reasoner

June Prayer Letter 2010

We had a wonderful picnic for the 'Day of Russia'. Some call it 'Constitution Day,' others call it 'Independence Day,' and others have no idea what they are celebrating. Whatever the occasion, it was a wonderful day to invite people over and give them the Gospel. We had 30 people attend our picnic and many of them were new visitors. One of the visitors was the wife of a district attorney in Moscow. The day began with the cooking of the shashlik. It has taken me several years to perfect the art of cooking shashlik. It is marinated pork on a skewer and cooked slowly over an open pit. The key is to keep turning the skewers until a golden brown finish encases the meat. It was a wonderful day to cook because while I cooked, I had the chance to witness to those around me. There is something about cooking marinated meat that brings people over to you. When they follow their nose they get to listen with their ears. It was a great day for our church and our guests.

Once we fed everyone, we invited them into the auditorium to sing the Russian national anthem. Most of the people did not know the words of the song. We had them available and the people were appreciative. Several made the comment that this was the first time they had sang their national anthem. The sermon was focused on "Righteousness exalteth a nation." If we are going to see lasting change in Russia it must come from the Russian people. People need to be saved. This is the reason we are here.

A few weeks ago I performed my first wedding ceremony here in Russia. We sent Olesya off to Bible College in the States a few years ago where she met Sebastien Messin, a French man. They were married here in Moscow and plan to be church planters in France once he graduates from Bible College. We are excited about what God is doing in their lives. The marriage bug has hit a lot of our church family in the past year. Elijah was first last January, Nickolai followed in September, Micah in October, Keturah then Olesya in May, and now Vitalik will be married in September. We praise God that all of these young people were able to find mates who want to serve the Lord with their lives.

We ask that you continue to pray for us as we seek to gain residency status here in Russia. We hit a road block immediately upon our return. Our names on our new visas are spelled differently in Russian this time and thus none of the government offices will allow us to do paperwork. We have been to office after office trying to get this problem solved, but the only way to solve it is to leave the country and come back in on a new visa with our names spelled correctly. This visa is only good for three months so we have decided to wait until this visa expires in August and make sure that the new visa has our names spelled correctly. Meanwhile, we are not even allowed to register our car so we must go everywhere on foot or on public transportation.

Pray for our English club. This is a way for us to acquaint ourselves with people in the community. We will start the club this week. Pray for souls to be saved and lives changed.

Yours for Souls in Russia,

Ron and Kathy Reasoner