



The Reasoner Report

Joel and Michelle Reasoner, Missionaries to Russia

E-mail: Jesussaves88@hotmail.com

Phone: 405-922-6281

*Rec'd
1/12*

January 2012

Temple Baptist Church

Proverbs 3:5,6

Prayer Requests

- Winter activities in Russia
- Michelle as she learns the language and culture of Russia
- God's direction in choosing a city up North to base out of
- God's grace as we settle in to this new phase of our ministry

Special Needs

- \$500 - furnishing our new home
- \$500 - warm clothes for trips up North

Sending Church

Yakima Bible Baptist Church
6201 Tieton Drive
Yakima, WA 98908

Missions Clearinghouse

GIBmissions
602 Manco Rd
Lewisville, TX 75067

Receipt

Received Oct-Dec:

300.00

Home at Last

We have been looking forward to writing this prayer letter for about two years now, because we are no longer writing as missionaries to Russia but as missionaries in Russia. We will be working with my parents for our first term as I re-acclimate to the culture I spent much of my youth in and as Michelle learns it for the first time. God has been so good to us in blessing us with a smooth transition to our new home. When my family first arrived in Russia in 1994, we had no one to meet us and had to learn everything the hard way. What a blessing it has been to experience many of the benefits of being a veteran missionary while still enjoying the excitement and wonder of the first few steps in

fulfilling the calling God has given us for these people!

We have been officially on the field since January 4, and we have been so active that we have had little time to sit down and let it sink in. Two hours after arriving in Russia, I got in a car and took a 20 hour road trip to Kalmikee to preach at a winter retreat. I was planning on sleeping in the car, but apparently the Kalmikee man who was driving also planned on sleeping in the car, so I was forced by my sense of survival to stay awake and keep him awake. At long last, we arrived at our destination, and I was finally able to fall asleep for the first time in 42 hours. Upon waking the next morning, I preached a sermon and had my first cultural experi-

ence. In Russia, they have a tradition of performing an espousal service in a church when two people get engaged, and the pastor's daughter and her groom-to-be asked me to perform the espousal service. So that evening, having no idea how to proceed and having no one to ask who had ever performed one, I gave a charge, prayed over the couple, and had the parents voice their agreement with the union-to-be. It was my first "they don't teach you this in Bible college" experience, but God was good, and the service was special. I look forward to performing many such ceremonies throughout the course of our ministry, should the Lord will. Thank you all for your faithful prayers.

From Russia with Love - Michelle

Ever since I was a young child, I have looked forward to winter. Each morning I would wake up and look outside hoping the ground would be covered in snow. Most mornings I was disappointed, but once in a while that amazing day would come and we would get that ever so longed for gift from God! Today I sit here on the little couch in our room looking out the window. The ice cycles ranging from 2-4 feet are hang-

ing from the roof. The ground is covered in snow! Every morning I wake up and look outside and can not help but smile. God's creation is so beautiful, and here I am getting to enjoy one of my favorite parts of His creation. We just finished an English intensive camp. Several Russians stayed in our home here and also out in the dorms. Whether you are from different cultures or not, when you are in a close area for a few days you get to

know one another better. When different cultures are involved, there is never a dull moment. We had a good camp and took the opportunity to share God's love and salvation with those here. It's so hard to believe we are here getting to do what we have looked forward to for so long. If anyone is interested I have started a blog about life in Russia. at fromrussiawithlove-michelle.blogspot.com.