



## Mission 1910

## Fall Quarterly 2005

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### Mission update

What a beautiful and exciting time of year! Fall in St. Petersburg means an end to White Nights, so the days become increasingly darker. Now that we are well into December, it is dark by 3:30 PM; however, nature is splendid on the few and rare days we experience sunshine.

The vibrant yellows, reds and oranges provide a serene backdrop for strolls in the historical parks throughout the city, while presenting serenity to reflect on months gone by and days ahead.

As I walk from the metro station (subway) to teach at one of the Subway Restaurants, I am privileged to view some of the most historical sites of the city - Kazanksky Cathedral and the Church of the Spilled Blood, and on those rare sunny days I marvel at the beauty of the sun glistening off the onion dome tops of these magnificent structures. Autumn in St. Petersburg also means more succulent garden fresh vegetables. I particularly enjoy the wonderful harvest of ripe round tomatoes, deep green cucumbers, squash, cabbage, potatoes, bright green, red and yellow peppers, and juicy sweet apples.

We praise God for the progress at Logos Language Center. After my return to Russia this past June, we were not able to continue the use of the St. Petersburg Christian Library due to finances. In the beginning this news was disheartening but God opened another door. And as I mentioned in the summer newsletter we have been blessed to share the office space with Vineyard Church (the church Jeremy pastors). Currently we have use of three rooms including; the church office, the children's classroom, and the sanctuary. Jeremy did an outstanding job over the summer converting these rooms to double as classrooms and their intended use. We are blessed to have more than 45 students enrolled in our English Center and we received a contract to teach at two high schools; however, we were only able to accept one of them at this time. In addition to this, I received a contract to teach English and Business English for the Subway Restaurants of St. Petersburg. Also, we praise God for Annette, (our teacher from last year) who sponsored three orphans to attend Logos!

We praise God for the fruit of our labor as well, a few students have attended church several times already this semester and I have already had the opportunity to talk about Christianity vs. Russian Orthodox with one of the managers at Subway. I had more opportunities to talk with my Buddhist friend, as I shared with her the power of prayer

concerning my health. But, we are not without challenges. In late September our offices were broken into and robbed. They stole everything (brand new DVD player, cordless phone, coffee and tea pots, American souvenirs that had been donated, etc). But yet are encouraged in knowing "...all things work together for the good...!"

Finally, we are rejoicing and praising God for Sveta's father's salvation. Thank you for your fervent prayers for Paul. He repented and received Christ over a month ago!

Let the light that came to Bethlehem some 2000 years ago shine in your life! And may you come to know Him more intimately this Advent Season and in the coming New Year.

*Lisa P. Christian*  
Missionary to Russia

### **How Can I Be a Part?**

#### **Praise Report**

Praise God for....

- *My successful surgery and recovery*
- *Sveta's father who repented and recieved Christ!*
- *The 45+ students who are enrolled at Logos*
- *The students who are attending church*

#### **Prayer Requests**

Pray for...

- *My continued health and strength!!!*
- *Sveta's father's health.*
- *A vehicle for Logos Language Center*
- *The Russian people*
- *The Russian government*
- *Pastors, missionaries and Christian workers in Russia*
- *My network of volunteer staff Stateside*
- *Logos students, staff and teachers*

#### **Teachers**

We are now looking for teachers for the 2006-2007 School year.

Qualifications:

Committed Christian Life

Desire to serve overseas

Ability to commit to one semester (16 weeks) OR one year (nine months) in St. Petersburg, Russia

A four year Degree

ESL/EFL Teaching experience a plus

#### **Short Term Mission Trips**

We are looking for teams of 3-10 who are willing to come for eight to ten days serving in the following ways: classroom teaching, conducting seminar/workshops, street ministry etc.

#### **Supplies/Donations**

We currently have a need for pens, pencils, American paraphernalia/souvenirs, ESL/EFL reading books, replacing the DVD player.

#### **Sponsoring a student**

Some of the people of St. Petersburg are not fortunate to be able to study English and would love the opportunity to do so at a qualified English Center such as Logos. You can make it happen. Sponsor a student! Or ask your church to sponsor a student(s).

If you are interested please contact me via email:

[mission1910@hotmail.com](mailto:mission1910@hotmail.com) or [logosrussia@hotmail.com](mailto:logosrussia@hotmail.com)

## **Food For Thought**

### **Culture Shock**

It seemed *so* normal as I sat on the marshrutka (taxi bus) this fall morning at 7:30 AM seeing a twenty something, clean shaven man drinking beer from a 16 ounce can. As I glanced in his direction my thoughts were going over my lesson plan and my student I would meet in less than 30 minutes until a revelation suddenly jarred me out of my thoughts. *I'd become used to this scene, people drinking on the streets and on public transportations at ALL times of the day.*

What had occurred that now caused me to view this as normal behavior? It is what experts have termed the Acceptance Stage of Culture Shock. Culture Shock is apprehension or disquiet that a person experiences when moving to another culture and/or environment. The experts have given Culture Shock four stages, Honeymoon, Rejection, Conformist and Acceptance Stage.

Many things brought about discomfort my first few years living in Russia like taking off my shoes upon entering someone's home, being served a full meal when invited to someone's home for *just* tea, seeing cats run freely in the streets, stores and restaurants, making a purchase and placing the money on a tray and picking up the change from the tray, overcrowded buses and metros and people drinking on the streets and/or public transportation. However, after ten years, many of these things no longer cause discomfort if they are even noticed at all.

On this fall morning as I sat on the marshrutka I began to think about the idea that I was no longer shocked by seeing open containers on the streets of Russia and my mind began to think about our Christian life and our reaction to sin.

Paul states it like this, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think." Romans 12:2a (NLT)

Sin has stages; I label the first stage awareness or possibly temptation, the second rejection, the third conformist and the fourth stage acceptance. However, we must be careful *not* to get adjusted to sin. Just as it takes time to go through the stages of Culture Shock it also takes time to go through the stages of sin. If we don't reject sin, it will lead to acceptance.

Have you allowed a sin to become normal or unnoticeable? Let's check ourselves and make sure we keep sin in the rejection stage! Daily Bible reading, prayer and allowing God to continually renew our minds will assure us of this.

Written by: Lisa P Christian

## My Update

I want to thank each of you for your prayers as I prepared to come home, during the surgery and for all the many phone calls, emails and gifts during my recovery. I'm thankful to God for His loving kindness and tender mercies toward me. I feel his healing hand everyday!

Prior to returning home I was weak due to my extremely low blood level and therefore normal activities took on magnificent size, but God...

## Praise Report

My flight departed from Moscow, which is an eight hour overnight train ride from St. Petersburg, and as I got off the train and walked toward the train station I casually thought it would be wonderful to have an angel come to assist me because I was so weak. Just as I finished my thought a man walked over to me and asked if he could help me. As I stared at him in disbelief, wondering if he were the angel, he asked again. I said, "Yes, if it's possible." He immediately began to carry my luggage and carry on bag.

As we approached the train station I asked him how to get to the metro. He said, "follow me."

The man not only took me to the metro, but got on it with me and continued with me as we made the transfer. He then proceeded to tell me his stop was on the same line (dark green) as my stop. God is awesome! Not only did he send someone to assist me but his destination was the SAME line as mine. (There are roughly eleven lines on the metro in Moscow, a city of about eleven million people). When we introduced ourselves to one another and shook hands I said a prayer for him. Please remember Igor, that God will bless him for his wonderful act of kindness.