

Cheston Furrow

Missionary to the Former Soviet Union

Sponsored by:
Caprock Baptist Church
3627 East 29th Avenue
Amarillo, TX 79103-6510
(806) 373-7575

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Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Praise the Lord for his goodness and mercies in our lives. Spring has finally arrived here in Russia. We had snow flurries as recent as last week even though it did not stick. God continues to bless even though the devil is continuing his fight for the peoples of Russia.

There has been a change in the law concerning the issuing of visas to work in Russia. Previously missionaries were allowed 1 year multi-entry visa. Under the new law they only allow missionaries 3 month 2 entry visas. (Note: A visa is a stamp that is placed in your passport by a Russian embassy and is needed to enter the country.) These visas can only be obtained by leaving the country and traveling to a Russian embassy outside of Russia. This has made it difficult for missionaries to do work inside of Russia. It has placed a great financial burden on missionaries. Each trip to obtain a new visa can cost anywhere from \$500-\$1000 per person per trip. For me as a single person it is manageable but for a family it begins to add up very quickly. Thankfully my visa does not run out until September 1. I was one of the last people to receive a 1 year visa. Please pray that the law will be changed to make it easier for missionaries to stay here in Russia.

I have a good friend by the name of Roy Harrison that has been planting a church in a town a few hours away that is being kicked out of the country. His request for a new visa was denied. Upon inquiring about the reason for the denial, he was told that "Another religious organization had filed a complaint against him". Presumably this was the Russia Orthodox Church. Brother Harrison had started a Church and was about to start a building. He was at the point that he was beginning to look for a Russian pastor for the work that was started. Unfortunately he had not found one when his request for a visa was denied. The work will soon be without a pastor. Please pray that God would supply this church's need for a qualified pastor and for Bro. Harrison as he seeks god's will for the future.

At this moment I am in the eye of the storm. As time grows near to my visa being up for renewal, I am beginning to feel the pressure of the rough times that lay ahead. I ask you to pray with me that I will be able to continue my service for the Master in Russia. Many great things are being attempted for God in this country. God grant that we will be able to see them come to fruition.

My work here in Cheboksary is continuing. I am continuing with my two Bible studies. The young adults group is growing in number and we are praying for several of the new attendee's salvation. The adult class is also doing well. We are coming up on what we refer to as "Dacha season". This is the season where people begin to go to the villages and work in the gardens (Dachas) that they have planted. It gives many people an excuse to miss services. Please pray that God will burden the hearts of new believers that they would continue to faithfully attend our services and not to succumb to Dacha season.

Thank you for your continued prayers and Support.

Working for souls,

Cheston Furrow