

# Cheston Furrow

## Missionary to the Former Soviet Union

Sponsored by:  
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Another evangelistic season has come and gone in Russia. The weather has turned cold with temperatures in the teens and 6 inches of snow. We were able to pass out 50,000 pieces of literature in the main cities in the northern half of the Republic. There have been many requests for the correspondence course we offered over the summer. Several have been from one town in particular, the town of Kanash. Kanash does not have a Baptist church. As the course participants finish the 12 courses, I am praying that we will have a group of people interested in holding regular meetings. This city is about an hours drive from Cheboksary, so it will require a vehicle to make ministry there practical.

I would like to thank my home church for stepping out by faith and sending \$600.00 to cover the cost of literature. My home church is very small, but it has a great heart to see the gospel spread in Russia. May God bless them for their sacrifice.

In December, Russia will be electing a new congress and in March a new president. The current leadership of Russia is afraid of a revolution similar to those that took place in Ukraine and Georgia a few years ago. They accused the West of using non-governmental organizations to facilitate those revolutions, and they are afraid that the West may try to do something similar in this upcoming election. In an effort to stop foreigners from meddling in the election, they have imposed a new registration policy for foreigners. A foreigner under the new rules cannot stay in Russia for more than 90 days at any one time and can stay no longer than 180 days in a year. This rule went into effect October 15th. Unfortunately, I would have been in the country for 180 days at the end of November. In order to comply with these new rules, I have come back to the United States to apply for a new visa. I believe that, once the election is over, these rules will change back to the way they have been in the past, just as they did after the elections four years ago. I will be staying in the United States until the elections are over.

I would like to use this time in the States to report to the faithful churches that support me and to raise more support for a vehicle. If you would like for me to come and give an update to your church, I would enjoy the opportunity. I have dates available beginning in the latter part of December and going into the spring.

The last six months have been really exciting in my ministry. God has been showing His hand in the lives of the Russian people. The Jeff Christian family arrived and has begun to work in Cheboksary. While I am away, he will be conducting church services. He is also affected by the changes in the new law, but he will be applying for a residency permit in January. Please pray for him and his family. He has experience in working in the former Soviet Union, but he is new to Cheboksary.

Please pray for the work in Cheboksary to continue growing while I am away. The services have been going well, and the group is currently studying the book of Matthew. The people are eager to learn and ask great questions about what is being taught from each chapter.

In closing, I would like to report an answer to your prayers. I have in the past asked prayer for the wife of Valodia, one of our men, that she would attend church with him. She started attending services with him the last few weeks before I left. PRAISE THE LORD!

Thank you for your faithful support,

Cheston Furrow