

Cheston Furrow

Missionary to the Former Soviet Union

Sponsored by:
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June 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Thank you for your prayers. I am now in Cheboksary. My friend, Dave Rohr, has come for three weeks to help pass out literature. He was here four months last year and was a great blessing to me. We are, once again, handing out invitations to take part in a correspondence course geared for unbelievers. In the first ten days since he has been here, we have been able to give out over 5,000 invitations. We hope to give out another 5,000 before he leaves. Our services have been continuing as normal, and we continue to pray for the salvation of several who have been attending.

My visa situation has changed once again. I received my passport from the Russian embassy three days before I left the country. I was disappointed to find out that I had received a visa with restrictions. I was told that missionary visas would be good for an entire year, but was given a 90-day in 90-day out visa. This means that I have to leave after 90 days and wait for 90 days before reentering the country. The visa rules are governed by agreements between countries. The European Union and Russia are in negotiations to form a new agreement concerning visa rules. The old agreement expired last fall, and this is when my visa problems began. The new agreement has yet to be agreed upon and would not go into effect until the first of the year at the earliest. There are other possible avenues to come back into the country but none of them can be attempted before the first of the year. Although this means an unexpected return to the States this fall, I will use the time to report to any churches that I was not able to make it to this past winter. I believe the Lord may be using this time to allow me to raise extra funds for my ministry in Russia. This need has become more pressing due to the fall of the dollar and the booming Russian economy. Because of my experience of living in Russia for the last 13 years, I have been able to live on limited funds, but it is time to raise new support to meet the demands. I will continue to trust God for my support and to supply that which is necessary.

The Jeff Christian family, who had come to Russia last year, is also caught up in the visa problems. He is looking to relocate to Ukraine. Doors have opened for him there to help in the city of Odessa. I have enjoyed his family being a part of the ministry here in Cheboksary, but it would not be practical for their family of four to have to travel back and forth to the United States for visas. I anticipate the Lord will use this family in a great way wherever He leads them.

I was able to report to many of my supporting churches this winter, and they were very generous towards my car fund. I was able to buy a car, and it has been a great blessing in my efforts to get literature distributed. I thank all of you who had a part in giving so that it could be obtained.

Thank you for your continued prayer for the men I have mentioned in the past. These men, Vladamire, Igor, Losh, and Alexander are continuing to attend and listen to the Word of God being preached. Continue to pray for the salvation of Igor and Alexander. They always have good questions concerning the Bible. The Lord continues to bless us with visitors to our meetings.

Thank you for your faithfulness in your prayer for my ministry.

In Christ,

Cheston L. Furrow