

600,000 Russians in New York City need a church that speaks their language...



Sent by Grace Baptist Church of Urbana, Ohio, through Baptist World Mission - PO Box 2149, Decatur, Alabama 35602 - (256) 353-2221 - www.baptistworldmission.org

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Winter 2018-2019

Dear friend,

Did you find yourself at the end of 2018 saying, "I can't believe how fast this year has gone by"? Even our young adult children join us in saying it now. It seems the older you get, the faster it goes, which is why it's so good to slow down a bit in that time surrounding the end of the old year and the beginning of the new.

As we reflect on how God has worked already and what we envision for this new year, we first thank God that He has enabled us to even have a part of His work here. He largely does it through those of you who pray for and help us. We are thankful to the Lord for each of you. The faithful support and unexpected gifts, the birthday and anniversary cards, the sweet letters, drawings, and gifts from children's classes, and your prayers on our behalf have encouraged and blessed us. You are an important part of God reaching Russian-speaking people in NYC.

To summarize the last few months of 2018, we have some blessings to share.

In September, a young Ukrainian man, Valentin, shared with Dan that he felt God was calling him to preach. He is planning to return to the Ukraine at the end of this year to marry a pastor's daughter, and then continue to serve the Lord there together with his new wife. We will miss

him if he leaves, but are thankful that we can have a part in his Christian growth. He has been speaking for a few minutes on the Book of Joshua each Thursday evening in our church service.



At our annual church Thanksgiving dinner we had 108 people with 8 visitors, our largest single service ever!

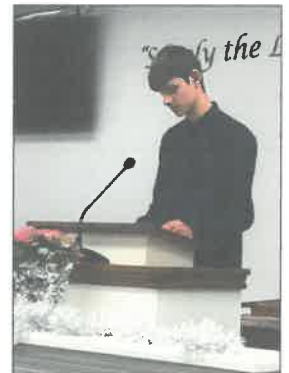


The Sunday after Thanksgiving, a familiar and beloved sister whom we had not seen for a long time reappeared in our church. Anna began attending our church in 2005. Her husband later got saved and wanted her to begin accompanying him to a Messianic Jewish congregation. Years passed, and Anna continued to keep in touch sporadically, calling us on major holidays to wish us well. We knew when her husband died a few years ago. But she only told us the rest of the story on the day that she returned. Her husband, before his death, had asked her to continue to attend the Messianic church for at least three years (and preferably four) after his passing. She had done so, but on the first Sunday after those four years had passed, she came back to our church and said that her heart had been here all the time. What a story!

In our last letter, we asked prayer for Eka, Marina's dear friend. She visited our church in December in honor of Marina's birthday. While she does not seem open to the Gospel at this time, we know she knows where to go for truth when she is ready.



This year we wanted to also hold a Christmas dinner on December 23rd like we do on Thanksgiving. We thought that we could accommodate perhaps 40 people for dinner and a program in our usual meeting room, but as the sign-up sheet began to fill, we realized that we would have to change plans and again use the larger English auditorium. We had 43 people come to our special morning service, and 105 came for the dinner and evening program!



In looking at 2019 we ask you to pray with us about a few things.

1. We have mentioned before the need for additional space for our services. This is still a need and one about which we need clear direction and provision from the Lord.
2. Salvation of Ruslan and Sayaka.
3. As a family request please ask God to give wisdom and direction to our young adult children that we mentioned at the beginning of our letter. Christopher needs to return to the Lord, and Symphony and Lacey are both making decisions about work and college.

The year is new, but the hour is late and there remains much to do. Let's keep our eyes and heart fixed upon the Lord, and our hands diligent in His service!

Serving our Saviour,

*Dan, Sherry, Symphony, Lacey,
Shastya, Gabriel, Emma, & Kelsie*