

HeartCry

MAGAZINE

Siberia

To the Uttermost Parts of the Earth

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BAKHID K.

HeartCry

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

WE HAVE A ... **NEW ADDRESS!**

Dear Readers:

The HeartCry Missionary Society has a new mailing address. Please send all correspondence to:

THE HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 3506
RADFORD, VIRGINIA 24143

Thank you

HEARTCRY STAFF



Vimeo | SermonAudio | Youtube

Video interviews are now available from recent field trips to Siberia, Romania, Lebanon, and Egypt. Visit HeartCry's video channels on: vimeo.com/heartcrymedia, SermonAudio.com/heartcry & Youtube.com/heartcrymedia

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Dear Brothers & Sisters,

All of us here at HeartCry hope and pray that this Summer Edition of the HeartCry magazine finds you growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that the fullness of God's salvation might be an ever-growing reality in you, your family, and your church. We also pray that your knowledge might increase, so that you might know the will of God and live your life in the very center of it. We have only one life to live for Him. It is a great privilege and stewardship. Let us be found faithful.

As I write this introduction, the HeartCry office looks more like Grand Central Station than a mission office. Holden Barry has just returned from Siberia, Marc Glass has just left for an extended trip to the Middle East, and I am headed to Peru for one month. With the departure of three full-time staff workers over the last year, we find ourselves short-handed, wearing many different hats and running on full-throttle! It can be a little exasperating at times, but to be poured out for the Lord's sake and for the sake of His people is an unrelenting joy. Please pray that we might be more sensitive to the Lord's direction and not waste a moment on detours.

We praise God that He has just recently provided a man to take over the work in Asia. In a few months, Brother Aaron Pikkarainen and his "soon-to-be" wife Christina will be moving from Minneapolis to Radford to join the HeartCry staff. This is a tremendous answer to prayer. In fact, God has gone beyond all we asked! In an upcoming edition, we hope to introduce you to this young couple and to the work they will be overseeing!

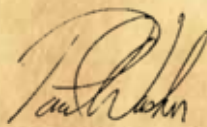
We are very excited about this present

edition of the HeartCry magazine because it focuses on a remote area of the world that has always been upon our hearts - Siberia. Over the last few years, HeartCry staffer Holden Barry has carried a greater and greater burden for Siberia, and when God began to open the doors, he was more than willing to run through them. Over the last year or so, Holden has been making contacts with men of like faith and practice, and we are now poised to advance without reservation with the men that God has brought to us. We sincerely ask for your prayers on our behalf. There is so much to do and so little time. We must go forth with great zeal, and also with great discernment.

With the departure of South American Coordinator Brad White, I have once again taken over the responsibilities for the Spanish-speaking world. To begin, I will be traveling to Peru with my family in order to become reacquainted with the work and the missionaries whom we sponsor. Needless to say, my entire family is excited about the trip and the great possibilities of ministry. Please pray for me and my wife Charo, who will once again be ministering at my side and teaching the wives of pastors and missionaries.

To conclude, I hope that this edition of the HeartCry magazine will not only bless you, but also move you to greater devotion to Christ and His cause!

Your brother,



Paul David Washer

HeartCry Magazine is a quarterly magazine free of charge to all who request it. The primary purpose of our magazine is to share something of the great work that God is doing in the world through indigenous missions.

HeartCry is a missionary society with one great and overriding passion: that God's Name be Great among the Nations (Malachi 1:11) and that the Lamb receive the full reward for His suffering (Revelation 7:9-10).

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THE GREAT NEED

THE STAGE IS SET FOR POSSIBLY THE GREATEST ADVANCEMENT IN MISSIONS THAT THE CHURCH HAS EVER KNOWN.

We will begin this edition of HeartCry with a brief description of our present reality: The harvest is more plentiful than ever, the door of opportunity is open wider than ever, and the workers are as few as ever.¹ The facts are undeniable.

At the moment, there are over seven billion people living on this planet. By the year 2025, the population is predicted to grow to over 8 billion. Of the current population, less than 8% consider themselves to be Evangelical Christians.² Presently, the world's population can be divided into an estimated 16,787 people groups, of which 6,947 are still considered unreached. This adds up to a total of more than 2.8 billion individuals who are currently out of range of the gospel.³ There are also an estimated seven thousand languages and countless dialects in the world. Of these languages, more than two thousand are without the Scriptures.⁴

These figures are devastating; and yet the problem becomes even more acute when we realize that in many of the reached areas of the world, the Christians languish for a lack of biblical knowledge, resulting in doctrinal and ethical error, syncretism,⁵ and worldliness. As in the days of Nehemiah, those who would seek to build up the wall and extend it must fight on all sides. Not only are there thousands of unreached people groups that are dying without the gospel, but there also are just as many reached people groups that are languishing in immaturity and are in need of being better instruct-

ed in the gospel.

The world and the church's needs are greater than ever, and yet so are the opportunities. The stage is set for possibly the greatest advancement in missions that the church has ever known. Political upheavals have opened the door to countries that were previously closed, and all the great "-isms" of secular man have fallen under the weight of their own error. Humanism has left our world disillusioned and cynical. Secular thought has left it soulless and empty. Materialism has left both the "haves" and the "have nots" equally miserable and constantly at war. Sexual libertarianism has raped the individual of human dignity, exiled beauty, and driven a knife through the heart of innocence. Finally, the current revival of paganism has left men praying to rocks, hugging trees, and killing babies. The enlightenment of the twentieth century, which was to bring peace and prosperity to mankind, has spawned more ignorance, poverty, immorality, and violence than any scholar could have predicted or any prophet could have foretold.

It is a day to do great things, and yet the church seems uninstructed, distracted, and impotent. We stand at the open door of great opportunity, but do we have the will and strength to enter through that door? Like Jonathan, will we cross over into battle to see what the Lord will do for us, believing that He is not restrained to save by many or by few.⁶ Or like King Hezekiah will we only lament that "children have come to birth and

"...The harvest is more plentiful than ever, the door of opportunity is open wider than ever, and the workers are as few as ever."

BY PAUL WASHER

there is no strength to deliver.”⁷ The world is ripe for the gospel, but will we meet the challenge? This is not a time for small hearts, timid spirits, and uninstructed minds. As the prophet Isaiah instructed the fearful King Hezekiah, we must trust in the God who rules the nations. We must pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.⁸ We must be willing, even anxious to sacrifice, either in going or sending those who go!

Man’s war against truth has devastated the world; and yet the greater the darkness, the greater the opportunity for the light to shine forth distinctly and purely. In the midst of a first century scenario, we are afforded the opportunity to live like first century Christians and to turn the world right-side up.⁹ However, the Scriptures make it clear that only “the people who know their God will display strength and take action.”¹⁰ The questions confronting all those who would go to the mission field

are, “Do I possess such a knowledge of God, is it a reality in my life, and can I communicate it to others?”

¹ Matthew 9:37; Luke 10:2

² Operation World, p.1, 3

³ Joshua Project

⁴ Operation World, p.1

⁵ Syncretism refers to the merging of distinct and often contradictory religious and cultural ideas. Example: The merging of Buddhistic or Islamic teaching with orthodox Christianity, or the entrance of secular philosophy or pop culture into the Church.

⁶ I Samuel 14:6

⁷ II Kings 19:3; Isaiah 37:3

⁸ Matthew 9:38; Luke 10:2

⁹ Acts 17:6 – “And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also” (KJV).

¹⁰ Daniel 11:32

2012

OF 7 BILLION PEOPLE > 560 MILLION (8%) EVANGELICALS

OF 16,787 PEOPLE GROUPS > 6,947 (41%) UNREACHED!

OF 7 BILLION PEOPLE > 2.8 BILLION (40%) OUT OF RANGE!

OF 7,000 LANGUAGES > 2,000 (29%) WITHOUT SCRIPTURE!

2025

OF 8 BILLION > ? % EVANGELICALS

?

STRIKING

BETWEEN

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY

The sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man have long been set against each other, so that often a believer is asked to choose between one or the other. A more biblical view is to hold tenaciously to both. Has God decreed to make His Name great among the nations, and will He do it? Yes! A thousand times, yes! Has God called the church to be His instrument in this greatest of all endeavors, and do outcomes depend upon our obedience? Yes! A thousand times, yes! Can our finite minds grasp the mystery that holds these two truths together? They cannot; at least, not while we remain on this side of the veil.

What then are we to do? We are to simply believe the full counsel of God's Word. Let's look at another example: Is God one? Yes! Are there three distinct Persons of the same divine essence who are God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Yes! Can we fully explain this mystery? No! But we dare not deny its truth, lest we lose our own souls! We would do well to remember that throughout history, heresy regarding the Trinity has come from those who sought to deny it, *and* from those who sought to defend it! It is the same with the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man. Therefore, it is best to fully embrace both truths than to create a perfect system in our finite minds where one truth must be diminished for the sake of the other.

My dear brothers! Let us be strengthened and encouraged by the sovereignty of God. He will be victorious with or without us. Regardless of the apparent failure of the church and the little progress of the Great Commission, we must believe that our God, majestic in His apparel, is even now marching through the world in the greatness of His strength (Isaiah 63:1). Although He is astonished that there is none to help, His own

arm is working salvation in the world (Isaiah 63:5). Although His people show Him little honor and offer Him only the lesser portion of their lives, His name will be great among the nations from the rising of the sun even to its setting (Malachi 1:6-11).

My dear brothers! Let us not use the sovereignty of God as an excuse for our lack of passion and unbelief. The same God who has decreed that His Son will be worshiped by every nation has also decreed that this work be carried out through the obedience of His people to the Great Commission. The same God who does all things according to the counsel of His will has also said, "You have not because you ask not" (Ephesians 1:11; James 4:2). A great privilege and stewardship has been laid upon us. Many promises have been set before us which can only be obtained by faith. How can we be passive? So much more can be done through us than what we now see. Let us take hold of the promises of God! Let us run the race! Let us determine to be the godliest, holiest, most loving, most sacrificial, and most evangelistic generation that this world has ever known! It is possible! Nothing is impossible for him who believes (Matthew 17:20; Mark 9:2)!

On the opposite page, we find two quotes from two men who held in common a very high view of God. The quotes represent the two sides of the same coin. On the one side, Mr. Tozer warns us against a low view of God that would represent Him as impotent to carry out His decrees apart from the help of His people. On the other side, Mr. Spurgeon warns us against passivity - the evil use of the sovereignty of God to justify our lack of passion toward God and our unwillingness to expend ourselves for lost souls. May God help us to *STRIKE THE PROPER BALANCE!*

THE BALANCE

BY PAUL DAVID WASHER

GOD DOES NOT NEED US

- A. W. TOZER

"The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things." - Acts 17:24-25

"I looked, and there was no one to help, and I was astonished and there was no one to uphold; so My own arm brought salvation to Me, and My wrath upheld Me." - Isaiah 63:5

"Almighty God, just because He is all mighty, needs no support. The picture of a nervous God fawning over men to win their favor is not a pleasant one. Yet if we look at the popular conception of God, that is precisely what we see. Twentieth-century Christianity has put God on charity. So lofty is our opinion of ourselves that we find it quite easy to believe that we are necessary to God. Probably the hardest thought of all for our natural egotism to entertain is that God does not need our help. We commonly represent Him as a busy, eager, somewhat frustrated Father, hurrying about seeking help to carry out His benevolent plan to bring peace and salvation to the world. Too many missionary appeals are based upon this fancy frustration of God. An effective speaker can easily excite pity in his hearers, not only for the heathen, but for the God who has tried so hard and so long to save them and has failed for lack of support. I fear that thousands of younger persons enter Christian service for no higher motive than to help deliver God from the embarrassing situation His love has gotten Him into and His limited abilities seem unable to get Him out of. Add to this a certain degree of commendable idealism and a fair amount of compassion for the underprivileged, and you have the true drive behind much Christian activity today."

WE MUST GO FORTH!

- CHARLES SPURGEON

"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, 'HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!'" - Romans 10:14-15

"You must go forth to sow! You cannot sit at your parlor window and sow wheat—and you cannot stand on one little plot of ground and keep on sowing there. If you have done your work in that place, go forth to sow elsewhere! Oh, that the Church of Christ would go forth into heathen lands! Oh, that there might be among Christians a general feeling that they must go forth to sow! What a vast acreage there still is upon which not a grain of God's Wheat has ever yet fallen! Oh, for a great increase of the missionary spirit! May God send it upon the entire Church until everywhere it shall be said, 'Behold, a sower went forth to sow.'"

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

THE JOURNEY of 6,760 miles took 3 months

St. Petersburg

Moscow

Perm

Tiumen

Tomsk

L. Baikal

Irkutsk

RUSSIA

Nikolaievsk

Sakalin

Stretenik

by horse & cart

The following article was written by Roger Weil of London, England, and published in *Sword and Trowel's* magazine of the Metropolitan Tabernacle in 1999. Heart-Cry was given their kind permission to re-publish the article in its entirety. Mr. Weil found the biography of F.W. Baedeker in a bookshop in London. Like most people, he had never heard of such a man, but was so inspired by his story that he sought to share it with his readers through the following article.

Among the most outstanding missionary exploits ever was this historic and grueling venture by one whose name stirs and challenges to this day - Frederick William Baedeker.

Dr. F.W. Baedeker was born in Germany in 1823, but not into a religious family. He obtained a doctorate in philosophy at the University of Freiburg, and also served in the army. After the tragic death of his wife of three months, he decided to leave Germany, and see the world; and so in 1854, he sailed from England to Tasmania, a journey that lasted over four months. Five years later he returned to England, and took up teaching, still irreligious, and proud of his unbelief.

In the town where he lived, during 1866, Lord Radstock held a series of meetings. An acquaintance invited Baedeker to attend, which he did with some reluctance. It led to him attending several meetings. Then Lord Radstock requested a personal interview with him which ended with both men on their knees in prayer. Baedeker had become a changed man and a child of God.

This highly talented man, well educated and fluent in several languages, was soon actively preaching Christ. Lord Radstock introduced him to some of the nobility of St. Petersburg who had been converted through his ministry, and Baedeker felt God's call to serve Him in the land of Russia.

In 1877, Baedeker and his second wife moved to St. Petersburg and

stayed for three years working mostly, but not exclusively, as an evangelist amongst the large German community then resident in the city and in other parts of the Russian empire. Hearing how many tens of thousands of men and women were in prisons and penal-settlements all over Russia, but especially in Siberia, he exclaimed, "Oh that the prisons might be opened to me!"

He mentioned his desire to a countess in St. Petersburg who was a friend of the empress. She thought this would never be allowed by the authorities, but discussed it with her husband. Some time later, when shopping in St. Petersburg, they happened to meet the Director of Prisons in the street. She asked him if he would give a permit to Dr. Baedeker to enable him to visit prisons, talk to the prisoners, and give them Bibles for their spiritual good.

The director, who was a religious man, was favourable and agreed that Baedeker should visit him. When they met, the director, in helpful vein, told him about the different types of prisons and penal-settlements he should visit. He suggested that Baedeker visit eastern Siberia, especially Sakalin Penal Island, and that boxes of Bibles and New Testaments be forwarded in advance to every place he proposed to visit. He then gave him a permit bearing the unexpected and unique authorisation, "Dr. Baedeker is under special command to visit the Siberian prisons and to supply the convicts with copies of the Holy Scriptures."

SIBERIAN JOURNEY

IMMENSE OPPORTUNITY

A door of opportunity, greater than he could have imagined, had been opened by God for Baedeker to minister to those whom society had rejected and wished to forget. So began a ministry that was to last eighteen years, and which reached into every corner of Russia's vast empire from Warsaw in the west to Baku in the south and to Sakalin in the far east.

Before visiting Siberia, Baedeker spent a few years doing evangelistic work and distributing Scriptures in the prisons of European Russia. Then in 1889, he travelled as far as Tomsk to see something of the conditions in Siberian prisons, and to make plans for a journey as far as Sakalin – all in the days before the Siberian railway was built.

Baedeker began his gruelling, historic mission aged 67, suffering from severe curvature of the spine and other painful handicaps. He was accompanied by the leader of Russian Evangelical Christians, Johannes Kargel (1846-1933), as his guide and interpreter. He was fortunate to find such a wise, godly, and experienced man as his companion, and often mentioned his zeal and helpfulness in letters home. The Russian Bible Society helped Baedeker by sending ahead of him large supplies of Scriptures to Perm, Yekaterinburg, Tiumen, Tomsk, Irkutsk, and Nikolaievsk. Supplies also went by sea from Odessa for his work in Sakalin.

The two men set out from St. Petersburg on the 10th of May, 1890 for Moscow. On their arrival they went directly to the large central prison where the Governor and his officials, recognizing Baedeker from his many previous visits, gave him a warm welcome.

"We arrived to see a party of exiles, 400 men, women, and children, going off on foot to Siberia, a long and terrible march. There are about 3,000 prisoners here and every five days a party is sent off. A kind-hearted Moscow merchant gives to each exile one rouble on their departure, to man, woman, and child.

"There are some families with three or four children and some mothers carrying infants. It was a sad sight to see them all, and knowing Siberia as I do, I am sure that many of these dear people will die on the way, especially the children, and never reach their destination. Next day we saw 800 men in chains to whom we were able to speak



Author Roger Weil with a Russian friend in the old prison in Tobolsk where Baedeker visited. It ceased to be operated as a prison only in 1990.

and present with New Testaments; they were all going to Siberia. Kargel has been a great help to me, he is bold and speaks without hesitation.”

They took the night train to Nizhni-Novgorod arriving on the 14th of May in the morning. Again they went straight to the large central prison, where they visited the prisoners, speaking to them personally and distributing the 500 New Testaments that they had brought with them. That evening they boarded the steamer for Perm, collecting more Scriptures at Kazah which they gave

to the emigrants from Kursk on their way to Tomsk. Their steamer then left the Volga river and proceeded up the Kama river to Perm where they arrived on the 19th of May:

“We went at once to the Governor and then to the large prison in which more than 600 prisoners are crowded together in an unmerciful manner. I do not think I have seen a prison anywhere in which men are so crowded together. There are two more prisons here, and we will try to visit them both.”

HIS WAY OF SPEAKING

Someone who was able to accompany Baedeker into a prison has given this account of his method of speaking to prisoners:

“The prisoners are briefly spoken to as sinners whom God loves, and for whom He sent His Son to die. It was very clear that Baedeker loved them all and this made the men listen very attentively. The prison officials were enthusiastic in helping Baedeker, and also helped the two prisoners who were carrying a huge basket of Scriptures from one cell to the next. In this prison there were men from many different parts of the empire, and Baedeker told them that the Gospel was truly international, for all races of men, through the blood of Christ’s Cross bringing assurance of justification and eternal life to all who came to God through Him.”

SCENES OF STARVATION

They left Perm by train, arriving in Yekaterinburg on May 21st and as was their custom they went straight to the prison. They had also arranged to meet the English representative of the British and Foreign Bible Society who lived in the town. He agreed to accompany them from Tomsk to Irkutsk to help with transporting Scriptures for the next stage of their journey. They then proceeded by train to Tiumen where the railway ended, arriving on May 27th. They were shocked to discover thousands of emigrants and prisoners who had arrived here before them and could travel no further as the only means of transport were river steamers trapped by the frozen river. Baedeker writes:

“Nine or ten steamboats have been lying frozen in the river Tura, but the ice is now thawing. The boats will be greatly crowded as so many passengers are waiting. Our train brought another 800 emigrants. You cannot imagine the scene! Women and children sleep in wooden sheds, but their men sleep outside on the ground. We had many opportunities of helping them with money. Some of



Convicts in transportation.

them are almost starving. I have never seen such misery as here! Prisoners, and there were almost two thousand of them, have better living conditions in the prison we visited. They are put on special barges and placed in cages for their journey up the river."

Their steamer left Tiumen on the 31st of May arriving in Tobolsk on the 2nd of June. Here they visited several prisons. Many of the 1,500 prisoners they met were waiting for transportation by barge to Tomsk with their wives and children. Baedeker said:

"The men listened eagerly to the Gospel, and we took more time in each cell. The Word was given and received in power. We went again this afternoon and in the evening. The prisoners listened with great attention as did the officials. Some of the prisoners who had received Bibles or New Testaments from us last year came and showed them. They had made cardboard cases to protect them. May God bless them!"

After a stay of almost two weeks, they left by steamer for Tomsk, travelling up the rivers Irtysh and Obi and arriving there on the 18th of June. They were met by Mr. Davidson of the British and Foreign Bible Society, who was to help them to transport more Scriptures to Irkutsk, and had brought two *tarantass* (carts) for this purpose; one for himself and one for Baedeker and Kargel. For the next two months, these primitive, springless carts would be their homes in which they would sleep, eat, and store all their belongings!

All the Bibles in large packets were stored in the bottom of the carts with mattresses and cushions laid on top for the passengers to lie on. They visited three prisons and Baedeker was pleased to see that prisoners, to whom he had given Scriptures the previous year, were showing signs of being spiritually influenced by what they were reading.

On the 24th of June, they set out for Krasnoyarsk, 700 km away. There were twenty-seven post-stations on the way where they would be able to change horses and buy eggs, black bread, and hot water to supplement the food they carried with them. Because of the summer heat they rested during the day, travelling from four o'clock in the afternoon through



A Siberian tarantass (horse cart).

till 11 o'clock the following day. It was far from being a comfortable journey.

"The three Siberian horses run very fast, the drivers urging them on at a furious rate by shouting at them! The passengers have to hold on tight to stop themselves from being thrown about and get themselves accustomed to being jerked and tossed as the cart goes along the rough roads. In some parts, these are very bad. Crossing rivers is very difficult, and because our carts are full of books and the roads are very muddy, our progress is not very fast."

visited the prisons in Krasnoyarsk, and Mr. Davidson went on ahead to Irkutsk. Baedeker was deeply impressed by the unspoiled beauty all around him:



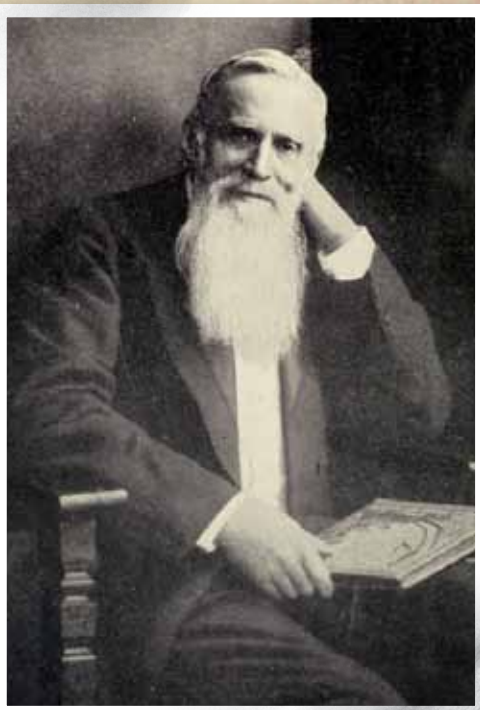
TRAGEDY AMIDST BEAUTY

Along the way, they visited prisons in Mariinsk and Atchinsk, talking to the prisoners and distributing New Testaments. They arrived a week later at Krasnoyarsk. Baedeker was a friend of Colonel Pashkov. A servant of his who was a believer had been sentenced and exiled for his faith to Minusinsk 300 km to the south. It was decided that Kargel should visit him while Baedeker

Convict chained to a wheelbarrow.

"The hand of man has not fallen upon the loveliness of nature here! The magnificent river Yenesei, the towering mountains, the vast forests which fill the spacious valleys and cover the hillsides are truly wonderful. There is a great profusion and variety of wild flowers and grasses, herds of cattle and horses abound. But on the other hand, there are the prisons, criminals everywhere, thousands of them!"

When Kargel returned, they left Krasnoyarsk on the 9th of July for an eight day trek to Irkutsk, a journey of 850 km with forty post-stations along the way. From there, Baedeker regarded the next stage of his journey as the climax of his mission to Siberia. Beyond Lake Baikal lay many of the largest penal-settlements where the most hardened and dangerous criminals were kept – whom no one cared for or ever visited.



Dr. Frederick William Baedeker.

we had open-air meetings for the prisoners and proclaimed the Gospel to them freely and fully. In the evening, 400 to 500 men returned from work, and we had them formed into a square. Kargel and I, standing on the cart with our books, spoke to them all. The officers also listened most attentively, several of them being deeply moved."

Before leaving Irkutsk on the 25th of July, they said goodbye to Mr. Davidson who had to return to Yekaterinburg. Ahead of them was a journey of 1,500 km by *tarantass* (carts) to the centre of the region they needed to visit. Crossing Lake Baikal by steamer, they arrived five days later in Chita, speaking of Christ to Mongolian villagers on the way. On the 2nd of August they arrived in Nerchinsk. Baedeker writes:

"We have now reached the very centre of the Siberian convict-prison system. We have a great number of books to be taken to these prisons, and we may have

MANY THOUSANDS

As he reviewed the previous two months of his journey he lifted up his heart in praise and thanksgiving to God for all His mercies and protection along the way. But most of all he rejoiced in spirit for the unique privilege that God had granted him of ministering His Word to so many thousands of outcasts from society whose needs were so great.

Before crossing Lake Baikal, they had to visit the prisons in Irkutsk where they found some Christians who had been imprisoned for speaking against the use of icons and religious paintings. Some distance from the city was the large penal-settlement where 2,500 prisoners were kept.

"We arrived in Aleksandrovka at eight in the morning. Everything was arranged for us by the officers in charge so



Fixing fetters on convicts.

difficulty obtaining enough horses to carry them. Some days we will have quite a caravan – one *tarantass* and two covered carts laden with books.”

They reached Sretensk on the 5th of August, and the next day set out for the mountains near the Chi-

nese border, where the hard-labour criminals were put to work in the silver mines. During the next ten days, they travelled 600 km visiting seven penal-settlements (the names of four of them can still be found on the map – Kadaya, Aleksandrovski Zavod, Gorni Zerentui and Nerchinski Zavod).

THE RESPONSE

“We had happy work with unlimited liberty to preach the Gospel and to talk to men and women, some of whom were deeply moved. In none of these prisons had there ever been Bibles or New Testaments given before. They were very thankfully received, and the officers were most kind. I am so thankful to God that we have been able to visit these places. No one has ever been here to show an interest in the prisoners, most of whom are hardened criminals and murderers . . .

“It is a sad sight to see the people of these districts; there is seldom a smile on any face. They listened very attentively to our preaching; several men wept and many expressed gratitude. Some fell on their knees and

thanked God. We have at last found a corner of the world where the Gospel has never been heard before. Including Kara, there are 10,000 criminals in these places, both men and women.”

They returned to Sretensk, and on the 18th of August, set out for Kara travelling in an easterly direction on the River Shilka for part of the way and the remainder by cart. In this very remote and isolated region, political prisoners and revolutionaries were kept. After visiting them for four days they returned again to Sretensk:

“We have been to Kara and there reached the climax of the Siberian prisons. The worst criminals are kept here, men and women who even claim to have forgotten home, name and everything of the past. Is it possible? They are called ‘Know nothing’ or ‘Have forgotten every-

thing.’ Our work in the prisons was most cheering. The poor creatures were so grateful for the Word spoken and also many of the officers as well. They said, ‘If our prisoners could hear such sermons

two or three times a year it would make a great difference.’ Their priests practically do nothing for them; they are left to themselves and to the power of evil.”

THE LAST STAGE

The boxes of Bibles that had been sent from Irkutsk were divided into two parts, most being used here and the remainder sent on by river to Habarovsk and Nikolaievsk. They sold their *tarantass* (carts), and boarded the steamer at Sretensk on the 26th of August for the last stage of their journey 3,000 km down the River Amur to Sakalin. At Habarovsk, they changed steamers, and visited the prisons before resuming their journey, arriving safely at Nikolaievsk on the 5th of September almost four months since leaving St. Petersburg. Here, they collected the boxes of Bibles sent from Odesa, and after a few days, departed by steamer for Sakalin, arriving early in the morning on the 13th of September at Aleksandrovsk. Here also, and at Port Duey, they visited the prisons, preached the Gospel, and distributed Scriptures, then went on to Japan. Baedeker arrived home in England in early December. Looking back over his journey, he wrote:

“Every step of the way from Urals to Sakalin was full of serious purpose and holy responsibility since all along the way were exiles and captives, souls who have first claim on a Gospel promising ‘deliverance to the captives’ (Luke 4:18). As we progressed on our journey the interest increased and intensified, but reached its climax in the mining districts of Nerchinsk and Kara amongst the hard-labour convicts, political prisoners, and exiles. I

have had the great privilege and honour of distributing 12,000 copies of the Word of God and preaching His Gospel to more than 40,000 prisoners.”

Dr. Baedeker sowed the precious seed in Siberia over one hundred years ago. How cheered he would be to know that today there are believers and churches in every town he visited, that the work is growing strongly and God’s kingdom is spreading right across Siberia.

The writer summarized this account from the official biography of Dr. Baedeker by R. S. Latimer, published in London in 1906.



LESSONS FROM THE CHURCH IN RUSSIA

by Paul David Washer

"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 5:10

"Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." - II Timothy 3:12

"For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake." - Philippians 1:29

THE PROPER USE OF FREEDOM

As Christians in the West, it is difficult, if not impossible, for us to identify with the above texts of Scripture. Although some of us must bear with occasional insults, slander, discrimination, and marginalization, the possibility of beatings, imprisonment, and martyr-

dom is highly unlikely. Nevertheless, we must constantly remember that throughout the age of the church, and even to this day, many of our brothers and sisters have suffered greatly for the cause of Christ. As the author of Hebrews writes:

"And others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground."

- Hebrews 11:36-38

Immediately after the fall of Adam, God declared to the serpent, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed." Since that time, the ungodly have persecuted the godly: Cain killed Abel because his deeds were more righteous (Genesis; I John); Ishmael persecuted Isaac because he was the child of the promise (Genesis 21:9; Galatians 4:29); the world hated Christ because its deeds were evil (John 3:19-20; 7:7). And Christians have suffered and died for the last two thousand years because they are not of this world, and the world hates them (John

15:18-19; I John 3:13). Therefore, we who do experience some measure of freedom must always remember that our freedom is the exception to the rule. For most who believe, the road is paved with far greater dangers and hardships.

Now before we continue, it is important to say the following: There is no need for the Christians in the West to apologize or to bear some false sense of condemnation for the freedom which they enjoy with regard to their faith. In fact, it is right to pray for such freedom. In his first epistle to young Timothy, Paul gave the following admonition to the church:

"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity." - I Timothy 2:1-2

Persecution is not inherently a good thing, even though it may produce good results - dependence upon Christ, undivided devotion, and Christian virtue. In the same way, freedom from persecution is not necessarily a bad thing, even though it can result in many vices - self-sufficiency, apathy, and worldliness. The key to living properly in the midst of great freedom is set forth in the following Scriptures from Paul's epistles:

"For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." - Galatians 5:13

"Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed." - I Timothy 6:17-19

"Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body." - Hebrews 13:3

From the above texts and the full counsel of God's Word regarding the Christian life, we see that we should not be embarrassed for the freedoms we experience in the West, but we should consider our freedom to be not only a blessing from God, but also a great stewardship that has been laid upon us. Jesus said, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more" (Luke 12:48). Because of our freedom and our wealth, we will be held to a greater

degree of accountability regarding the Great Commission and the care of the church at large than our brothers and sisters who are impoverished, persecuted, and imprisoned. Again, with greater privilege comes greater responsibility and greater judgment. Let us, therefore, live as those who know the fear of the Lord, as those who will appear before the judgment seat of Christ; so that we may be recompensed for our deeds in the body according to what we have done, whether good or bad (II Corinthians 5:10).

LESSONS FROM THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

According to Operation World, the church in Russia has suffered some of the most severe and sustained persecution of any nation in recent history. Deaths in the Gulag prison camps between 1920 and 1990 are reckoned at twenty million, among whom a great many were Christians suffering for their faith. It is also estimated that at the same time, as many as 200,000 Christian leaders were tortured and killed and nearly 100,000 church buildings were confiscated or destroyed. The remaining structures and ministries

were either emasculated or manipulated. The Christians and their children who were not confined to prison were discriminated against, tortured, exiled, or subjected to psychiatric "treatment."

The church in Russia has a long history of suffering. However, in spite of every malignant effort (both human and satanic), Christianity in Russia has not been destroyed; rather it has been strengthened by the persecution it has faced. In the following pages are presented three photographs depicting the devotion of Russian believers in the midst of great suffering. Each one speaks a thousand words of instruction for those of us in the West.



LESSON ONE

In this first photo, we see a small underground church meeting in a secluded area of the forest.

Many of their members and most of their leaders had been captured and imprisoned. They had no building, no great expositor, no talented worship team, no carefully crafted multi-media presentation, and no programs to meet felt needs. In fact, they had none of the things that are considered essentials in modern day Western Evangelicalism. They had nothing to draw believers to congregate except their faith in Christ and their love for one another. They had nothing to attract the unconverted but the promise of certain suffering in this life and glory in the next. How then did they prosper? They prospered by the faithfulness of God, the power of the gospel, and the word of their testimony (Revelation 12:11). A persecuted church is stripped of all self-sufficiency. It has no hope except that which is found in God, and no power except that which is found in prayer. A persecuted church is stripped of worldliness. The world, which appears as a temptress to us in the West, has taken off her mask to the persecuted church and shown herself as she is - a whore stained red with the blood of Christ's bride. A persecuted church is stripped of all outward beauty and prestige. It

has nothing to attract carnal men, and no one will join its ranks except those who have been regenerated by the Spirit of the living God.

What can we learn from this?

First, we should not think it evil to have buildings in which to worship, whether they be a member's home or a large auditorium. Furthermore, we should rejoice if God's providence has provided for us great expositors and teachers. Also, there is nothing inherently wrong with talented musicians and gifted voices. Secondly, we should realize that Western Evangelicalism is inundated with fleshly devices that not only do not advance the cause of Christ, but also hinder it. When will we learn that the more we trust in the arm of the flesh, the less we will see of the power of God? When will we learn that we must not only have a biblical message, but we must also only use biblical means to propagate it? When will we learn that every endeavor of the church is supernatural? We can accomplish nothing except that which is according to the will of God, carried out according to the precepts of God, and accomplished by the power of God. The flesh profits nothing. Western Evangelicalism is full of noise and great activity; but when the dust settles on all our efforts, do we see the kind of devotion that is set before us in this single photograph?



LESSON TWO

In this second photo, we see a winter baptism - What an understatement!

Without an audible word, this photo both encourages and convicts us beyond the power of a thousand sermons. We would be right to say that this photo is a great demonstration of a believer's devotion to God. However, it would be better to say that it is a great demonstration of the power of God in a believer!

Standing between these men and this baptism were the twin giants which are invincible to all but God. The first giant which stood in their way was the moral corruption of their own hearts. They were born in sin, hostile to God, and unable to submit to His Law (Romans 8:7). They loved their evil and would not come to the light for fear their evil deeds would be exposed (John 3:19-20). But God overcame this giant by the power of regeneration. The second giant which stood in their way was self-preservation. To turn to Christ and profess Him as Lord would probably result in prison or death. To turn from the world and join themselves to the church would make them outcasts even to their own family members. Christians were considered the basest sort of people - ignorant, superstitious, mentally disturbed; a people to be despised, berated, imprisoned, and killed. For these reasons, these men would have never chosen to follow Christ; but God overcame even this giant by revealing Christ to their regenerated hearts. Thus Christ became for them the pearl of great price, a treasure

hidden in a field which once a man finds it, he goes and sells all that he has to purchase that field (Matthew 13:44-46)!

What can we learn from this?

First, we learn that we should never seek to lower the standards or demands of the gospel in order to gain more converts for God. God does not require or ask for such help from us. A great stewardship has been conferred to us - the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ with all its beauty and all its radical demands. We do a disservice to God and to our hearers to reduce its content and hide its demands. Man cannot improve upon the gospel which was contrived by God. Every change made is a deformity which reduces both its beauty to enthrall and its power to save. Secondly, we learn that many of our converts in the West are no converts at all. How is it that the gospel can move one man to wade through an army of opposition to publicly identify with Christ in a deadly winter baptism, and yet in another man who confesses the same gospel, it has no power to make even the most insignificant changes in his life? When will the church in the West regain the fundamental biblical truth that faith is evidenced by works; that a tree is known by its fruit; and that not everyone who confesses "Lord, Lord" in the comfortable confines of Western Evangelicalism will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of the Father who is in heaven (Matthew 7:21)? Jesus warned, "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:38).

LESSON THREE

In this last photo, we see a Bible - Again, what an understatement! If we had a clearer picture, we would see that the words have been typed out on an old mechanical typewriter.

It is one of the countless copies of the Scriptures which were produced painstakingly by members of the underground church in Russia during the persecution. What great value must they have found in this singular book that they would labor for months and even years to possess a single copy! What great value must they have found in this singular book to risk imprisonment and death to distribute one copy to a needy soul!

What can we learn from this?

We learn that we in the West are a privileged people. By God's good providence, we have free access to every kind of good translation and study tool, that we might know the Person and will of God like no other people in human history. We also have the means to translate God's Word into every language and to distribute it throughout the world! In this digital age, we have greater means to publish God's Word than all the other ages combined. The early Christians who wrote on papyrus and parchment will rise up against us on the day of judgment! Those who rejoiced in the Gutenberg Press and the first Bibles it published will denounce us! The Christians in Russia who labor hour after hour to produce one copy on a mechanical typewriter will be astounded at our apathy! In fact, all the Christians from every age will shake their head in wonder that we who had more than all of them combined did so little with what we had!

May it not be so! There is still time to change the course of our lives that do so little for God's cause. Let us follow Paul's admonition! Let us not turn our freedom into an opportunity for the flesh; but through love, let us



serve one another and advance the kingdom for the glory of the King. We have only one life; let us use it well. Seek the Lord passionately, and ask Him to show you what He would have you do. Look at the wasted resources in your life - time, talents, finances. Learn and then strive to manage them all for the cause of Christ. Persevere in these things with zeal and wisdom. Let us serve the Lord while it is day, for night is coming when all possibilities of service will be gone (John 9:4). Are you looking for purpose? This is where it is found! Let us be like David, of whom it was said, "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers..." (Acts 13:36). Let us be like Paul who exclaimed in his early days, "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24). He later proved with his own martyrdom that his exclamation was not a meaningless boast, but a settled conviction. In his last words to Timothy, he wrote:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."

- II Timothy 4:7-8

Looking unto the Harvest

The following statistics provide a window through which we can see that the harvest in Russia is still great, but the laborers are few.

Russia

HeartCry began working in Russia in 2002 and is currently supporting eight missionaries: 5 church planters, 2 pastors, and 1 evangelist.

Population: 142,346,000

Total People Groups: 167

Unreached People Groups: 83

People Groups Unreached: 49.7%

Major Religions: Christianity 66.9%
(Evangelicals 1.2 %); Non-Religious 19.2%; Islam 12.5%;
Buddhism 0.7%; Ethnic Religions 0.6%; Unknown 0.1%



Kazakhstan

HeartCry began working in Kazakhstan at the beginning of 2012 and is currently supporting 1 missionary/church planter.

Population: 16,179,000

Total People Groups: 74

Unreached People Groups: 37

People Groups Unreached: 50.0%

Major Religions: Islam 50.1%; Non-Religious 27.8%; Christianity 21.8%
(Evangelicals 0.6%); Buddhism 0.2%; Ethnic Religions 0.1%

Belarus

HeartCry began working in Belarus in 2011 and is currently supporting 1 missionary/pastor.

Population: 9,462,000

Total People Groups: 28

Unreached People Groups: 6

People Groups Unreached: 21.4%

Major Religions: Christianity 69.4%
(Evangelicals 1.3%); Non-Religious 29.8%; Islam 0.7%;
Ethnic Religions 0.1%





Russia

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

BY HOLDEN BARRY

I am thankful for those who prayed concerning my recent trip to Belarus and Russia. I truly felt the Lord's guiding hand as I traveled literally all across that vast country. From the outset of this report, I must thank two men who are held in high esteem by all of us at HeartCry, and who have been of great help to me since I began coordinating the work in this new region. First, I want to thank Bill Patton of California for his counsel and invaluable experience from the many years he spent ministering in Belarus and Russia through

the ministry *Grace to Russia*. Also, I want to thank Roger Weil of London, England, who has not only contributed to the writing of this magazine (see pp. 8-15), but has also been a wealth of knowledge and counsel for me. Many of you have often asked the very valid question regarding how we "discover" the men we work with. The two men I have just mentioned are a big part of the answer. Their love for God and passion for lost souls, coupled with years of experience and many helpful contacts, give us a great platform for finding worthy men with whom we can work.

CHURCH PLANTERS NEEDED

As I stated in my previous report, the purpose of this trip was to spend time with each of the missionaries whom we are currently supporting; to further verify and document their lives and ministries; and to meet with other potential missionary candidates. The need in Russia, especially in Siberia, is great; and if we hope to make a lasting impact, we must increase our number of gospel preachers and church planters in

the region. It was with this burden in the forefront of my mind and heart that I left for Russia, praying that the Lord would raise up more laborers, and that He would direct me to those who were men of integrity and called to the work of the gospel. In total, the trip took three weeks, and we traveled to three main areas: Belarus and two key cities in Siberia. I thank God that I had the privilege of traveling with a pastor from Belarus named Georgi V. Not only did he teach the missionaries and churches, but he also served as my translator.





↑ An unregistered church in Belarus.

BELARUS

In the middle of March, I arrived in Minsk, the capital city of Belarus. There I stayed with Pastor Georgi and his wife, Luda. They are the parents of Slava V., who is supported by HeartCry. Belarus is a fairly small country that borders Russia on the West and was part of the former Soviet Union. In many ways, it looks European, yet the people remain very Russian. Due to religious laws and the government, Belarus is currently considered a restricted nation, where people can be fined and thrown into prison for being members of “unregistered” churches. Together, Georgi and Slava pastor such a church. It was a privilege to see this unregistered church alive and well. Despite laws and regulations that forbid them to function, they continue to follow Christ and the example of the New Testament church. I was able to attend two of their worship meetings, and it was a delight to join in their fellowship. It became clear that the authorities are currently non-aggressive, but the threat remains, and no one knows when they will be provoked to action. In 2006, Pastor Georgi was thrown into prison for leading “religious meetings” in his house. He was released 10 days later and fined.

In addition to visiting the church in Minsk, Georgi took me a few hours' drive outside the city where we met with another unregistered church.

They held a special service that evening and asked me to preach. It is humbling to be among such people who know nothing of the abundant religious freedom that we experience in the West. There may be opportunities for us to come alongside this pastor and the church in the near future.

Toward the end of my stay in Belarus, I interviewed Slava and spent time with him and his family. I was greatly encouraged by him and the different aspects of his ministry. Slava not only pastors with his father, but he also leads a literature translation and distribution ministry which is proving to be very influential across Russia and parts of Kazakhstan. He is also in the middle of doctoral studies by extension through Highland Theological College in Scotland. The main reason for this is to fulfill his ambition of one day start-

↓ Slava with his wife, Anya, and their two sons - Vladimir and Artyom.



“My first impression of Irkutsk was... an overwhelming feeling of darkness and depression. In contrast... the light and warmth of the Christians in the church... was like the difference between night and day!”



↑ Brother Maxim M. preaching during the conference.

ing a Bible-based seminary in Belarus. I left there confident of our partnership with this worthy ministry.

IRKUTSK, SIBERIA

From Minsk, Georgi and I set out for Siberia. Because Russia is such a massive country, it takes many hours to travel between the cities of Siberia (even by airplane). One cannot simply fly from one city to another, but must fly all the way back to Moscow before being connected on a different flight to the next city. For this reason, we arrived first in Moscow and then flew through the night to Irkutsk. Our purpose was to meet with Brother Sergey Mochalov who leads the church-planting efforts of

a fellowship of pastors that extends throughout the entire region. We also purposed to attend a conference with all the men there who are currently being supported by HeartCry and to explore the possibility of future partnerships with other church planters.

My first impression of Irkutsk was not a good one. I expected the weather to be cold, especially with the wind, but I did not expect the people to be even colder! Everyone seemed visibly unhappy, either sad or angry, and there was an overwhelming feeling of darkness and depression. In contrast to this darkness, the light and warmth of the Christians in the church truly stood out. It was like the difference between night and day! Those of the church were visibly happy and filled with purpose, joy,

Pastors/leaders of the Irkutsk region. Left to right: Georgi V., Vsevolod G., Maxim M., Alex S., Gennady M., Holden Barry, Eugene G., Eugene S., and Sergey M.





↑ *Overlooking ice-fishermen on the Irtysh River with the city of Omsk in the background.*

and love toward one another.

Our lodging was in the very same building in which the conference was being held, and this proved to be a wonderful opportunity for me to get to know the missionaries and pastors who had come from all over the region. Some traveled as many as forty hours by train! Most of these men were given an opportunity to preach at the conference, and I was pleasantly surprised by the content and depth of their sermons. Not only was the conference full of good preaching, but there were also times throughout the day given to corporate prayer as well. After the conference, we had the opportunity of visiting three different church services nearby, which enabled us to get even more acquainted with some of the individual works and to see how they relate to one another.

By God's grace, we were able to meet with and interview most of the men individually. The amount of gospel work and church planting they are doing is quite impressive. Currently, there are a total of eleven churches (some fairly new) located in ten different cities and villages. In addition to this, there are nine other towns that are being regularly visited with the gospel, and Bible study groups have been started in many

of them. Until now, most of the men laboring here have had to work full-time secular jobs while still trying to carry out the demands of church planting and caring for their families. Some have even had to leave the area for up to three months at a time just to find enough seasonal work to support their families. Not only is this wearing on their families, but it also is not healthy for a young church to have their pastor absent for that long. Along with this financial need, there is also the greater need for a theological training program to be further developed.

Before embarking on this exploratory visit, HeartCry was already supporting two of these men - Vsevolod Gubin and Maxim Manakov. Since my return, we have committed to support three more: Gennady Micheev, Eugene Gorchakov, and Eugene Shepelevski. These are humble men who have a very high view of God.

OMSK, SIBERIA

After our time in Irkutsk, we flew back to Moscow in order to catch our "red-eye" flight back to Omsk, Siberia. It was my last stop before returning home. In Omsk, we met up with HeartCry missionary

Vladimir Radzihovski who had traveled there from his home in Nizhnevartovsk more than 600 kilometers (370 miles) to the north. Our main objective in visiting Omsk was to meet with the key leaders from a biblical training center in Samara, Russia. They had also traveled to Omsk in order to introduce us to some men they were recommending for support. More than a year and a half ago, HeartCry became acquainted with the Samara Center for Biblical Training (SCBT), and we have been building a relationship with them since that time. SCBT is a part of The Master's Academy International which is a ministry of the Master's College and Seminary in California. SCBT was established in Samara ten years ago and is dedicated to providing solid theological training through seminary level courses and programs. What is most attractive about SCBT is that their solid biblical teaching is wonderfully united with a gracious spirit and a deep love for Christ and the lost.

The work that SCBT is doing is an absolute necessity. We praise God that they are devoting their time and resources to training and preparing men for future ministry. However, the question must be asked: "What happens to those who complete their training and are called to be sent out and supported as missionar-

"As always, the greatest need for the work in Russia is prayer. Please pray that the men would remain faithful and progress in godliness as husbands and fathers."

ies? Who will help them?" By God's providence, this is where HeartCry can help, and we are overjoyed to have such an opportunity! We were already supporting two men through SCBT before visiting Omsk - Bakhid K. (church planter in Kazakhstan) and Dimitriy Chubukin (church planter in Yekaterinburg). Having met with the leadership and the many men who are being trained at SCBT, we are now confident of their integrity, and we hope to support as many of their graduates as God allows.

Our time in Omsk was filled with individual and corporate meetings with the missionaries, the students, and the leaders from Samara. We were also able to attend the ordination service of two recent graduates of SCBT who are planting a church in Omsk. It was a joy to see these men being affirmed in their calling to take the gospel to this dark city and

Ordination and church service in Omsk.



to lead the church according to the commands of Scripture. HeartCry has also begun supporting one of these men - Brother Andrey Danilov.

One of the highlights of the entire trip occurred during our last evening in Omsk. We had gathered at the home of one of the pastors of the young church in Omsk along with the key leaders from Samara

and some of their other graduates who were now ministering in the surrounding areas. There were ten of us present, representing nine churches in four different countries. We had a wonderful time of fellowship and prayer, and it seemed as though the Lord was knitting our hearts together for the advancement of His Kingdom in Siberia!

MOVING FORWARD

We are now supporting ten missionaries in Russia and the former Soviet Union: eight in Siberia, one in Belarus, and one in Kazakhstan. As always, the greatest need for the work in Russia is prayer. Please pray that the men would remain faithful and progress in godliness as husbands and fathers. Pray for their families, that they would be a great help and not a hindrance to the work of the church.

Another great need in Russia is theological training for the men in the Irkutsk region. Right now, we are working to get solid theological resources translated into Russian for this purpose. Currently, HeartCry is funding the translation project of Louis Berkhof's Systematic Theology, and we plan to start another translation project for Paul Washer's

workbooks, *The One True God* and *The Truth About Man*. This work is being carried out through Slava V. and his literature ministry in Belarus. At the present, Brother Paul Washer and I are scheduled to go to Russia in November, where he will be speaking at two conferences. We also plan to schedule other training conferences in the near future for the benefit and growth of the missionaries.

We praise the Lord for what He is doing in Russia, and we continue looking to Him as we move forward. Thank you for your prayers.

HeartCry missionary to Omsk -
Andrey Danilov.



“...it seemed as though the Lord was knitting our hearts together for the advancement of His Kingdom in Siberia!”



Spreading the

A LETTER FROM BROTHER SERGEY

This is one of the first letters of correspondence between HeartCry Coordinator Holden Barry and Pastor Sergey from Irkutsk, Siberia. Although the letter is brief, the photos tell the story of the hardship he and his coworkers must face to carry the gospel to the remote villages of Siberia.

Severe Beauty, where
the winter lasts for nine
months of the year, and the
temperatures can plummet
to 72°F below zero!

To you who are loved in Christ: May the mercy, love, and grace of Almighty God be upon all of you. We remember you in our prayers before the throne of grace, and we give thanks to God for your prayers and your desire to support the spreading of the gospel in the land of Siberia!

As you can see, I have sent you some photos and a description of one part of our ministry across Eastern Siberia. It will give you a better understanding of the work to which God has called us.

In the photo on the right, you see the church in the settlement of Alekseevsk, which is pastored by Brother Vitaly. We have sent him and his family from our church in Irkutsk to the settlement of Alekseevsk. They have gone for the sake of the gospel and the great need of the people in this northern region. In this area, the winter lasts for nine months of the year, and the temperatures can plummet to 72° F below zero! The region is very beautiful, but it is a severe beauty.

It is a very long journey to reach

the settlement of Alekseevsk from our home base in the city of Irkutsk - approximately 1000 kilometers or 620 miles through the Siberian *taiga* (forest). It is very difficult to travel through this region in both the winter and the summer. The winters are bitterly cold, and the snows make the roads impassable. In the summers, the roads are equally impassable because the clay becomes a soupy and slippery mess. Those who are brave enough to attempt such a journey often get stuck and are forced to live in the Siberian *taiga* for a week or more before they are rescued. This is the reality for the people who live in the outer villages. Because of these things, they are a very hard people - sinners, atheists, and drunkards. To them we go and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ! But sadly, very few of the people come to God in these kinds of places.

Another of our church plants is in the settlement of Yangel. This church is located 1100 kilometers or 683 miles northwest of Irkutsk city, and like Alekseevsk, it has very cold



Gospel in Siberia



↑ Pastor Sergey teaching in one of the many fellowships in Siberia.

“...they are a very hard people - sinners, atheists, and drunkards. To them we go and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ!”

↓ The church in the settlement of Alekseevsk. Pastor Vitaly is the second man from the left. Pastor Sergey is the second man from the right.

A road through the Siberia taiga (forest). Travel through these areas is difficult both in summer and winter.



↓ The Church in Yangel.





Engine de-icing in the midst of the bitterly cold temperatures of -48°C ($-54,4^{\circ}\text{F}$).



Abrupt slopes and slippery roads of Siberia

winters. My car is not intended to travel in such severe conditions, and as you see in the photo, I must be very creative to keep my car warm in the midst of the bitterly cold temperatures. The roads to all the outer settlements are extremely difficult due to all the ice. During a recent trip, our car slid off the road and got stuck in deep snow. We sat there for a while and began to freeze. However, we kept praying that the Lord would send someone along the same road who could pull us out. Only by the mercy of God, we are still alive today, and not frozen.

We regularly evangelize and share the grace of Christ in many other villages and settlements. Early last spring, the Lord blessed us with

the birth of another church in one of these settlements called Angarsk. We have sent Brother Vsevolod Gubin (now a HeartCry Missionary) to be their pastor. The church meets together in a very small apartment, and they sit so close to each other that they are like sardines in a can. They are a very dear young church and need your prayers. We Baptists are not permitted to meet together in any public buildings and are not allowed to rent a facility for worship services in this area. Therefore, we must remain in our apartments and homes until we are able to construct a building for worship services. Our churches in Siberia try to help one another as we are able. However, our greatest need is not financial, but

↓ The members of the new church plant in Angarsk.





Slippery and dangerous roads on mountains in Siberia

spiritual - to become more like Christ our Savior, and to know Him more! Pray that the Lord might continue to meet our needs according to His riches in glory! We are grateful to you for your prayers.

The harvest is plentiful,
but the laborers are few!
Pray to the Lord of the
harvest that He might
send forth laborers into
His harvest!

HeartCry missionary Vsevolod Gubin is church planting in the settlement of Angarsk.

↓ Pastor Sergey witnessing to a group of young people in a far northeast region of Siberia. The need for the gospel is acute.



Great attention is given to the Word of God being preached. Those who live in a desert treat every drop of water as precious.





Homeless in Siberia

The following is a special report from HeartCry Missionary Vladimir Radzihovski, who lives and ministers in Nizhnevartovsk, Siberia. Below, he describes his visit to a group of homeless people in the forest outside the city.

“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!” - Psalm 106:1

On the 6th of January, which is the eve of the Orthodox Christmas, Vadim (a church member) and I were able to visit a group of homeless people. We were extremely surprised and alarmed to hear of such people here in Siberia! It is one thing to live on the streets of a big city further south, but to be homeless this far north where the winters can reach down to minus 70 degrees is unthinkable! It is like certain death! In fact, I would not have believed it if I had not seen it for myself. It is so sad! There was a time when these people lived normal lives with their families, but sin has destroyed almost everything in their lives. In the eyes of society, they are now treated disdainfully as vagrants

and hobos. What makes matters worse is that most of them are between the ages of 45 and 60 years old. They sleep wherever they can and work for a bottle of vodka.

When I heard the report of these people, I wanted to visit them. A close friend of mine named Alexander agreed to show us their dwelling place. To find them, we had to leave the highway and walk a long distance through the forest and snowy underbrush that connects our city of Nizhnevartovsk with the city of Izluchinsk. On the shore of a frozen swamp, we found a make-shift dwelling that had been dug out of the side of a slope facing the water. We knocked and asked with a loud voice if we could enter. Finally, we heard a number of voices inside respond with invitation, “Come in!” As soon as we made our way through the “door,” we were greeted by four men. One of them was an acquaintance of our guide, Alexander. His name was Sergey. The others also introduced themselves, and we began to talk. We used the





Vladimir (left) pictured with his guide (right) and one of the homeless men (center).

fact that it was Christmas to share with them about Christ. A month before this visit, we had already been praying that God would give us the opportunity to share with these men. We had also gathered gifts to help them through the bitter cold. Our guide, Alexander, had informed us that the best gifts for these people would be some wool boots. I praise God that the Lord moved our church members to take up a collection to buy five pairs of quality wool boots. It is no exaggeration to say that the men were very happy when they received these warm gifts. Most importantly, we took great care to ensure that all of them received a portion of the gospel as the most special gift.

We noticed that there were only two beds in the dugout and wondered how the four men could make do in such a small and ill-equipped shack. We later discovered that when the cold is severe, there could be as many as twelve to fifteen homeless men living in this place that was really too small for four. We talked to Alexander about buying them food, but, knowing their way of life, he persuaded us otherwise. He told us that

these men were often hired to unload train cars full of food, but would rather have the vodka as payment. The power of sin is very great!

We also noticed a very small iron stove in the dugout that was used to burn firewood. The men told us that just a few nights earlier, the shack was almost burned down because the stove was too close to an old mattress that was used to insulate the wall. It caught on fire and was barely put out in time!

As Christians, we will continue to minister to these poor people who have been devastated by sin. We trust that the Word of God and the love of Christ that is shown to them will help them to see God and to become citizens of His Kingdom. We intend to offer them a regular study of the Scriptures and other help so that they might know the one true and living God. We ask you to continue praying for them and for the many other lost people around us. May all the peoples know that the Lord is good and praise Him for His mercy!

-Vladimir Radzihovski
Nizhnevartovsk, Siberia

MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

BAKHID K. KAZAKHSTAN

Bakhid K. is a Kazakh pastor in northern Kazakhstan. He is a graduate of the Samara Center for Biblical Training and is a part of their fellowship of pastors. In addition to his regular preaching activities, Bakhid is very active in evangelism among Muslim Kazakhs, who make up the majority of the population. Due to new government laws and regulations, the time is fast approaching when all Christians in Kazakhstan will have their religious freedom (the little that currently remains) taken away, making it another 'restricted' nation of the world.



TESTIMONY

My conversion to Christ took place in prison in the year 2000. It happened when I was serving my third prison sentence. For all my life until then, I had always tried to solve my problems by myself. I grew up in an impoverished family, and my parents were divorced when I was fourteen years old. At that point, I left home in order to go live in a dormitory and attend school in the city. After school, and then military service, I saw that my classmates with whom I had grown up were living in much better circumstances than I. Because of this, I began to try to change things in my life. This lust for things eventually led me to live the life of a criminal and a convict. Even after two different prison sentences, I still had confidence in my ability to solve my own problems.

It was not until my third prison sentence that I realized that I could do nothing to change the plight of my life. For the first time, I realized that neither my will, nor my strength, nor my intellect had any real significance. I understood that I was trapped in circumstances over which I had no control and from which I could not free myself. I did not want to live any longer, and I began to contemplate

suicide. I began to understand that my youth had disappeared into emptiness, my current life was one of despair, and my future was filled with sorrow.

Then, suddenly, I heard about Jesus Christ. One of my fellow prisoners began to talk about this Christ who came to save sinners. In my situation, this news became for me my last hope. This fellow prisoner began telling me that Christ died and rose from the dead, and that He hears any sinner who will turn to Him in sincerity. From that moment, I began to pray – to ask for forgiveness for my sins, to ask for freedom from prison, to ask to live the kind of life He intended for me. He heard me! And after a period of time, the burden of the sin that I had committed began to disappear. My soul became free and was filled with joy – even in prison!

After my conversion, my twelve year sentence was reduced to just three years, and I had already served all but eleven months of that! I was overjoyed and began to seek ministry opportunities even while I was still in prison. In time, the administration of the prison trusted me with the keys

KAZAKHSTAN

to a tiny place for prayer which was on prison property. They allowed me to organize two daily meetings for fellowship around the reading of God's Word. From that moment, the study of Scripture became important to me, and I began to study earnestly in order to be able to communicate something worthwhile to the others. While all my efforts were very simplistic, God gave me wisdom and a

basic understanding of His Word. At least I had enough knowledge to be able to recognize and forbid the efforts of Seventh-Day Adventists to preach their "gospel" at these meetings. After I was released, I immediately found a church where I was then baptized. I give all the glory for this to my great Savior, Jesus Christ.

CALLING TO MINISTRY

The fact that God has called me to preach His Word is something that the leaders of our church recognized almost from the very first day that I attended. They noticed that I was always ready and willing to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. I desired to proclaim this message from the church pulpit even before I had been baptized and had become a member of the church. The church leaders realized the need to hold me back for a while, for I was like a snorting horse eager to race into battle. It was only right, for I was still young and untaught in the faith. It also led me to begin preaching on the streets, since I was not yet ready to preach in the church. My desire was prompted by my great love for my Savior, who forgave me of so many sins. However, I quickly came to realize that there is a difference between a person who has a desire to do something and a person who is able to do something. I wanted to preach, but I realized that my preaching was not very good.

As I have said, I started preaching on the streets and in personal meetings. After I was baptized, I was also allowed to preach occasionally in the church. Then, after a while, the church leadership – with the support of the entire church – decided that I would make a good missionary. They agreed to support me so that I could serve in a region that needed a church. I accepted this commission and began life as a missionary.

A short while after this, the opportunity arose for me to receive some training in that which my heart longed to do – Bible exposition. I entered Samara Center for Biblical Training in Samara, Russia, and I finished the program successfully in 2008. From that time forward, my calling in ministry has been confirmed and strengthened. I preach in prisons, drug rehab centers, and Kazakh auls (encampments). I have also been greatly helped by the teaching ministry of a church in Germany. Their seminars on issues like Bible interpretation have been of great personal benefit to me. They have provided me with the skills that I need to interpret the Word of God accurately.

I have now preached through First and Second Thessalonians and Galatians. I have also preached through portions of the Old Testament, specifically the lives of Elijah and Elisha, as well as First and Second Kings. On December 4, 2010, I was ordained to pastoral ministry in our small church plant, and I now serve alongside the other pastor. In addition to continuing to help our new church, I have begun outreach efforts and am actively preaching the gospel among Muslim Kazakhs.



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Go or Send

"You must go forth to sow! You cannot sit at your parlor window and sow wheat—and you cannot stand on one little plot of ground and keep on sowing there. If you have done your work in that place, go forth to sow elsewhere! Oh, that the Church of Christ would go forth into heathen lands! Oh, that there might be among Christians a general feeling that they must go forth to sow! What a vast acreage there still is upon which not a grain of God's Wheat has ever yet fallen! Oh, for a great increase of the missionary spirit! May God send it upon the entire Church until everywhere it shall be said, 'Behold, a sower went forth to sow.'"

Charles Spurgeon on Matthew 13:3



FOR MORE INFO, GO TO WWW.HEARTCRYMISSIONARY.COM