

Russian Gov't Report Bears Ominous News

The Russian government reports that within the coming weeks it may begin tightening control of foreign missionaries and religious organizations.

According to reports, the Justice Ministry is considering adopting stricter rules on granting visas to foreign missionaries an action that, if effective, would lead to the limitation of missionaries to Russia. The government also expressed plans to make the suppression of religious centers easier while causing registration of religious organizations more difficult.

"It sounds like it's all going back like it was during the Soviet time," commented Sergey Rakhuba, vice president of Russian Ministries. He believes the Russian Orthodox Church is involved in the proposal.

Rakhuba states: "Even if restrictions on foreign missionaries are forthcoming, church growth and evangelism in Russia will not be hindered. I don't think that it will affect evangelism because you cannot stop people from talking about Christ. You cannot stop people talking about their experiences with Jesus. And that's what Russian Ministries is doing."

Pray God will lead the foreign missionaries to begin intensive training and discipling of Russian believers to be pastors and evangelists among their own people. Pray the Holy Spirit will move in power in the Russian Orthodox Church, bringing many to know the joy of their salvation. Pray Russian Christians will be bold and loving as they share with others their experiences with Jesus. (From Religion Today)

The story above reminded me of our original intent here at Gospel Vision Foundation~ to train leaders and plant churches using native missionaries so that if the iron curtain ever fell again there would be a strong evangelical structure in place to continue the work. Though this article is about Russia, the fact that the Russian Orthodox Church is involved could bear ominous news to our work in Ukraine as well. Please pray for the work of the Gospel Vision Foundation to continue winning souls, opening churches and training native Ukrainian missionaries to reach that nation for Christ. ~ Darrell T. Smith

Praise Report from Victor Vaceruk

Dear Brother Darrell,

You may be interested in this report of how great our God is!

In October ,with several of our other brothers, we were working in charity evangelistic events in Hmelinitzkyi oblast (see map, right), in the villages. In one village, five women, in tears, received the Gospel and asked how to get to our church. With these five we spent almost 3 hours with and their hearts were opened widely to God!

In the village of Manievka we entered the gate of a house and a very surprised woman came out to meet us. She was surprised because she had just recently buried her husband and needed fellowship and sympathy greatly.



Maria is her name and she is 47 years old. Her husband had committed suicide. The Russian Orthodox church has rules that because of her husband's unnatural death, she is prohibited to enter the Orthodox church for 7 years! She had not been visited by anybody for six months. We talked about Jesus and at the end of our talk she cried with tears in her eyes, "Oh Jesus! Forgive me of my sins!"

-Victor Vaceruk



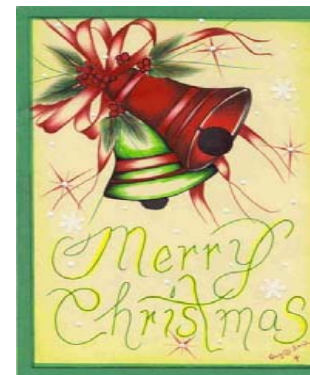
ON ADVENTURE WITH GOD!

A REPORT TO HIS PEOPLE

Volume 5 Issue 3

The Gospel Vision Foundation, Inc. is a Christian mission group founded in 1995 by Darrell and Kay Smith as a vehicle to fulfill their God-given dream of winning souls and making disciples.

DIRECTORS:
 Rev. Darrell T. Smith;
 Kay Smith;
 Greg Gossett, Esq.;
 Rev. Buck Smith;
 Kerry Peacock;
 Rev. Barry Taylor



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Christianity Offends Many In 2005

We would like to take this time to wish you and yours a Very Merry Christmas. This year it seems that Christianity itself has been the target of those who would like to see anything having to do with Jesus Christ and His virgin birth and atoning sacrifice done away with.

As we know in the scriptures, these things were foretold by Jesus Himself, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Matthew 24:6-13

Never before have we seen so many "OFFENDED" at the sight of a Nativity Scene or a wish to have a Merry Christmas. **This just reaffirms our position that there has never been a more important time to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a world of lost sinners.**

While we were in Ukraine this past summer, we noticed that there were many new Islam mosques being constructed or were newly constructed. When we asked about this, we were told that there was a recent influx of Islam be-

lievers coming into Ukraine from Russia, where they had been forcibly relocated to Siberia under the control of Communist Russian. Now, these folks are reestablishing their roots in Ukraine and bringing their religion of Islam with them.

Then we were told that a window of perhaps 10 more years was estimated that the Gospel of Jesus Christ could be freely preached...after that, the Muslims would probably have a great deal of control. So you can see the great need of diligently continuing the work that the Lord has called us to do.



Islam Mosque in Ukraine

With your help, prayers, support and the Blessing by the Holy Spirit, the Good News will continue to be told. We would like to thank all of you who have diligently prayed for us and our missionaries in Ukraine and Venezuela. Your faithfulness is an encouragement to us all! Thank you again and have a Very Merry Christmas!