

The Hearron Family Newsletter January-February 2021 Missionaries to Russia



The Plan!

First, I want to say that we are still missionaries focused on getting back into Russia. We have not quit the field. We are doing exactly what was agreed upon with our mission board and sending church. They called us out of Crimea, Russia, because staying there might have violated US Government sanctions against that part of Russia. BIMl, my sending church pastor, and I evaluated the situation and decided upon a plan to take furlough as soon as we could get out. So, that is exactly what we did.

Unfortunately this all happened just as the world entered pandemic panic mode. We were told to leave Crimea, but Crimea was in lockdown and we could not leave our home. Travel to other parts of Russia was not possible either. The perfect storm had landed! And, like so many other people we were caught in the middle of it.

We waited while under quarantine, praying for the sale of our apartment, in hopes of minimizing our financial loss. At the same time we did our best to continue our Gospel outreach. We had online Bible studies with our people, made phone calls to encourage believers, sent out Gospel material via social media, and prayed. Finally, in September, an unscheduled special charter flight was available to JFK; we bought tickets and returned to the USA per our plan.

We also prayed for you because we knew Covid rules were affecting your jobs with many even facing eviction and other lock-down problems. We prayed because we are your missionaries and your sacrificial giving has allowed our family to preach the Gospel in Siberia, Russia, for many years including the last two in Crimea. Spiritual fruit remains in both places to your account. Amen!

At present we are in the USA because of the plan agreed upon by BIMl, our sending church pastor, and myself. We are regrouping after our grueling time in Crimea. While there we were robbed, struggled to find housing, found it difficult to register with authorities, battled destructive forces within the church, and I nearly went to Heaven early because of the lack of adequate medical care. Although we have endured much affliction, we are still committed to serving God as church planting missionaries in Russia.

Although Russia is an extremely difficult field for a number of reasons, we must go back to continue winning the lost in obedience to our Lord. At the end of our furlough in mid-June, we will return to Krasnoyarsk, Russia where we spent so many years. There we will exchange our current residency permits for new ones that will not expire. Once settled in, we will begin networking and witnessing to see fruit and find those willing to have Bible study with our family. Ultimately our desire is to see another autonomous church planted.

At present our support is down 18%, but having full support would make our mission more effective. I pray this letter provides clarification to a few of our supporters who have decided to hold back or discontinue support because they were unsure of why we left Crimea. We pray the Lord might lead them to reconsider supporting our church planting ministry. In addition, we will need new churches to partner with us. Some of you might even be able to recommend our ministry's need to like minded churches. I would be glad to contact them, if you could forward their contact information to me. Because time is short, I will focus my immediate efforts on visiting churches in close proximity to Oklahoma. In addition, some supporters might even consider increasing our support, which would be a great help and a blessing.

Medical Update

Thank you for the prayers and special offerings to help cover some of my medical expenses. Doctors could not identify any underlying heart issues and feel confident the symptoms I felt, while in Crimea, were the direct result of stress. I had carpal tunnel surgery on December 31st and there has been some improvement, but I still have pain and lack of strength to open jars or hold things like shovels and tools. At a recent follow-up visit, the doctor said full recovery can take up to six months or even longer. Until I have much better use of my right hand, I am reluctant to let them operate on my left hand for the same problem—I will have to wait until next furlough. Finally, the emergency bowel obstructive surgery last year in Vienna, Austria, seems to have been a success.

My Family

I want to say that I have been blessed with a wonderful wife and five great kids. The trials have been many and difficult, but we all have become stronger and more united as a family. We have seen the hand of God move in ways otherwise unexplainable. Our faith, as a family, has been strengthened. We have seen God's many promises fulfilled. We have felt His comfort. We have been encouraged by His saints. We thank each of you that have proven yourselves friends of our ministry and family.

We count it a privilege to continue serving as your ambassadors with the Gospel message to the Russian people.

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