



REACHING RUSSIA

“the fields are white unto harvest.”

white fields
WORLD REACH

SPRING 05 a quarterly publication



White Fields in Russia

Last year the White Fields International Board began praying for a way to meet the ministry needs of Russia. We believe that God is answering our prayers through a partnership with Samara Theological Seminary (STS).

This edition of World Reach features articles from three men who will be working with us in the future. Their vision, bathed in prayer, is far reaching & faith inspiring. We also introduce to you Vladimir Dubinsky, the first of a multitude (we trust) of White Fields church planters. It is our hope that God will greatly bless our united effort to spread the gospel & strengthen His church in Russia.

“you are OUR Letter,
WRITTEN IN OUR HEARTS,
KNOWN AND READ BY ALL men...”

2 Corinthians 3:2

These words of the Apostle Paul are frequently on our hearts as we prepare to graduate our first class at Samara Theological Seminary this May. The men will then be turned loose to do the work of a team of missionaries—though at a fraction of the cost of North American missionaries, and much more effectively.

But the zeal of our men for ministry does not match the current situation in the Russian church—at least not yet. For various economic and traditional reasons, the vast majority of Russian pastors and church planters must work secular jobs for a living, devoting only the left-over hours to evangelism, shepherding, and preaching. Ultimately, as the adage goes, “When the church starves the pastor, the pastor starves the church.”

This presents a great opportunity to prove to churches that great blessings come when pastors focus on prayer and the ministry of the Word alone. This example—along with faithful teaching of the Word—will persuade churches to want to support their pastors, regardless of the sacrifice. For anyone committed to the local church, the potential is amazing.

But this process will need help, and this is where White Fields fits into the picture. White Fields provides the mechanism for like-minded churches & individuals in North America to have a part in planting churches in Russia and to partner with Russian churches to see them become self-supporting.

Lord willing, five years from now there will be a graduation as equally important as the upcoming seminary graduation this May. Over a dozen Russian churches will be taking the final step of fully supporting their pastors. This indeed will be a great day—one which we hope is multiplied many times over.

Brad Klassen

Professor at STS



– Canadian born
Brad Klassen oversees
training pastors at STS



– a passion to prepare men to do God's business

| REACHING RUSSIA |

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Russia of today sadly remains a country of spiritual ignorance, superstition, & unashamed sin. Many large cities are still without any evangelical church whatsoever. There is a desperate need for ministers who are prepared to spread the gospel. So please, join with us in prayer that the Lord would send workers into His fields.

Of course God is already answering this prayer through these faithful men being trained in the seminary. They love the Word & are ready to preach it wherever the Lord sends them. Most of our churches are desperately poor, & have no history of supporting their pastors financially. This poverty makes it difficult to start new churches. It is my heartfelt desire that this not impede the work that needs to be done. We believe the time is right for the church to take responsibility for their pastors. Together with White Fields, we believe we have a strategy to reach this goal. White Fields provides initial help with a realistic approach to transfer responsibility of support to the local church. Nothing is possible, however, without the Lord of the Harvest's blessing. So I ask of you, dear brothers, to uphold us in your prayers & partner together with us to spread the Gospel in Russia.

Yours for the Master,

Victor S. Ryaguzov

Rector of Samara Theological Seminary

Pastor of Transfiguration Church, Samara, Russia

Vice-President of the Russian Baptist Union, Volga Region

Oleg Puzankov

Director of church planting in Samara state

There are three million people in the Samara region, and only about three thousand evangelical Christians. This is a sobering statistic—one believer for every thousand residents! But the churches of our region have a fervent desire to be faithful to the will of God, the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, beginning in our own state.

In light of such a great work, it is our prayer that in every population center there would be a church preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. As part of our strategy, we are praying & planning that these church plants will be self-supporting within five years. We are grateful to the Lord that White Fields is willing to help us reach this goal.



Opening new churches in strategic areas...

- > Privol'ski (100,000), no evangelical church
- > 116 km Region (40,000), no evangelical church
- > Pribrezhny (10,000), no evangelical church
- > Kinel (35,000), Neftegor'sk (20,000), Sergeivsk (8,500), & countless other cities need the gospel

testimony of Vladimir Dubinsky

First White Fields Church Planter in Russia

As the son of a military officer in the Red Army, I spent most of my childhood moving from one military complex to another. Back then I had no idea that there were people who believed in the Bible. Neither did I know anything about Jesus Christ or man's need for salvation.

I went to school intending to follow in my father's footsteps and become a soldier. Through a certain student—the only believer among us— God began to work on my heart, especially when I read the New Testament that he gave me. In the summer of 1994, I repented. Six months later, I was baptized. God began transforming me from all the fleshly and sinful habits that had so characterized my life.

Three years later I was blessed to attend a conference in Voronezh, where John MacArthur was speaking.

It was there that the Lord placed on my heart the burning desire to dig deeply into the Scriptures. Through my study at the seminary, my desire to serve God has grown, and my calling to be a pastor has been reinforced.

After graduation, I will give myself fully to plant a church in an area of Samara where 100,000 people live without one evangelical church. We covet your prayers. I long to be faithful with the gifts and training God has given me by serving the church and glorifying Christ.

A tested & approved minister of the gospel



Introducing "Passing the Baton"... This newly created video/DVD captures the heart of White Fields with plenty of first-hand testimony from the field. If you would like a copy to share with interested churches & friends, contact us at the Stillwater headquarters or Edmonton office.

White Fields has started a new committee in Minnesota. If you live near the Twin Cities and are interested in joining us, contact our headquarters.

Joe Miller, our former White Fields administrator, & his wife Tara have moved to Jacksonville, Florida where Joe has become the associate pastor at Southpoint Baptist Church. We wish the Millers the best in their new ministry.

A Short Term Mission trip to South Africa is scheduled for July. Jack Williams & his wife Dorey would appreciate your prayers for God's rich blessing as they lead a team of seventeen.

Devastating typhoons swept through the Philippines last December ruining rice crops, polluting drinking water, & causing landslides. Many of our Filipino church planters were greatly affected by these storms. Thanks to previous donations to our emergency fund, White Fields was able to lend a helping hand in their time of need.

A new church planted in the Philippines! The Adrialuna Christian Church in Oriental Mindoro celebrated its first worship service in January. We rejoice with Pastor Jun Falla to see God bless his ministry.

Prayer Facts field reports are now downloadable from our website. Click on World of WF, select country, & select church planter to see & print their most recent report.

Call for help!

for prayer facts information, please write to us or
email us at prayerfacts@whitefields.org

White Fields has taken on another twenty-five new church-planting pastors. Lord willing, many more will soon be added. These gifted men are giving their lives to serve Christ on the front lines. It is crucial that we stand behind them in prayer...

– Needed: committed prayer for each new church planter

We need churches, cell groups, & committed individuals to assume the prayer responsibility for these men & their ministries. Please prayerfully consider this. Contact us for a list of pastors or to sign up for Prayer Facts.

– Needed: volunteers to help edit reports for Prayer Facts

If you have editing skills or an eye for detail, we need your help at White Fields as a prayer link. The time commitment is small, but the rewards are great! **Contact Mary Lonetti for information – prayerfacts@whitefields.org.**

white fields

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| a call to action |

By God's grace, there still remains an open door of opportunity in Russia. We believe now is the time to act decisively. With this urgency in mind, White Fields will support as many pastors as finances allow. We call on our White Fields partners to pray fervently & give generously for the sake of the church in Russia.

Stephen Lonetti

White Fields General Director

WHITE FIELDS

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