

# ALEX FROM MOSCOW

July, August 2007

Dear Brethren and Sisters in Christ,

Here is my report which covers my activity during the period from July to August.

## MY FAMILY

Dasha had vacation and she did nothing except playing games but ... Once she played with her friend Masha and Masha pushed her. Dasha fell on the ground and broke her arm. It wasn't a strong push but as I had written you in my previous reports Dasha grows very quickly physically and her body can't have time to adopt it and that is why her bones are weak. The doctor put the arm in plaster and she couldn't swim for a month. It was a real tragedy for her! Natasha helps me not only in the church but also when I meet different people. To my mind it is very good when husband and wife meet somebody together. It works positively for people.

## WEATHER

The weather in July was typical for this season. But in August the weather was extremely hot and broke all the records. Some forests around Moscow were on fire and the result of it was bad air.

## THE CHURCH (IN MOSCOW)

The church is doing good. Average attendance was 8-15. I continue to teach privately some people among them: two sisters Veronica & Natalia (I come to their place), Benjamin (mostly at his flat or at a cafe), and the rest of people: Gula, William, Sippopa, Richard, Kate, Nadir and Sultan (they come to my place).

## PEOPLE (STUDENTS)

During these months I met many people. Some of them came once or twice and then stopped coming referring to pressure of work. And now I'd like to describe you the other people who showed their interest in the Bible. We have new bible students among them: Benjamin (a Muscovite), Gula (from Tatarstan), three new students from Zambia: William, Sippopa, and Richard; and then Kate, Nadir and Sultan.

## VISITORS ABROAD

In August.

On the 9th of August Mac, Forrest, and Sarah came from America to Moscow. People here greatly appreciated the presence of Mac and his family. This summer was very hot and it was very stuffy in the room. Hotel rooms in which brethren stayed had no air conditioners. And you can imagine how difficult it was to stay at the hotel for brethren this summer.

They were with us for about a week (9-15, 20-22.) and helped with the teaching and preaching. Aside from the meetings in the church, we met people outside the church. We worked together shoulder to shoulder so to say. We met different people, talked to them on different topics concerning the Bible. As usual our meeting began like a "questions and answers" conversation and then Mac explained them about faith, the way to become the real Christian. Mac was a tremendous encouragement, especially to those who only started to study the Word of God.

Now let me tell you about new biblical students.

### Benjamin

First on the 12th of August we met with Benjamin (a young man, who graduated from the Moscow State University) and talked about the Bible. He asked questions and Mac answered them. But our conversation was not that I had expected. It had more philosophical background than religious. It seems to me Benjamin wanted to show his knowledge in general rather than his interest in the Bible. During our conversation I several times tried to stop Benjamin to stick him to the point but Mac let him speak. Mac was patient when answering the questions of Benjamin who often tried to thrust his opinion on Mac. Mac did not press his point on Benjamin but step by step explained that he was wrong. Benjamin without doubt had some experience with several different religious teachings and it was obvious that he was familiar with the Bible but he didn't understand the main thing in the bible. I was disappointed by this (that Benjamin tried to speak and discuss more philosophical questions than religious things) and I thought we spent time in vain (as the Bible says: Acts 28:26 YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;) But nevertheless recently Benjamin called me and said that he was thinking about Mac's words and now he agreed with Mac and I hope and pray that Benjamin will be able to continue studying the Bible.

### Gula

Then on the 13th of August we met with Gula. She is a young girl of 25 years old. She came from Tatarstan to work here. Now she works at the airport. Mac, Forrest, Sarah and I met with Gula and talked about the Bible. She asked questions and Mac answered them. Our conversation was good, she showed her great interest in the Bible and I hope she will be a good biblical student.

### William, Sippopa, and Richard

And later on the 20th we met with 3 students from Zambia: William, Sippopa, and Richard (they stayed in Moscow during vacation time) and talked about God. They asked good questions and they showed their great interest in the Bible too. They study at the Pedagogical Institute which is not far from my place. They can speak English and Russian. William attends classes regularly but Sippopa and Richard not regularly.

### Nadir and Sultan.

Nadir and Sultan are young men who came to Moscow from Uzbekistan to work. They are good biblical students too and we made friends. In Uzbekistan they studied Koran and now they started to study the Bible.

Let me thank again Mac, Forrest, and Sarah for their arrival. In a word their visit was very useful for the people here. It is very important for Russian people (and not only for Russian because in Moscow we have a lot of people from different countries who work and study here) who study the Bible here to know that people abroad brethren and sisters in Christ remember them, pray for them and help them.

In conclusion I'd like to say that Natasha and I enjoyed Mac's, Sarah's, and Forrest's staying and working here a particularly good week with them. Their presence was a big encouragement to us and people here. Mac's words made a great effect to everybody who he spoke with.

In His Name,  
Natasha, Dasha, and Alex

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