

Ron and Louise Maynard's Fishers of Men Newsletter

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Hello Again from Syktyvkar, Russia

Our third and final week of teaching in Russia is beginning. The time goes so quickly, and we have mixed feelings about leaving on Saturday, eager anticipation of being home in Minnesota, but regret that a wonderful experience here is coming to an end.

Teaching in the Bible School

My morning class in the school is The Mission of the New Testament Church. As we study each lesson on the various works of the local church, I often use the Syktyvkar church as an example, much to the embarrassment, I think, of Tatyana Belkina, the interpreter for that class. This congregation is a shining light in many areas—training preachers in the Bible school, benevolence through the Social Assistance Homes and other works, spreading the gospel locally and to outlying villages, their love and care for each other, and upholding the truth of the Gospel. The students are eager learners. This is the first time I have taught this course as well as my first time to teach in the third year program of the school, and it has been a great blessing to me.

The Fishers of Men students in the afternoon class took a “field trip” on Friday and will go again tomorrow to teach the Search for Truth lessons in Mezhador. On Friday six women, some Christians and some not, joined us for the one-on-one studies conducted by the FOM students. One of our women students in the school taught a Bible class for the five children who came. Both the teachers and students were eager to meet again, and so another trip is planned tomorrow.

New Congregation in Mezhador

We have been blessed to make two Sunday afternoon trips to assemble with the new congregation at Mezhador. This village is a drive of 1 ½ hours through a snowy forested landscape. In fact, most of the vehicles we see on the road are huge lumber trucks, usually pulling two semi-trailers loaded with logs. Seven of us traveled in the church's van from Syktyvkar, and on both occasions, seven people have come from Mezhador, though several “drop-in” children, some of them teenagers, have attended the Bible class taught by one of the Syktyvkar ladies. I have preached both times, very basic lessons for these brand new Christians who have little to no experience with the Bible. On the first trip, we went to visit one of the new Christians in the hospital, and yesterday after the assembly we distributed clothing sent by the Syktyvkar church. I commend the Syktyvkar elders for their wisdom in training these new Christians how to become a true New Testament church. That includes learning to give on the first day of the week based on their prosperity. They have asked two of the eight new Christians to serve as co-treasurers of the new church's money and have encouraged them to reach out with benevolent funds to help a new sister in the hospital. At the time of the clothing distribution, Leonid, one of the elders, encouraged them to take clothing to share with their family and friends. In this way they are already becoming a shining light in their village, practicing the law of Christ in love not only for each other but for their neighbors.

Louise's Classes

Louise's three weekly evening classes have been well-received by the women of the church. They may not speak the same language, with few exceptions, but hugs are a universal language, and they have exchanged plenty of those.

We Ask for Your Prayers...

...for our continued safety and success. God willing, our next newsletter will be from the USA!

Thank you to all of you whose prayers and financial support make this work possible.



Some of those who assembled on Sunday, November 22, with the new Mezhador congregation.



Ron's class on The Mission of the New Testament Church in the Syktyvkar Bible School.

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