

MIKE AND JOYCE WHITE
Church Planters in the Former Soviet Union

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Prayer Letter

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VISAS? VISAS? VISAS?

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3: 5-6

In mid-February I came to Warsaw, Poland in hopes of finding some way to get into the bordering Kaliningrad Russia Region. But this has not come to pass. For Americans, visas (of any kind) to Russia are now **only** issued from the Russian Embassy in Washington DC. No more border crossing to get visas.

As you may recall in our last Prayer Letter I informed you that the original registration papers for the organization that we had formed in order to get invitations, visas and work permits so that we could continue to work in Russia were stolen. Now the registration office informs us that we cannot use the copies of these papers for obtaining official documents and we must do all the paper work all over again. It took us two years to get the organization registered the first time! So - for now - that organization is not an option for us to get invitations and visas back to Russia.

We contacted the Russian Language School that we attended in 2006 – 2008 and asked them if they could once again extend us invitations and visas. Since we have not been enrolled in the school and out of Russia for over a year now, they can invite us back for the fall of 2010 with a 90 day invitation and can extend our visa for one year once we start studying again and, of course, pay for a year's course in advance. This is an expensive way both in money and time for us to be in the country, but as of right now it is our only choice. We have asked the school to give us an invitation to return for the fall 2010 session.

Pray especially for Joyce. Joyce and I have to be full time students; however the work of the ministry keeps me busy so I will only have classes once a week – Joyce must take the rest of my time plus her time also for the school to extend our visas.

What's happening in the meantime?

Right now I am in Warsaw, Poland and helping Paul Socks with his work. Paul and his wife Jolie have been in Warsaw for 8 years. This past year they had to move the church three times and the church has suffered because of this. Paul and I go out four to five days a week visiting and passing out tracts and invitations to the services. I have been preaching some for Paul and just doing whatever I can to help.

Paul and his wife will be going to the states for a short furlough from May through July and Joyce and I will be here to keep the church going while they are away.

I will have to come back to the states once we receive the invitations from the language school to get visas to enter Russia. The invitations for us to return to Russia in August should be ready the first part of April. It will then take about 30 days to process the paper work for visas.

Living in Poland is very expensive and I am very grateful to the Socks for providing a house in the country for me to live in while I'm here. A gallon of gas cost over \$8.00 so I don't do much driving and food is about twice as expensive as it is in the states. On top of this extra expense I will need to return to the states in April so that means another airline ticket and also the Russian Language School must be paid in advance for us to get year visas.

So, in the meantime we are **Trusting in the Lord!**

A NOTE FROM JOYCE

I thank you all for your prayers and concerns. My mother is adjusting to the nursing home. I'm busy getting all the loose ends tied up so that I can leave here in May to go first to Warsaw for three months and then on to Kaliningrad, Russia. I believe that the Lord is going to work everything out for us according to His plan. Since August and September are my favorite months of the year in Russia, I'm looking forward to returning then. I can't say I'm looking forward to all the studying that is ahead of me, so for the rest of the time I'm home I plan to spend as much time as I can with my children and grandchildren, my sister and my mother and let my brain have a rest until August when I become a full time student once again!