

RUSSIAN MISSIONS

October 18, 2006

Serving Christ in Russia since 1996



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Ryan Scott Plaster was born September 15th, 2006. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 13 oz and was 19.5 inches long.



Both mother and baby are healthy. Brandon was somewhere in the south Pacific at the time (we were in Russia). Brandon will return to the states sometime in January and so will we. We look



forward to holding the whole family, the new baby in particular. So, how does Kaden feel about his new brother? Like his Grandparents. He's proud!

FUN WITH TRACTS

We move a lot of tracts, so we might as well have fun with them. One of the best received tracts I have ever used is the "Million Dollar Bill" from Living Waters Publications. People seem to be very receptive to them.

Shaye Fountain did a great job designing the "Million Rubble Note." We had 20,000 printed in full color and they look great. The first one I gave out was to a Babushka near our apartment. My friend Valery is an atheist and when he saw what I handed the elderly lady chased me down and said, "Where's mine?" Valery reads everything I give him, but so far it hasn't changed his mind. His wife, on the other hand, seems to take everything to heart.

Many people don't like tracts, but they take this one just to see what it's all about. It's awesome!

DEVELOPING NEW TRACTS

We are working to develop tracts that will address certain fads of today and other specific needs. We also hope to make tracts to put on windshields and reach drivers, not just pedestrians.

JESUS HATES ME

One day, while passing out tracts a man and his girlfriend came out of the subway. The man's hair was dyed three different colors and his ears had been pierced and stretched. He had on a black t-shirt with bold pink lettering that read, "Jesus Hates Me" in English.

I pleaded with him to stop and tell me about his t-shirt. His name is Ganz and he said he didn't find the shirt in a store but had it specially made. He said he read the Bible and decided Jesus hated him. We had a great conversation, but I was not able to share with him all I wanted because his girlfriend kept pulling him away. I took down his cell number and have tried to call him, but he never picks up. Pray for Ganz!

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FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH (FWIW)

THE PROJECT

The purpose of "the project" is to tell people of the Good News of Jesus Christ. To accomplish this, the simplest of methods is used.

HOW TO BRING SOMEONE TO CHRIST:

Galatians 3:24 says the Law (Ten Commandments) is a schoolmaster that brings us to Christ. That is exactly what I want to accomplish, i.e. bring people to Christ.

"BELIEVERS, FREE FROM THE LAW"

One man, knowing my method of evangelism, brought me a book entitled "Believers, Free from the Law." I took it, thanked him and at home I went through it. The next time I saw him I asked, "Is it okay for you to blaspheme, worship idols, dishonor your parents, commit adultery, etc?"

He said, "No."

"So," I asked, "Are you free from the Moral Law?"

He said, "no."

"Do you have to obey the law of the land, speed limits, etc." He nodded his head yes.

"Then" I said, "you are not free from the Civil Law."

Romans 8:2 says that believers are "**free from the law of sin and death,**" not the Moral Law. This law is holy—and is intended to bring us to Christ. So, the method I use to bring someone to Christ is the Moral Law.

MATERIALS NEEDED TO BRING SOMEONE TO CHRIST:

The Moral Law, i.e. the Ten Commandments, evangelistic tracts and a small notepad (Since I am working on a project, I write everything down.)

When I go out witnessing, I don't usually carry a Bible with me. I do not intend to argue doctrine, (spiritual things are spiritually discerned) but to focus people on their need for Jesus Christ. I want to reason with people, not argue.

REAL TV

One time I was watching "Real TV" and there was a maniac on the streets with a two edged sword. He wielded it with expertise and people were absolutely terrified of him. The police came in, disarmed him and carried him off to the crazy house.

Big Bibles are not what make great witnesses. People with the Word of God hid in their hearts can, however, be very effective. Usually, when a big Bible is displayed, people are intimidated with that double-edged sword and they will do everything they can to disarm you with arguments. My desire is to present Christ, not argue.

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GOOD NEWS

The good news, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is to them that perish foolishness. So, I hope to help them understand what makes the "good news" good news.

Problem is that most people think they are good. Solomon said, "Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?"

If people are good they don't need Jesus Christ. But the Ten Commandments show us God's standard is absolute holiness and perfection, or repentance. BTW, repentance is also a command!

When people declare their goodness I gently show them how they compare in light of God's Sovereign Standard. At this point they respond in one of two ways – either acknowledge their guilt, or justify themselves. If they justify themselves I do not share the Gospel (Jesus didn't either). The Law and the Holy Spirit must do more work in the lives of those who justify themselves. At this point my evangelistic effort is usually over even if the conversation continues.

If they acknowledge their guilt, I will show what Jesus did to redeem them from their condemnation. Even at that, I do not lead them in a "prayer of repentance" but show them that God expects them to leave their old life, giving them a totally new one.

Marina, St Petersburg, Russia

I met Marina while sitting on the benches at the Senaya Square in May 2006. She is an 18 year old university student. I asked her what she thought happened to the soul after death and she said she felt like good people went to heaven. I asked what happened to bad people and she said she wasn't sure.

Of course she told me she was a good person and I asked if she had ever heard of the Ten Commandments. She knew a few of them, but confirmed that she wasn't too good according to that standard. She then said that if God judged everyone according to that standard, everyone was going to hell. As I reasoned with her, you could see she was disturbed by the just demands of the law and the condemnation of her actions.

Only when she understood her guilt did I share the Gospel with her. At the end of our conversation I asked her if she knew how she could remove her condemnation. She said she would like to know, if indeed there was a way. I explained that God demanded repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Then I asked her if she would like to pray and she said she would.

I said, before you pray there is something else you need to understand. I told her that Jesus gave everything, even His life's blood to redeem us from the curse of the law. If she prayed, she would give her life to Jesus and he would become the Master of her life and she would die to herself. At that moment her cell phone rang and she walked away. I sat for another ten minutes waiting for her to return, but she never did.