

# RUSSIAN MISSIONS

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Serving Christ in Russia since 1996

## THE PLASTERS



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## THIS IS THE WAY OF SALVATION

Tammy and I took the overnight train to Riga, Latvia, to renew our visas at the beginning of December. A young man named Alex traveled with us in our compartment. He was going to his grandmother's funeral in Riga and we had a great conversation. I learned many things about Alex, his business ventures, his religion, and outlook on life.

Alex was a Buddhist so I asked how his religion helped him. He seemed to have confidence in his beliefs and benefited from them. I began to deal with him about his sin, righteousness, and coming judgment and wanted to know what Buddhism taught about personal accountability for sin. He told me he was a good person and tried not to do bad things. Otherwise, he did not know of anything in Buddhism that would take care of his guilt.

At this point I explained that Christianity was the only religion in the world that offered forgiveness of sins - forgiveness was not based on dismissal of guilt, but our guilt was paid for by Jesus' personal sacrifice so we could escape the wrath of God.

Before we lay down to sleep I asked Alex if I had offended him by the things I said or behaved in a manner he considered offensive. He said, *"This is the way of salvation"* and continued saying he did not know anything about Christianity before and was grateful I took the time to explain these things to him. I then asked if he would like to pray now and ask Jesus to forgive his sins and accept him as Savior and Lord. He thought for a moment and said, "No."

## THE AIR PUMP

One morning as I was cleaning the snow off the car, a young man approached asking if I had an air pump he could borrow. Since he spoke with an accent, I asked where he was from. He said he wasn't from around here.

I said, "We're all just people. Don't be afraid. I'm an American." He was from one of the former Soviet republics, but I could not understand which one.

I drove him to where he was parked, and four huge men got out of a very small car. My first thought was, "What have I gotten myself into?" The second was, "Were the tires flat, or just look that way with four big men in the vehicle?" They started jabbering with each other, and I knew these men were far from their native country.

My pump would not work, and they asked me how far it was to the nearest auto store. I said, "Let's go buy a pump."

One of the big boys jumped in my car and said in Russian, "We're all just people aren't we?"

"Yes," I answered, "and we must give an account for everything we do, good or bad." Then he asked if I really was an American. All the way to the store and back I tried to witness to him. He was so ecstatic about meeting and riding with an American though, I never got through to him.

We returned to their car and I handed him a Gideon's pocket Russian New Testament and four different tracts. Hopefully they would be as intrigued by the printed material as they were with me. At least it was something for them to read on their return trip to who knows where.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

I usually witness to whoever sits next to me when I'm riding the bus. My opening line is "May I ask you a question?" Most agree to talk with me. It's amazing how much ministering I can do in such public settings.

One lady, Marina, was very open and shared her burdens. She said she was tired of life and wanted to end it all. I have the best news in the world and gladly share it with those who will listen. Marina listened with great interest.

**Our lives, Tammy's and mine, are consumed with filling roles that God has given us. We do covet your prayers as we serve God. Kevin**