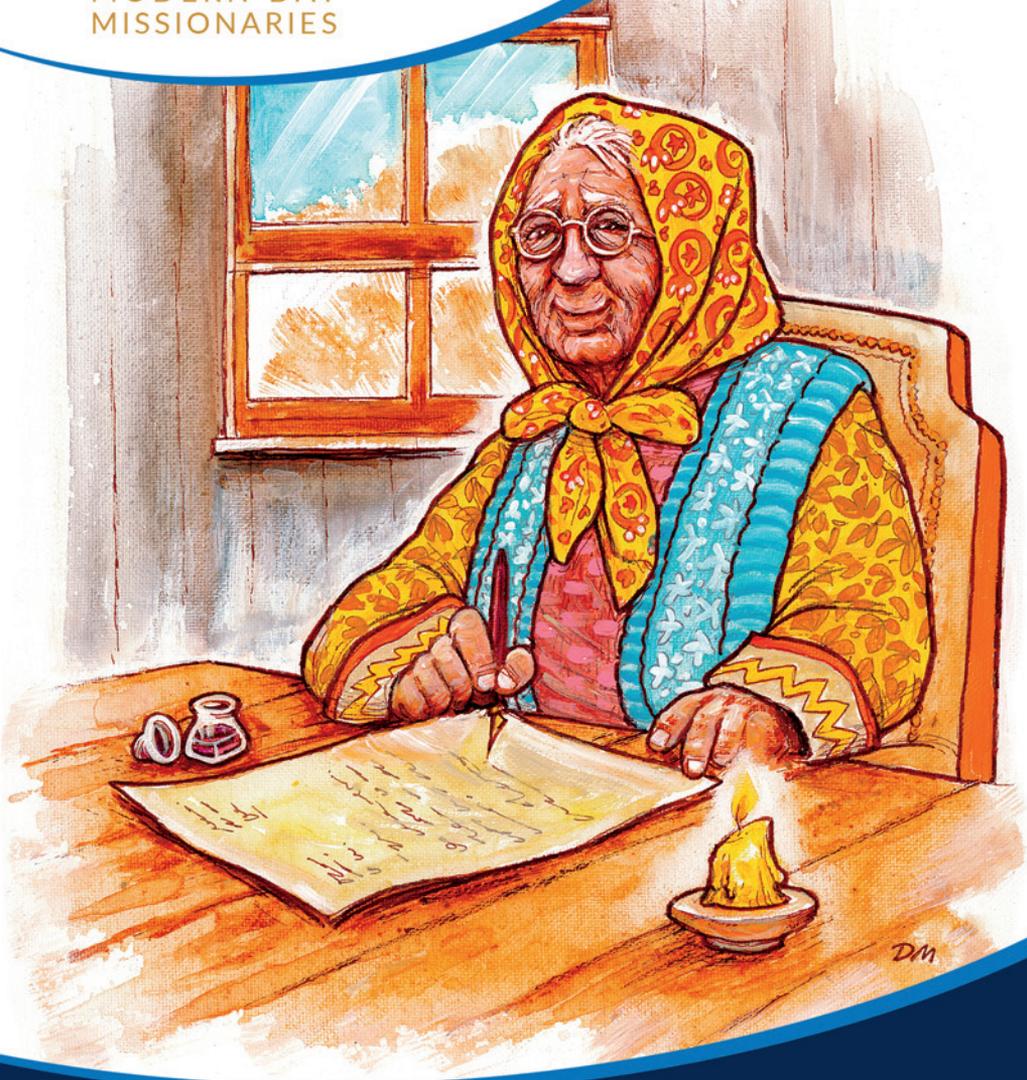


engage Kids

Volume 10 | Issue 1

MODERN DAY
MISSIONARIES



The POWER of the PEN

WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE

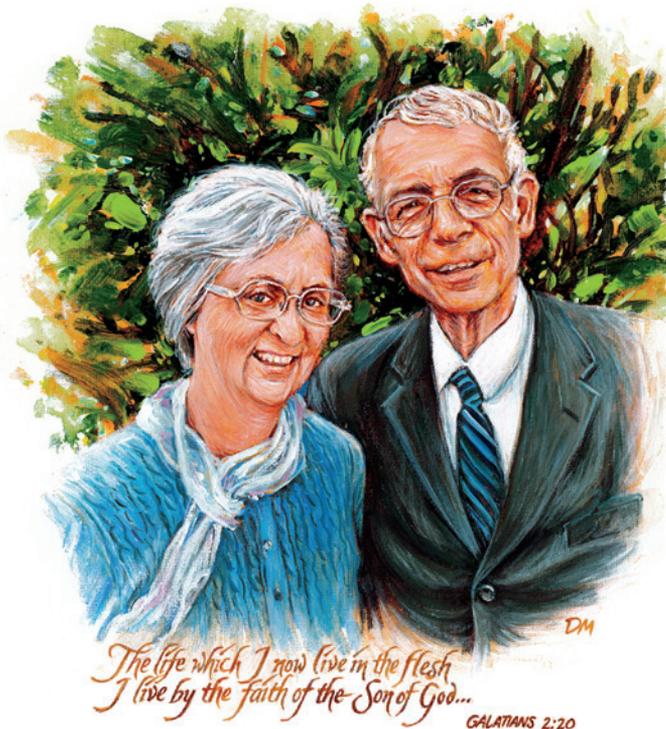
Richard Grout and his wife Judy were pastoring a church in Wyoming when they received an important phone call. On the other end of the line was G.R. French from Hope International Missions. He presented the Grouts with an exciting opportunity, one that turned into a different type of call—a call to be missionaries in Russia!

The Grouts arrived in Vyborg, Russia, on September 11, 1993. They jumped right into ministry. Judy visited children's homes and taught orphans English by singing songs with



them about Jesus. Then God gave them an amazing idea. What if they sent Bible lessons by mail to kids all over Russia? It would be kind of like you getting *Engage Kids* booklets in the mail! Judy and a sweet grandma named Tamara started mailing these Bible lessons, and the children loved them. This unique ministry grew, and hundreds of boys and girls across Russia learned about Jesus.

The place where Richard and Judy lived was called the Vyborg Christian Center. People enjoyed coming to picnics in Judy's colorful flower garden. While there they listened as Richard shared the gospel message. As time went on, the Grouts used the power of words in other ways, too. Remember how Judy sent Bible lessons to children? What if they mailed the gospel to people in need? Richard, Judy, and lots of helpers started writing letters to men and women in prisons across Russia. Today, four hundred prisoners a month receive letters full of hope and light. God has powerfully used the Grouts to spread His Word to the precious people of Russia.



RUSSIA RAMBLINGS



Do you like to travel? How about taking an imaginary trip to Russia?

One of the first things you might do is eat a big bowl of borscht, a red soup made from beets. People eat it hot or cold. What will you choose? Then you can enjoy drinking hot, fruity Russian tea from a hand-painted teacup. After the meal why not play with your souvenir set of Russia's famous "nesting" dolls. Be careful not to lose that tiniest one!

Next you could venture out into the cold winter weather to attend a concert of Russian folk music, possibly featuring a balalaika. A "bah-luh-lai-kuh" is an instrument with three strings that looks like a guitar but has a triangular body. Would you like to play one?

A special place to visit is Russia's capital city of Moscow. There you will see St. Basil's Cathedral. You can color a drawing of it on the next page. Built in 1561, its brightly colored, onion-shaped domes have made it world-famous.

Before you leave the country, don't forget to stop by the Vyborg Christian Center where you can write a special letter to someone who doesn't know Jesus. How cool is that?

When you fly back home, be sure to pray for the missionaries and Russian people.

And maybe, ask your mom to make beet soup for supper!





MEMORY VERSE

His word will not return void.
Isaiah 55:11



Hi, there! I am so excited to meet you! My name is Lazar (Lah-zar). Lazar Letter. In Russian my name means, “My God has helped.” Isn’t that cool?

It was not so very long ago that I was just a baby—a fresh, blank sheet of paper, free of smudges and wrinkles. Then a gentle hand pulled me out of the drawer and placed me under a bright light. I blinked a few times before I saw the



smiling face
of a Russian babushka (an elderly
grandmother) looking down at me. I could tell
what she wrote on me were words of love and com-
passion. Once she stopped writing, bowed her head,
and whispered a prayer. How sweet of her to care so much
about the person who would receive this letter!

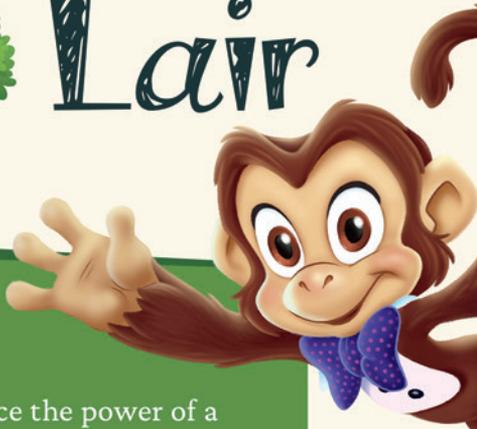
Where am I today, you ask? Well, after Grandma Anna finished signing me with a flourish of her pen, she gently folded me and placed me inside an envelope. My world went dark as she sealed the envelope tightly shut. I then went on one crazy ride after another. I flew down long chutes, bumped around in carts with hundreds of other letters, got picked up and put down many times, then finally I slid to a stop on something cold and hard. I wondered if this was to be the end of my journey.

After a few moments, trembling hands picked me up and slowly turned me over and over. Those same hands then carefully slid me out of the envelope. This time, though, I saw only a dim light and a pair of sorrowful eyes. I almost cried for the despair I saw on that face. As I looked around a bit more, I understood. We were in a dark and dismal prison! Would the words written on my surface be able to help? I prayed they would. And...they did! As my new friend read, his eyes shone with tears that fell on me as he started to smile just a little. I overheard him ask for pen and paper, and he is now writing a response to Grandma Anna. He keeps talking about Jesus, how glad he is to have found Him, and how much he enjoyed receiving me.

So my name fits me perfectly, don't you think? My God HAS helped, and another soul is ready for heaven!



Louie's treehouse Lair



Letters of Love

Would you like to experience the power of a hand-written letter? Here is one way you can do just that. Prayerfully choose a missionary family to write to—maybe one your local church supports regularly. If you are not sure what to include, try some of these suggestions:

- Facts about yourself and your family
- A favorite scripture
- An encouraging poem
- A prayer for them
- A picture of your family
- A picture you've colored or drawn

If you receive a response, ask your Sunday School teacher if you can read it to your class.



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Learn more at feaministries.org/engagekids