



Rejoice in HIM!



Russian Lifeline No. 256, Christmas 2023

News from Richard & Judy Grout, Vyborg, Russia, and Finland
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Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

Grace and peace be multiplied to you all this Christmas season! Three years ago at the end of 2020, we observed that it seemed the Iron Curtain had come down again. That year it was due to the COVID pandemic. In 2022 the Iron Curtain really did come down, and it has stayed shut down with only a few exceptions. All the nations bordering Russia have effectively closed their borders to Russian tourists. This has hurt business in Finland and other bordering nations much more than Russia. In fact more Russian tourists have been coming to Vyborg than ever before.

Although we will be celebrating Christmas on December 25, in Russia many Christians observe the birthday of Jesus on the 7th of January. This Christmas finds the Russian churches we have supported alive and thriving, even replacing the loss of those who moved away with new converts ready to be baptized.

NEWS FLASH: *Pray for Vladimir and Irina, a Russian missionary couple who are planning to move to serve in the Christian Center in December. After serving successfully in another region, they are highly qualified to fill the gap for evangelistic outreach in Vyborg.*



< An artist's portrayal of a typical winter scene in Vyborg's old town, just across the bridge from the Christian Center

> One of the weekly meetings inside the warmth of the Christian Center. Ministries are still continuing, praise the Lord!



Pastor Valera meeting with candidates for baptism in the Christian Center

All for Jesus, Richard & Judy Grout

Now pastoring in Cordele, Georgia

