

Rejoice in HIM

*Bringing News of Richard and Judy Grout
and Vyborg, Russia, since 1993*

RUSSIAN LIFELINE NO. 274, AUTUMN 2026

Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

Grace and peace be multiplied to you all!

“Nothing is reaped unless it is sown.” Thirty-three years ago we went through the old Soviet-style border crossing with Brother James Southerland into the medieval city of Vyborg, Russia—already more than 700 years old. Over the years we lived there, many hands helped with the harvest. Young Valera Tolkachev, a new convert who had just finished serving in the Russian army, was already at work in the Christian Center when we arrived. He was beginning a correspondence program that is still going on today, reaching prisoners and their families all across Russia. We continue to receive monthly reports from them. Today Valera oversees church planting throughout Northwest Russia.

The second year we were there, Major Sergei Vishniakov joined us, serving for more than a decade—first alongside us and later with The Gideons. Sergei was their president in Russia for several years, overseeing the establishment of more than 300 Gideon camps across the country before he retired.

In 1996 Dr. Bill and Judy Saxton arrived in Russia. Not long after, they moved to Yoshkar-Ola, where they helped build a church—1,000 miles from Vyborg. This summer we experienced a very exciting moment: an evangelistic team from that same church in Yoshkar-Ola traveled all the way to Vyborg to help with several outreaches!



Team from Yoshkar-Ola



Yoshkar-Ola team in the church

In this photo are two “Vladimirs.” On the left is Vladimir Nasedkin, the leader of the Christian Center, who holds evangelistic outreaches all across European Russia.

On the right is Vladimir Zhanda, a neighbor to whom I often witnessed while living at the Christian Center. Like several of our other older neighbors across the street from us, Vladimir—also known as “Volodya”—is still alive and well.



The following are still alive and well:

1. God is not dead but living and active in reaching the last, the least, and the lost.
2. The ministries begun when FEA entered Russia after the Iron Curtain fell are not dead but are continuing to reap an abundant harvest.
3. The churches we worked with in Vyborg, including one planted by Pastor Valera, are still growing and going strong.
4. Although Russia has many serious problems today, faithful believers there are carrying on the message of salvation, just as they have been for the past 150 years. They are still holding camp meetings and opening new churches.
5. Many of those who supported us through prayer and giving have been “promoted to glory,” but we are grateful that God is still touching the hearts of others to carry on the support of the ministries of Vyborg Christian Center.

Since 2020 when COVID hit, we have been unable to do deputation as we once did, traveling from South Florida to South Seattle and many places in between. But if you are interested in meeting with us personally, please let us know!

With God all things are possible! (Mark 9:23; Luke 1:37)

All for Jesus,

Richard & Judy Grout



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