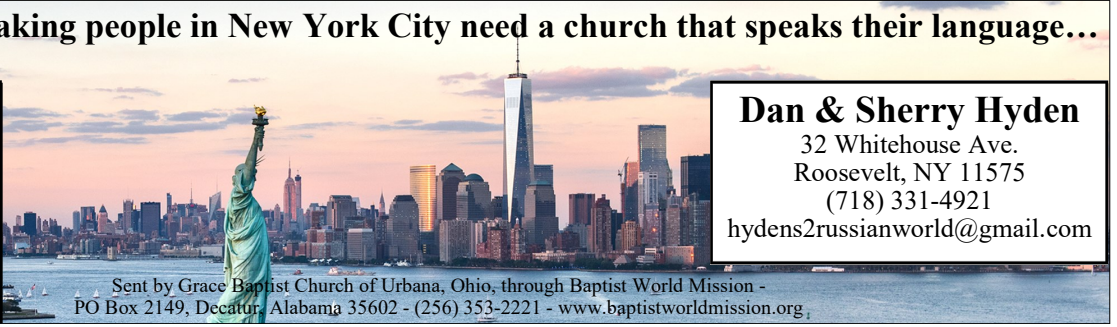


600,000 Russian-speaking people in New York City need a church that speaks their language...



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Sent by Grace Baptist Church of Urbana, Ohio, through Baptist World Mission -
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Dear friend,

As we enter the final days of 2024, may the Lord find us faithful, for He is faithful! He kept His promise to send a Savior, and as the wise men came to worship Him, they captured all of Jerusalem's attention. May our devotion to Christ have a similar effect on our communities!

We (Dan and Sherry) did some traveling ourselves, heading north on the last day of September for a belated anniversary trip until we were about 15 miles from the Canadian border. We met some other travelers along the way and shared Christ with people from Florida, Pakistan, Montreal, and Mexico, as well as other New Yorkers and New Englanders.

Ten days later, we (Dan, Emma, and Kelsie) were on the road again, this time traveling 2,700 miles to Michigan and Indiana to take part in two missions conferences and to visit three other churches. It was wonderful to see old friends and make new ones, and the services we were in were a blessing to us! Special thanks are due to our Pastor, Joe Fortna, who spoiled us for a few days, provided us with an unexpected opportunity to say a few words at a special church, and then came to our rescue when we had last-minute car trouble!

But the sunshine was mixed with shadows because it was the first trip in many years that we took without our whole family. Sherry, Shastya, and Gabriel stayed in New York so that Shastya (who had just been hired for her first job, a bakery position in an establishment that traces their roots back to 1672) could work. Sherry also had a pre-planned ladies' meeting at our church during that time. Part of this October meeting is used to prepare decorations for our church Thanksgiving dinner. One of our ladies, Lidia, presented a devotional thought at the meeting, which was her first public ministry of this kind! Several of the ladies came with heavy hearts due to developments in the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, and it resulted in tears, prayers, and bonding together. This will be the third Christmas marred by this conflict.



December 2024

Thanksgiving is always a big event for us. We usually have at least one person attending for whom it is their first Thanksgiving in America, and this year was no exception! Our ladies met together again in November to finish preparing the table decorations. Thanks to their efforts, a photo backdrop installed by Gabriel (our people love taking photos at events like this), and some bales of straw



kindly provided by one of our supporting churches, we were all set for the service!

We had no partridges or pear trees, but we did have four special musical numbers, three poems, two sermons, and one new family who came for the first time!

We are thankful to have a new family faithfully attending on Sundays. Grandmother Yulia loves the Lord, but her 13-year-old grandson, Maxim, is unsaved. Please pray for him (and his parents) to be saved, as well as for Ruslan, Valery, Alex, and Guy. In conjunction with Christmas and gift giving, Sherry is spearheading a church project to buy pairs of gloves, gift wrap them with a tract, and hand them out on the street. We already have 120 pairs, so please also pray for this outreach to be well-received and fruitful!



Serving our Savior with gratitude for your love and faithfulness,

Dan, Sherry, Shastya, Gabriel, Emma, & Kelsie