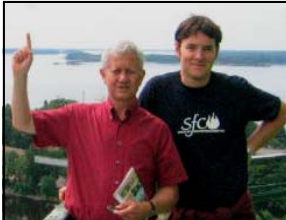




December 3, 2007

15 Years of Student Ministry in Russia



By Norwegian Rev. Gerard Bachke; AG pastor in France and Bible school teacher in Switzerland

This July I had the wonderful privilege again to be the speaker at the annual SFC-Russia "Run the Race!" student ministry training camp. I went with butterflies in my stomach as it was the first time that I ministered there without the Muzarts present. Some 80 students from 7 Russian cities participated and the Lord wonderfully blessed the meetings and activities.

The theme of the camp was "making a difference" because after an "encounter with God" (the theme of the winter camp), things change in us and we are given power to change others around us. I could feel the students' genuine interest and eagerness to learn.

This was my eighth *Run the Race!* summer camp in Russia. Wow!!! Four times in Kemerovo, Siberia and four in the St. Petersburg area. I am so grateful to God for the opportunities I had to give the hand of association to that work, but I mostly thank God for Eric and Jan who obeyed the call that was on their life and their perseverance in a field that is not exactly a bed of roses.

To hear that many of these students have become mature in the Lord, have assumed leadership positions and are multiplying fellowships is one of my greatest pleasures. Thank you for being part of that great Russian adventure.

By Christian counselor Brigitte Bachke, who ministered with her husband Gerard at *Run the Race!* 2002



What really touched my heart at that camp was the thirst of the students for the Word of God, their consecration in prayer and their testimony of evangelism among their fellow students. Some of them were being persecuted by their own families and lacked financial means, but they were full of faith. Others lived far away from their families, but all of them had the joy of the Lord and the fire of God in their hearts.

The private conversations and prayer times I had with them were very intense. What a privilege it was to be there and to give a little bit of our life to the students.

By Eric and Jan Muzart, founders and directors, Students for Christ, Russia

What a privilege indeed, and what an adventure it has been to have served in Russia since 1993. That year we planted the first SFC group in Russia at



Michael Eric Muzart, much admired by his sisters, was born July 21 in Columbus, Ohio.

Kemerovo State University in southern Siberia and held our very first summer camp. We had no idea the ministry would grow to so many other Russian cities and even impact other countries.

We are most grateful to the Bachkes and the myriad of other pastors, teachers, career and short-term missionaries, and the students themselves for all they have invested in this work. In addition, we thank you, our faithful prayer and financial supporters, without whom none of this would have been possible.

What's Next?

This October the Russian government passed a new visa law which permits foreigners to be in the country up to 180 days per year with a maximum of 90 days at a time. While still allowing for trips into Russia, this new law makes it impractical to live there. Other arrangements such as residency are difficult to obtain and not necessarily desirable. Please pray with us and all our colleagues for creative solutions to continuing ministry.

We are still itinerating. We will not be permitted to return to the field until we raise our new budget which accounts for inflation (12% to 18% annually in Russia) and the ever-plummeting dollar (now \$1.5 = 1 Euro). We now have 75% of our budget and are expected to raise the rest by Dec. 31. Please pray with us for a financial miracle. Also, if you haven't done so recently, would you prayerfully consider increasing your support? Thank you ever so much.

Contact us to schedule a service, to (un)subscribe to this newsletter by post, and/or to (un)subscribe to our e-newsletters and prayer updates. E-mail: eric.muzart@agmd.org Furlough Mailing Address: Eric and Jan, Alexia, Anastasia, Kristina & Michael MUZART, 7156 Post Road, Dublin, OH 43016 Furlough Telephone: 614-793-1598 Websites: www.muzarts.org; www.sfccrussia.org Support Notes: Please make checks payable to "AGWM". Write on memo line: "Muzarts Acct. # 2926111". Mail to: Assemblies of God World Missions, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, MO 65802 Tel. 417-862-2781. You may also give on-line by credit card. Pledge forms are available from our website.

