

Daniel S. Johnson

- Catechist to Siberia & Baltic Churches

Garbė Dievui aukštybėse

ὁ πιστεύσας καὶ βαπτισθεὶς σωθήσεται

Χριστος Воскрес!

February 2014

Daniel.Johnson@lcmsintl.org



The Mission -- Siberia

Many have asked about the safety of our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Siberia and those traveling in Russia during February (given the threats from Chechen terrorists toward athletes and observers of the Olympic games). Yes, the 2014 Winter Olympics are in Sochi, Russia this month. For this reason, I intentionally planned not to travel to Siberia during February. This decision is not born from fear of terrorist activity at the Olympic Games. I have confidence in Russian security to maintain safety for all involved. I have chosen not to travel to Siberia in February 2014 because of the spike in the cost of airline tickets and the airport congestion the games will generate. As for our Siberian friends, they will be in Siberia, nearly 2,000 miles away. They are as far away from

Sochi as I am, here in Germany.

I had intended to travel to the Baltics in February. However, my plans were changed when Rev. Dr. Matthew Rueger, pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hubbard, Iowa, accepted a March invitation to lecture to the Lithuanian clergy and then at the seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia. I will now be traveling to Lithuania in March to meet with Dr. Rueger and then accompany him to Siberia for the series of lectures. (More will be included on his visit to Lithuania and Siberia in a later newsletter)

The mission in Siberia continues to discover "exiled" Lutherans who were forgotten during the Soviet Era. After their Lutheran clergy were executed, the congregations were left, for decades, without any pastoral care. Out of concern for such "exiled" Lutherans, Rev. Daniel Burlakov, pastor at St. Mary's Lutheran Church - Tomsk, Russia, recently sent me this email:

Hello father Daniel!

How are you?

How was the symposia?

I wanted to ask you about one thing.

I have few members of our congregation

who live about 600 miles north from Tomsk in town Strezevoy. There is also a village Aleksandrovscoe where supposedly live some old lutherans. For some years I wanted to go there but it is a long and expensive trip.

So I was thinking if you would want to go there with me and if your Mission (?) could help us to make this missionary trip?

There are few ways to get there.

By plane. Could be expensive and they use old planes so every once in a while they have emergency landings or crashes.

By train. there is no train that go straight from Tomsk to Strezevoy. So people have to make a detour (Tomsk - N-sk - Tumen - Strezevoy) which takes almost 2 days (same as travel to Moscow)

By car. It is possible only in a winter because big part of the road is on the rivers ice cover, not very dangerous, though I am not sure if my car could make it.

So what do you think?

Daniel

continued on the next page

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Daniel.Johnson@lcmsintl.org

with the word ADD or

REMOVE in the subject line.





Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

Many Siberian pastors serve multiple congregation parishes. Pray for safe travel as these dedicated clergy travel to provide care for their parishioners. Also, pray for the laity as they travel to attend liturgy.

Pray for the Siberian catechumens as they learn the Christian vocation.

Pray for those Lutherans “in exile” who have not been given opportunity to receive preaching from the mouth and the Holy Sacraments from the hand of a Lutheran pastor. Pray that they can sing like Simeon: *“Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation...”*

***In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death; and in
the day of judgment:
Help us, good Lord.
-- The Litany***

It is most important for the SELC to continue to provide pastoral care to all “exiled” Lutherans. This is where the LCMS can continue to support our Siberian Lutheran brothers and sisters. When funding is secured for a visit to the cities of Strezvov and Aleksandrovskoe, it will be possible for Pastor Burlakov to baptize those who have never seen a Lutheran pastor, preach the Word and officiate the Holy Liturgy to those who have never heard evangelical preaching and serve the Holy Supper to faithful believers who have lived nearly a lifetime without such “healing medicine.” If you are able to help finance this pastoral expedition, you can send a donation to:

**Bob Kiefer, Siberian Lutheran
Mission Society
c/o Ascension Lutheran Church
8811 St. Joe Rd.**

Fort Wayne, IN 46835
(In memo indicate: “for Rev.
Burlakov’s mission)

In January, I traveled to Ft. Wayne, Indiana to chair the annual Siberian Lutheran Mission Society (SLMS) board of directors meeting. I am a charter member of the SLMS, served as editor of the SLMS newsletter from 2002 until 2012 and currently serve as president. The SLMS was founded in 2002 as a response to a request from Siberian Lutherans for financial assistance. They were seeking support to fund their mission activity in Siberian Russia. Since 2002 the SLMS has been able to provide consistent support to the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church’s (SELC) mission activity. In addition, the SLMS has supplied capital to purchase worship facilities and housing for SELC clergy and the ability for the SELC to travel enormous distances (in some instances, thousands of miles) to visit their multiple congregations and serve the sick and shut-ins.

To read the various SLMS newsletters and view educational documentaries concerning the activities and people of the SELC, see: www.siberianlutheranmissions.com. In July 2013, at the LCMS General Convention, a fellowship accord was adopted with the SELC. After more than a decade of discussions between the LCMS and SELC, our two church bodies are now in full altar and pulpit fellowship. This means we are now Lutheran partners in the task of preaching Christ to a Siberian world which was previously denied the Word of Salvation. Your prayers and support are requested, as we partner with our Siberian friends. ✠ DSJ



**Rev. Daniel Burlakov with wife,
Masha, and son, Matvey.**



To support my work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 790089
St. Louis, MO 63179-0089.**

**Make checks payable to “The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.”
Write “Support of Rev. Daniel S. Johnson” on the memo line. Gifts can
also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online
giving page at www.lcms.org/Johnson.**