

Sampsons

Russians of Estonia

Sept/Oct 08

Здравствуйте, (hello),

This past summer I visited 7 cities in the Gulf of Finland region to see where God might have us start a church. We were in St. Petersburg, Russia for our first term studying the language and working with different Russian churches and missionaries. God has led us 90 miles east of St. Petersburg to a city called Narva. It is a border city in Estonia (a former Soviet Union state). There are many Russians still living in Estonia; but the city of Narva, right on the Russian boarder, is 95% Russian speaking. In fact, in the city of Narva, it is hard to find anybody who speaks Estonian. We will still make trips into Russia. We have unsaved friends, a team of missionaries and Russians running a decentralized Bible college, and fellowship meetings we need to attend.

Since Narva is in Estonia, we needed to change our field to the Russians of Estonia. We are the only BBFI missionaries in all the Gulf of Finland area where 14 million people live (Estonia, Finland, and the Leningradskaya oblast of Russia (the region where St. Petersburg is located). It is a very needy area with very little witness. Pray with us as we strive to start a work here among the Russian people and that God would call more labors to minister in this region.



We will leave for Narva, Estonia as soon as the doctors release my wife, Lisa. She has been diagnosed with celiac sprue. It is a disease that attacks the small intestines. There is no medicine or operation that can help. She will have to undergo a major diet change staying away from all gluten (wheat, barley and rye). With a gluten free diet the damage can be reverse in most cases. Pray for her for strength and quick healing.

For Lost Russian Souls,
Keith Sampson