Cornerstone - Global Ministries

One Nation at a Time – RUSSIA

Grace and peace to you in our Lord! In order to facilitate a global perspective amongst the staff and communities, we have put together a template to encourage the body to pray for a specific country and partnership each week.

Pray for All People:

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, **2** for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. **3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

--1 Timothy.2:1-4

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

--James.5:16b

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us at 805.581.9532 or e-mail:

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The Country

Founded in the 12th century, the Principality of Muscovy, was able to emerge from over 200 years of Mongol domination (13th-15th centuries) and to gradually conquer and absorb surrounding principalities. In the early 17th century, a new Romanov Dynasty continued this policy of expansion across Siberia to the Pacific. Under PETER I (ruled 1682-1725), hegemony was extended to the Baltic Sea and the country was renamed the Russian Empire. During the 19th century, more territorial acquisitions were made in Europe and Asia. Defeat in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05 contributed to the Revolution of 1905, which resulted in the formation of a parliament and other reforms. Repeated devastating defeats of the Russian army in World War I led to widespread rioting in the major cities of the Russian Empire and to the overthrow in 1917 of the imperial household. The Communists under Vladimir LENIN seized power soon after and formed the USSR. The brutal rule of Iosif STALIN (1928-53) strengthened Communist rule and Russian dominance of the Soviet Union at a cost of tens of millions of lives. The Soviet economy and society stagnated in the following decades until General Secretary Mikhail GORBACHEV (1985-91) introduced glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring) in an attempt to modernize Communism, but his initiatives inadvertently released forces that by December 1991 splintered the USSR into Russia and 14 other independent republics. Since then, Russia has shifted its post-Soviet democratic ambitions in favor of a centralized semi-authoritarian state whose legitimacy is buttressed, in part, by carefully managed national elections, former President PUTIN's genuine popularity, and the prudent management of Russia's windfall energy wealth. Russia has severely disabled a Chechen rebel movement, although violence still occurs throughout the North Caucasus.

Facts and Figures

Capital City: Moscow

Population: 140,041,247 (July 2009 est.)

Religion: Russian Orthodox 15-20%, Muslim 10-15%, other Christian 2% (2006 est.)
note: estimates are of practicing worshipers; Russia has large populations of non-practicing believers and non-believers, a legacy of over seven decades of Soviet rule

Language: Russian, many minority languages

The Church

Over 90% of Russians have no meaningful link with the church – Orthodox or not. Praise God that Bibles are once again available in Russia, and that unprecedented opportunities for evangelism, church planting and the re-establishment of a Christian infrastructure are now being taken advantage of. Pray that the Gospel would reach the hearts of this largely unreached country.*

Our Prayer

- The relatively peaceful collapse of Communism in 1990-91 was a direct answer to years of concentrated prayer. Pray that a network of church planters might be equipped to meet this staggering need.
- Pray that Christian workers would obtain the necessary visas and local acceptance to serve the Russian people an share the good news of Christ.
- Although proud, Russia is a despairing nation. Early democratic promise has proven to be a farce, and economic progress an illusion. Pray for those who have experienced the breakdown of family life through violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and economic crisis.

Our Partnerships

- Please pray for a **Missionary Family** that works in Russia, but is also involved with some people from Kazakstan, Kyrgystan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Their primary role is helping with new evangelizing, discipling, and training initiatives, and helping nationals and staff with business opportunities, in order to see the gospel move forward.

*Some statistics and information were gathered from the Operation World Prayer Calendar and CIA World Factbook.