

LESSONS LEARNED IN WINNING A RUSSIAN OFFICIAL!

We wanted to share some of the lessons we've learned through our experience in winning our Soviet official friend to Jesus.

Our first lesson was about reaching the Soviet people generally. Having had for some time already a burden for Russian Soviets, we began searching in our city where & how we might be able to meet some. We met some at the Russian Cultural Center, as well as at special occasions sponsored by the center. Most of the ones we met were quite friendly, which apparently they know they should be - to give a good front-line sample of their society to the outside world, & some gave their business card or telephone with an invitation to call. The lesson we learned was one of individual witnessing vs. trying to reach them all at once. We're so used to trying to influence as many as possible with the message & sample, but in this case we felt led more to work individually on the one we got the best witness off of, & not to arouse too much attention among them as a group, especially the goats, as we could see that if we should make the wrong move with someone unfavourable that it could possibly close the door to us being able to go too much further with any of them at all!

Although most of them were friendly on the surface, there was usually an evident air of cautious suspicion underneath - you could see that they were wondering who we were, what was our reason for befriending them (it's unusual for someone here to take an interest in making friends with Soviets - usually they don't have too many foreign friends). So we even made a special effort at the beginning not to seem too overly-interested, generally with all of them & even with the one individual when we first were getting to know him. - And this helped to ease his suspicion. After seeing him a few times, he began to be more relaxed, when he could see that our friendship was genuine & he was more reassured that we had no ulterior motives.

Seeing in us that something different from other people (the Lord!), he soon began to take a personal interest in us - he gradually ceased being the "good sample" communist, with party interests in mind, but more & more started to come see us out of personal interest - to find out what is that intangible something about us! Then it was that we noticed he began to be somewhat secretive in coming to us, being careful not to let other Soviets, & even often his wife, know that he was visiting. (We must mention here that at this particular point there did begin rising in him an interest in something tangible - our female bait). His carefulness made us realize that we need to be very sensitive not only about our own security, but for his too! (like in W. Series 8&9: 99). We were careful, for instance, not to cross lines with other Soviets - we never told other Soviets when meeting them, "Oh, we know so & so," as they seem to keep an eye on each other. He told us a couple of times that they have restrictions in their social lives, especially when having to do with foreigners.

One interesting point is - when we would discuss politics with him, even if we talked pro-Soviet, it didn't seem to affect or interest him too much. - But when it got around to Love, that's what really interested him & got immediately through to him! - & won him! TYJ!

We pray these little practical things we learned can be a blessing to someone! WHY! Thank God for the letters, from which we received our initial inspiration to begin with, & continually looked to for guidance & direction, & without which we would have probably never been able to win this precious soul to the Lord! TYJ! WHY Dnd! - You're leading & guiding us to Conquer the World with Love!

(Names withheld for security)

WOONG AND WINNING BULGARIA!

SOME TIME IN THE YEAR 1272, a peaceful gypsy band was vending their way through the beautiful hills of Bulgaria, camping in the fertile Valley of Roses spreading their life of love, songs and happiness. Then some 700 years later, the Lord again sends his gypsy children back to the land of their forefathers to continue their work of wooing and winning the people of Bulgaria.

So it was that the Lord has led us to make two trips into the land of Abraham, and we can see now why he loved it so much. The Bulgarians have a story that when God was distributing the lands of the earth to man, He had given every tribe their parcel of ground. Then the Bulgarian came in from tending the vineyard, but no piece of land had been saved for him. So the Lord said, "I've given all the land away, I'll have to give to you a piece of My Paradise." And it is true. We have found Bulgaria and it's people every bit as enchanting as dear Abraham says.

BULGARIA IS MAINLY AN AGRARIAN country of fertile lands. It exports much produce all over the world and dairy products abound, especially yogurt, which they themselves invented. The 9 million people are

mostly Slavs, but there is a considerable Turkish influence in many of the small cities as well as the ever-present gypsies, who mainly stick to them-

selves except for the occasional musicians who can be found singing in the restaurants and hotel areas.

THE MAIN LANGUAGE of course is Bulgarian, a Slavic language. Their alphabet is the same as that used by Russians, which is called the Cyrillic alphabet. Incidentally, this alphabet was invented by two Bulgarian monks who wanted to make a written language for the Bulgars so that they could give them the Bible!

FROM OUR TWO TRIPS INTO BULGARIA, we found the people very open. It is easy to meet people on the streets, at cafes, or in one of the many parks. A good many of them speak either German or English and a bit of French.

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH is still very active and many of the ancient monasteries are still in use with a surprising number of monks! The churches still hold services and many people attend. It seems that the church still holds a place in Bulgarian culture.

ON OUR LAST TRIP THERE, we spent a week travelling and camping with C., a Bulgarian friend of ours, and N., a Russian girl who was visiting C.

WE FOUND THE MMM TAPES to be a wonderful way to give them the message and so we loaded them down with extra ones that we had brought for this purpose.

IT WAS COMICAL to watch the looks on people's faces when C. would hand them first a Bulgar-

MLL on the way to set the captives free!

MMM SONGS IN YUGOSLAVIAN - IT'S ALL THE LORD!

From Andrej & Marija; Europe:

Dear precious Family all over the world! GBY! "EVEN IF IT WASN'T PERFECT...LET IT GO, DON'T DO IT AGAIN!" (1091:63) Empowered by these precious words from our loving shepherd we took the cassette with 16 MMM songs which were translated and recorded on a simple tape-recorder in Yugoslavian last September, but never recorded again in a good studio as planned for a number of reasons, and brought it to a studio which did their best to g-

erase the background & between-the-songs noise, put it on a reel-to-reel tape, with which we went to another studio that made 100 cassette copies of it. PTLL! The quality is not the best, but satisfactory, since the tapes will not be used on radio stations, but for personal listening. Our free photocopying contact provided the labels for them with all the titles of the songs & their authors, and now the tapes are waiting to be sent to their future owners in Yugoslavia within a few days. DV. We'll also send them the songbook with which they can follow the songs on the cassette.

THIS WILL BE OUR FAREWELL PRESENT TO THE MOST SHEEPY people from the MM list, before our departure to South-East.

WE KNOW WITH GOD'S ASSISTANCE THESE TAPES WILL CAUSE THE REVOLUTION IN THE HEARTS of those who'll hear them, because on the day when we brought the tape to the studio the Devil was



Our friend Andy, polishing up the recording (left), and Torosa (7 yrs. of age) & a Bulgarian, playing the labels (right), certainly deserve their credit too!

"THE DEVIL IS MAD BECAUSE THE TAPES ARE ON THE WAY TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE!" The Lord also gave us the name for the tape: "Music of Life and Love - MLL!" ONE OF THE SHEEP FROM OUR MM LIST PLAYS IN A BAND and wrote asking if they could play these songs publicly! (He just got the songbook without even hearing the tunes yet!) He was saved through the mail, and thru' a wise performance of the songs about love, avoiding the heavier witnessing songs, he and his band could gather many sheep and add them unto the fold of David! Wow! We are eagerly expecting to hear some heavy testimonies from him & pass them on unto all of you in one of our next newsletters!

BUT WHAT REALLY AMAZES US IS TO SEE THAT IT'S ALL THE LORD! He inspired the tran-

sations (7 songs in just 1 day!), He anointed the singers (1 of them, Italian Samaria, doesn't even speak Yugoslavian at all!), He kicked us in the pants to finish the project (which we almost were not going to do) thru' Dad's "Let go & let God!" (No. 1091) & He finally even provided the money to pay for the expenses! Thank YOU, Jesus!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE ONE of these tapes or some Yugoslavian list? You can, if you'll just write to the Yug. Lit Pic c/o your CRO. Also, please send us address of any Yug. people you want to be on our MM list. (Please make sure you get their complete full address, as often we receive incomplete addresses which are unfortunately of no use! Thank you!)

- WLYSH, Andrej & Marija. AMEN! GDM! -HELP'M!

ian passport, then a Russian one and three American passports! Ha! Jeremiah said that they must have thought it was SALT III!

SO OUR TRIP WAS SPENT ministering to C. and N., not at all according to what we had planned, but because of that we were able to establish an even deeper relationship with C. (who saved us quite a few Levas, Bulgarian money, by speaking for us) and gained a new Russian friend who has since then written us sometimes twice a month. She wrote a very sweet letter in the fall which said, "Hello, my dear friends! I was so glad to get your letter and to see your pictures. I hope that we can meet again soon. I am always so sad in November as it is so grey and depressing, but when I listen to your tapes and look at your pictures, I am happy even in November." We were so moved by this encouragement from the Lord that our time with this precious Russian sheep was not wasted. She said that her friends also listen to the tapes and they like them very much and envy her. Ha! We had tried to mail some tapes to her but they were returned, so TTL she got the tapes at the Golden Moment.

AS SOME FINAL INFORMATION on Bulgaria we wanted to add that we had no difficulty in buying diesel (we have a diesel van) and that gas stations are numerous enough if you don't let your tank get too low (as Dad recommends that we should never let the tank get too far past half empty). Of course, benzine is also available and both are inexpensive.

THE LEVA, which is the Bulgarian currency, is approximately the same as an American dollar in value, but a little less, and if you can show proof, either by camp ground reservation or something similar, that you are going to stay more than two days, then you get twice as much for your money when you exchange it and there is no daily minimum for how much you should change every day, and no charge for a visa (you only have to buy a visa if your just travelling thru Bulgaria). We have heard that the northern part, on the other side of the Balkan Mountains, is somewhat desserty and very hot (so take water if you go there). The roads are okay, including some of the less travelled ones. The Black Sea is where the tourists are and wherever you go BE SURE that you understand exactly the full price of camping or whatever before you move in. They have a sign, but establish beforehand how they classify your vehicle (busses cost more) or you may be in for a real surprise. Also, never change money with a street person! GBY! Jeremiah, Gabriella & LuKe

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