



LORD'S HARVEST INTERNATIONAL

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# LHI Newsletter

ISSUE 42—October 2013

## New Field Endorsed



The LHI Board has unanimously decided to endorse the ministry and work of Maksim Rhyhikh of Omsk, Siberia, Russia effective immediately.

In issue 39 of the LHI Newsletter (April 2013), we shared with you our contacts with Maksim. Since the age of 14, Maksim, who is now 23, has had a hunger to know the Bible and to know truth. Four years ago, on his own, he came to understand Bible teachings about the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus, God's Messiah. In 2012, he became aware of the Church of God General Conference and Anthony Buzzard's Restoration Fellowship websites. Through correspondence and reading two of Anthony's books, Maksim was thrilled to find others who believe like him. Anthony contacted Tracy Zhykhovich, who spent many years in Russia and is fluent in the language. She began to communicate with Maksim.

In issue 40 of the Newsletter (July 2013) we provided an update on Maksim and his work in Russia. It was reported that he was baptized by John Aston on July 20. John who lives in England was traveling in Russia and agreed to travel an additional 14 hours by train to Omsk so he could baptize Maksim. Maksim has been sharing the message of the Kingdom with people that he has come in contact with and has been having Bible studies with some who are willing to meet with him.

Here is more information from Tracy about the reason the LHI Board has decided to endorse Maksim's ministry. We also are making a specific request for financial support which will enable him to serve. We ask you to give prayerful consideration to this information and how you, your church, and/or mission group can help.

We believe that Maksim Ryzhikh is a man God called to preach and teach the truths of Scripture in Russia and to Russian speaking people. (By the way, 30% of Jews living in Israel are Russian speaking.) Through His Spirit God called Maksim and taught him. He is God's handiwork. About the time Maksim found and embraced truth (after searching since age 14), he enrolled in a government program where he agreed to work for the government in a closed top secret city for 15 years upon his completion of his law degree. Little did he know at that time, that this contract would deny him fellowship and contact with foreign brothers and sisters

(over)



## Russia (continued)

for those 15 years and that he would not be able to obey what his Lord Jesus commanded him to do as His disciple, that which He has called us all to do.

Maksim sought fellowship with other like-minded believers for almost four years before he came across Anthony Buzzard, who passed his name on to me. To say the least, Maksim was thrilled. After all my years in Russia, I too was thrilled to see what God had been working and that He has a plan for the kingdom to be preached in Russia.

Maksim has been agonizing over what to do the past few years. After rejoicing in the truth he found, Maksim continued to study Scripture and came to find the commission given to all believers, to go, preach the kingdom and to make disciples and to baptize them into Jesus' name. Unfortunately, if he goes through with the government job, he will not only not be allowed to speak with us, but he will not be allowed to preach and teach the Bible. He has concluded that he has to choose between serving the government, or serving God. He has chosen to serve God, in spite of the suffering that he may have to endure. He is giving up a secure income and future, as well as an apartment that they are promising him, in order to obey his Master.

In order for this work to take root and go forward, we would like to raise funds in the amount of \$10,000 to pay off Maksim's school bills so that he will not be obligated to the Russian government for the next 15 years. We would like to raise these funds by April 1, 2014 if possible. Maksim has not asked us to take this action, but it seems that this is a very necessary step if we are to free him to minister in Russia.

In addition to helping Maksim pay off the school debt (which is urgent), we propose to help him in his ministry. We would like to raise \$1000/month to help Maksim rent a one room apartment, get a web site up and running and pay for the monthly internet fee, print material for teaching purposes, and if there is any left over, help him with a little food being that he cannot officially work for someone else for 6 years. He has permission to start his own business and we would like you to join us in prayer that God will open some door for Maksim to be able to start his own business, so that he can legally work. It is LHI policy for those who serve in other countries to have employment and pay for their own support so the goal will be for this to happen as soon as possible. And most importantly, we also would like you to pray for a big miracle that the government would change their rules for him so that he can legally seek employment right away.

Maksim has requested information as to what he needs to do in order to be a licensed pastor with Church of God. We will be working with the Ministerial Recognition Board on this matter.

In addition to these prayer requests, we also ask you to pray for Irina, an elderly lady Maksim was studying with, who was called to an ailing relative. While there she had a stroke and is paralyzed on one side. This past week she got in touch with Maksim and asked him if he could come baptize her. She is almost 400 miles from where Maksim is but he said if a relative of hers could drive him (it would take all night probably) he could maybe take a bus home. Please pray for her health and for God to provide Maksim a way to get there and back. (over)

## Russia (continued)

**Update as of 10-14-13**—Tracy talked with Maksim on the phone yesterday (Sunday, May 13). Here is what she wrote:

I am excited to share how God has worked this past week. God answered our prayers in a miraculous way. Maksim went to Novgorod (400 miles from where he lives!) and baptized Irina. He said she isn't doing well and needs prayers. He was able to spend the day with her. The miracle is how he got there and back. An acquaintance of his is in a sport's club (boxing I think) and his group went to Novgorod on a chartered bus and they took Maksim along. He went in faith, not knowing how or when he would return. He had no money and no way back (and needed to be back for school). As they traveled, he shared his faith with the guys on the bus. He doesn't know if anything will come of any of them, but they were so touched by him going to that city to baptize this lady they took up an "offering" and got him enough money to ride the train home the next evening! God is faithful and awesome!

Here is an initial outline for some of the activities that Maksim wishes to pursue:

- 1) After he finishes his school, he wants to do the documents and "register" COG with the government. If Jesus tarries, after 15 years COG can be registered as an official church in Russia with rights that "official churches" have.
- 2) He wants to get a Church of God General Conference website up and running in Russian
- 3) He will be editing the lessons and books we have where there are some mistakes so they can be put on the website and also printed.
- 4) He wants to put together a short booklet on COG's history and statement of faith.
- 5) He is open to where God leads. Once the website is up and running and he has placed some "posters" (sheets of paper) "advertising" Bible studies around the city he lives in, he is willing to travel around to towns where several believers have congregated (once that happens). He also said he is open to going to different towns to put out information since only about 40-50% of Russians have internet access.

So, in May he would like to "register", start advertising Bible studies, get a website up and do some sort of outreach where people are looking for biblical answers. He also wants to start trying to learn English.—Tracy

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The LHI Board asks you to prayerfully consider this matter and to let us know if you can help with the financial needs: a one time gift or a commitment to make 6 monthly gifts to pay off Maksim's debt to the Russian government (November to April); and/or a one time gift or a monthly commitment to help with Maksim's living expenses until he is able to start a business or if possible, secure employment.

Your prompt response to let us know how you can help will be greatly appreciated. Just send your check or note of what you can do to: LHI—Russia, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253.  
Thank you. (over)

## Peru Trip

We are requesting prayer for the team that will travel to Lima on November 1. Team members are Rachel Carr, Rick McClain, Amber McClain, and David Krogh.

The team will arrive about 10:00 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1. On Saturday the team will meet with Pastor Gaston and Maria Ucanay to discuss the work at the church in Lima. In the afternoon, we will travel by public bus to a village north of Lima, Ventenilla, for a Bible study with several families who have a house church. Services will be held on Sunday in the morning and evening at the church in Lima.

On Monday and Tuesday, meetings will be held with two new contacts who want to work with the Church of God because they have come to believe the truths of Scripture which we teach. These men have studied with Anthony Buzzard over the past couple of years as well as visiting our church in Lima. One has been a pastor and lives on the outskirts of Lima. The other one has a desire to get a group started in his city of Chimbote which is about 10 hours by bus from Lima.

The team will leave very early Wednesday morning for the flight back to Atlanta.

Please pray for safe travel and effective ministry in all of the meetings and contacts that will be made.

## Report on Linda Limbe-Nkomba

On September 16, the following notice was sent to pastors and mission chairpersons:

We just received word that Linda Limbe-Nkomba who has been such a big help to our work in Malawi over the years has been diagnosed with cervical cancer. Judy Myers asked me to notify you and ask for your prayers and the prayers of the membership. According to Linda's doctor, at this point, the cancer can be treated but she will need to go to South Africa since they do not treat cancer in Malawi. She will probably need surgery and chemotherapy. Please lift up Linda and her family in this difficult time. Thanks.

We want to let you know that Linda is currently in South Africa having additional tests done. As soon as they are completed she will return to Malawi to wait for the results. She will then need to return to South Africa for whatever treatments are deemed advisable.

The LHI Board would like to help Linda with her travel and medical expenses. Depending on the treatment, more than \$10,000 will be needed to help with her expenses.

Linda has served faithfully without pay in helping to oversee our work in Malawi and Mozambique. She is very vital to our ministry there and we want to do all we can to help her to be restored completely to good health. Gifts to help with her medical expenses can be sent to: LHI—Linda, Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253. Thanks for anything you can do to help.