

COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
ACTIVITIES IN THE RUSSIAN SPEAKING FIELD

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Dear Friends,
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There is much to report! Judging by the enthusiasm and joy which prevailed among the returning travelers from 2003 Annual Meeting & Conference in Berlin, the effort to get Russian speakers to the Berlin meeting was a complete success. Thank you, every- one, for helping to make this possible by contributing and praying to support it. The committee received just over \$10,000 in contributions which went a long way toward covering travel and document expenses for many of the 52 adults and 3 children from former Soviet republics that made it to the meeting. 66 registered initially, but Genady, the Clerk's Assistant for the Russian-speaking fields, said that all those that really wanted to go were able to demonstrate the necessary documents. Others who were less committed, did not, and, unfortunately, a few others had last minute challenges which prevented them from going.

Additional contributions were donated by the Christian Science Society in Singapore and an association in England totaling close to \$3,150. Churches in Germany, Austria and Switzerland contributed 25,000 EURO (almost \$30,000). These generous contributions ensured that everyone who wanted to come to Annual Meeting from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union - but who could not afford to pay - received some means of support in the form of money for transportation to and from Berlin, free housing, free Berlin transport passes, and some assistance with food. A monumental effort, led by Rosemarie Funke from Second Church, Berlin went into figuring out and organizing logistics for the Berlin stay. Amazingly, there is even money left over, some of which will be sent to promote Christian Science in the Russian-speaking field (at this point mostly Moscow and Kazakhstan), and some to Olympia to help with the committee's next project.

The Christian Science Society, Berlin Mitte holds its worship services in the Berlin Russian House of Culture. They were inspired to have a Russian language Sunday Service before Annual Meeting and a Wednesday testimony meeting after. There were many tears shed during these services from the joy and gratitude felt and expressed. The

Wednesday service went two hours and not everyone got a chance to speak. The Society served a light meal after the Wednesday meeting and it was a wonderful conclusion to all the activities. A picture of those who were still in Berlin and could attend this service is attached to this letter. On a separate page are some of the remarks shared by conference attendees. The impact that the conference had on them is so apparent in their remarks. I'm sure that many of them no longer feel so isolated or alone in their search for Truth. I am glad now that we didn't disband the committee after we helped the St. Petersburg society in their request for a church space. We really did think for a few minutes that our assistance wasn't needed any more, and that we could relax. We're grateful we decided to expand our objectives to include the entire Russian-speaking field; which brings us to the next project.

So far only "Science and Health" and relatively few portions of "Prose Works" have been translated into Russian. A new Russian "Herald" was recently published which was shared at Annual Meeting, however, no biographies of Mrs. Eddy exist in Russian and the committee feels it would like to support that field's desire to know more about the life of Mrs. Eddy. A team of five Russians was set up to read certain of the English biographies and then to make recommendations. They have unanimously recommended the Richard A. Nenneman biography "Persistent Pilgrim" as they feel this biography is best suited to the Russian reader. Divine Mind is surely leading us all in this project as we have already learned that "Persistent Pilgrim" is published by a private publisher who is willing to give us permission to translate and publish this book. They will even allow the book to be printed in Russia which will make it more affordable for Russians and others in the former Soviet republics. One translator has been approached and two more are being contacted to determine costs. Our goal is to go on to help facilitate the translation of all of Mrs. Eddy's writings, but we will take this one step at a time.

Some months ago a foundation in Germany donated \$5,000 to be used to promote Christian Science in the Russian-speaking field, and this money is being used as seed money for a translations fund. The Nurenburg, Germany, church then heard of this project and contributed another \$382, so we're off to a good start. We still have no idea what the translations will cost, nor do we yet know the costs of printing in Russia, but I am sure that if this is a right idea, the funds will be there.

Thanks again to all of you that support this growing field financially and meta- financially. I hope we have been able to convey to you how important it was to bring those Christian Scientists from Russia, Poland,

Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan to this Annual meeting. I shall never forget the joy expressed at that last Wednesday service.

Sincerely and gratefully yours..... Bill Arnesen, for the committee

Some of the attendees and their hosts from from Berlin Mitte
Society