



The Spiritual Resource Foundation

Supporting Christian Science activities in the Russian-Speaking Field

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Здравствуйте!

A large Russian HELLO to all who have an interest in the cause of Christian Science in the Russian-speaking field.

In this newsletter, we would like to discuss the mission and purpose of The Spiritual Resource Foundation (TSRF), how we work with The Mother Church, and recent foundation activities that are supported by your donations.

Mission. To support Christian Science Activities in the Russian-speaking field.

Purpose: To obtain and distribute financial and technical resources to Churches, Societies and groups in Russian speaking countries to:

- “Provide financial support to help groups of Christian Scientists in Russia get started and become churches.
- Translate and print Christian Science literature into Russian.
- Support events, lectures and workshop activity.
- Produce and broadcast radio programs on Christian Science in Russian.
- Provide websites on Christian Science activities for the Russian-speaking world.
- Support such other activities as would promote the cause of Christian Science in the Russian-speaking field.

Notable recent activities that fall under the last bullet (“other activities”) include:

- paying travel expenses for students and speakers at Russian Association meetings who cannot pay their own way,
- securing Russian legal advice to protect the legal rights and freedoms of Russian Christian Science churches and groups.

Although TSRF has no official connection with The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, it works closely with The Mother Church to ensure its activities accord with the *Church Manual* and church policy.

There is a spiritual hunger and receptiveness among the world’s approximately 200 million Russian speakers. Attendees at Christian Science church meetings typically stay long after meetings to share their experiences and enthusiasm. Church members manning Christian Science booths at book fairs say visitors from previous years often return to discuss their gratitude and progress at length and many purchase additional copies of *Science and Health* for relatives or friends.

“Soul has infinite resources with which to bless mankind” – Mary Baker Eddy

Outreach in Russian-speaking countries this year included:

- Lectures (funded either by local societies or The Mother Church), in Kherson, Riga, Pskov, Tambov, Yerevan, Kiev, St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Minsk,
- Book fairs (funded primarily by TSRF), in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Minsk, and Kiev. Several hundred copies of *Science and Health* were distributed, along with many copies of the Russian *Herald* and other Christian Science literature.
- Online Wednesday Testimony Meetings: The St. Petersburg Society is excited about its ability to “enlarge the place of its tent” by including online participants in their Wednesday meetings.

Since the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, Christian Science Societies or informal groups have sprung up in Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Russia, and Ukraine—despite opposition to Western religion and laws restricting religious freedom. Although there is government opposition, there has also been progress in relations with government. For example, when Christian Scientists participated in a book fair in Minsk earlier this year, they were invited to do so as an official member of the Russian Delegation. This remarkable example of recognition and inclusion came about as a result of years of working with the Moscow Book Fairs Directorate and earning their trust.

It is appropriate here to mention our gratitude for the work of Gennady Shcherbanev, the TSRF-funded contact for inquiries about Christian Science in Russia (and the person who arranged for book fair participation). Marie Helm, an American practitioner, lecturer, and teacher who lives part-time in Russia and holds her association there, said: “it would be difficult to find a more honest, loving, trustworthy and respected individual than our Gennady. His life stands as an excellent example of what it means to be a Christian Scientist, and knowing him has been a rare privilege. I think of him and immediately am filled with gratitude both for his friendship and all he has done to help establish Christian Science here.” Gennady passed on in September. However, the work he did and the relationships he established will continue to bless the Russian field. The Board is in the process of engaging someone to continue Gennady’s work.

All the financial support the foundation provides to the Russian-speaking field comes from donations by Christian Science churches, organizations, and individuals. As our outreach grows, the need grows with it. We are most grateful for your support.

The all-volunteer board of TSRF sends you a Russian:

Большое Спасибо (A Big Thanks)

For further information about Christian Science in the Russian-speaking field, please visit the following web sites:

United States (English/Russian): <http://spiritualresource.org/>

Russia: <http://www.christian-science.ru/>