



# H.O.P.E. 4 UDMURTIA

Helping the poor \* Organizing churches \* Praying for lost \* Equipping leaders



April 2, 2008

Newsletter

Edition 22

**John 4 records the story of Jesus and the woman at the well in Samaria.** This is a perfect illustration of what we are calling 'kitchen table' evangelism. Meeting people, building a relationship (even though a short one), sharing your life and most importantly your faith in Jesus Christ is a simple strategy we are 'copying' to win people to Him in Udmurtia.

Copying is the correct term because this is what Jesus did when He engaged people with the gospel of His Kingdom. Whether it was one individual like the Samaritan woman, families like Mary, Martha and Lazarus, or entire groups, Jesus was constantly engaging people right where they lived. Yes, this has a more correct name called 'relationship evangelism' and several books are already written on how to do it. It is more than just a book idea though. It is what Jesus did.

When two of our April team sat down in Izhevsk last year and met with Dr. Rahan and his wife, he shared with us that he could get his friends and neighbors to come to his house especially to meet with Americans and learn about our culture. As we sat around his kitchen table, we discussed how the Lord had spoken to his heart about the possibility of using this in Udmurtia to meet people and by God's grace help them come to know Him.

For Russian and Udmurt people to have a desire to do this is a move of God in their hearts. For so many years they were unable to trust anyone for fear of government intervention. Prayer, Bible study and meetings like this were illegal. Now they are asking for help to do it.

We are working towards a mission effort in October to do this very thing. We have been asked to bring in small teams that can go into homes where contacts have already been made and do the things that most of us do every day.....talk! Not make speeches, just talk like you do on the phone, at the store, at work. They ask you questions about your life. You answer and ask them questions. Pretty simple huh?

Yes, we will prepare you with how to prepare for such a trip and and more importantly how to share your faith in the Lord with them.

For two years now, we have watched as the Lord has used this simple relational method of engaging these Udmurt people to open doors and multiply His Kingdom into their hearts.

Please share this with your church and Bible study groups and pray with us about teams to go for this outreach.

### ***Trip Preparation***

- a. How to go on trip to Russia***
- b. How to talk to people in a culture different than yours***

- c. How to share your faith***

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