



Advance or Retreat?

Bringing News of Richard & Judy Grout from Vyborg, Russia

serving with Hope International Missions since 1993

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Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

John Maxwell can deliver a whole message on one word. I need two: Advance or Retreat? There are two kinds of Christians—advancing Christians and retreating Christians. Advancing Christians are always looking for new opportunities to witness for Jesus. Retreating Christians are more concerned with “circling the wagons” (as we would say in the Old West), in “saving our own families,” in protecting themselves from the contaminations of the world. But Jesus said, “*Go ye into all the world,*” and “*the gates of Hell will not prevail*” against us. Will we go forward with Jesus, or will we be “left behind”?

Saara Kuusela, one of our most loyal supporters, was taken to be “forever with the Lord” this summer. Saara came from Finland to Russia many times, traveling to the most remote corners of Russia, training teachers how to teach the Gospel to children. Saara was ten years older than we are, but, until the last few weeks, she was a bundle of energy and a tremendous inspiration for us all. This photo was taken four years ago when Saara was giving a seminar in our Christian Center. Saara left behind hundreds of Bibles for Russia + many other helpful materials. She was in the front lines bringing the Bible to Russian children, in advance of us all!



We are thankful for the Word of God that has been invested in the lives of many Russian children. In June, we were privileged to take part once again in a summer camp for Russian orphans in Espoo, Finland. Even with her broken arm, Judy was able to lead the music program and play the piano. On top of page two is a photo from that exciting camp.



This is a pollution-free wooden horse. No matter how many kids, he keeps smiling!

At the end of July, another exciting event happened here in Vyborg. The Church on the Rock dedicated their new children's home for orphans to live with four Christian families as foster children. Construction began on this beautiful home 22 years ago, when Greg Rose, with help from a TLC Team, helped lay the foundations. Supporters from five different nations gathered to celebrate the dedication. Praising the Lord, *Richard & Judy Grout*

