

How can you help?

Where is Petrozavodsk?



About Petrozavodsk

Founded in 1703, by Peter the Great, Petrozavodsk means "Peter's Factory". The city, with a population of over 350,000, is located on the beautiful shore of Lake Onega and is the capital of the Karelian Republic of the Russian Federation.



1. Pray with us for God's direction and provision.
2. Encourage your congregation to support this ministry with prayer and donations.
3. Give financially to this work. All gifts are tax deductible and may be sent to NWMP, PO Box 227, Northome, MN 56661. A faith promise of monthly support would be the most helpful way of giving to this work.

For more information or a monthly newsletter write to:

PO Box 227, Northome, MN 56661
Or email: jsull@paulbunyan.net

For regular updates visit:
www.ericandliza.blogspot.com



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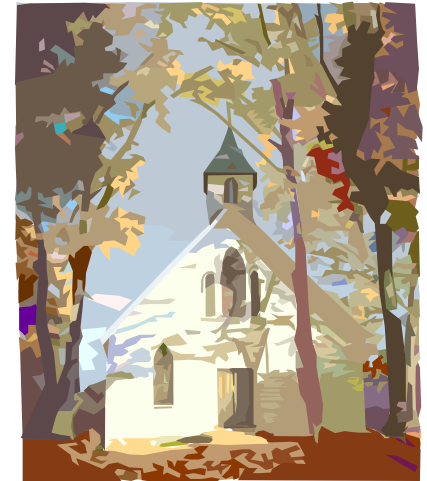
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North Woods Mission to Petrozavodsk

Christian Center Ministry



"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

1 John 3:18

NWMP
PO Box 227
Northome, MN 56661
USA

How the ministry started:

"During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." Acts 16: 9,10

To have a people say "come over and help us" is a rare opportunity to bring the gospel to hungry souls. In early 1993 just such a request came unexpectedly to the small town of Northome, Minnesota.

After the collapse of communism in 1991, Northome initiated a student exchange program between their high school and a public school called Lyceum #1 in Petrozavodsk, Russia. In 1993, Yuri Shabanov, the principal of Lyceum #1, came to visit the Northome school and community. Before returning to Russia, he asked for a meeting with local clergy and the school's administration. Yuri expressed his concern that the students in Petrozavodsk needed the opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ and Biblical moral values. Speaking through an interpreter, he said:

"We have seen the results of 75 years of atheistic communism. We have also seen that the church of Jesus Christ is still here after 2,000 years. Our souls are dead. Show us how to find God."

Yuri asked for help in creating a Christian center in his school. NWMP was formed by concerned pastors and laypeople from the Northome community and surrounding area in a collaborative effort to help meet this unique request. Missionaries were sent in 1995 to pioneer the Christian Center at Lyceum #1.

What is the Christian Center?

The Christian Center is located in a public school, Lyceum #1, in Petrozavodsk, Russia. The school has an enrollment of about 1500 students in grades K -11.



Since 1995, the Center has been reaching out to students and teachers in Lyceum #1 and the surrounding community. It operates within the school through support and funding channeled through NWMP and with a staff of Indigenous Russian leadership.

Through camps, Bible clubs, drama and music clubs, and an extensive library, the Center's staff is able to spread the gospel and build children up in the Word of God.



The Christian Center is an interdenominational mission that seeks to build relationships with all of the Churches in Petrozavodsk.



Eric and Liza Debelak

Eric and Liza have accepted God's call to the Christian Center ministry. They are in the process of raising support and, God willing, they will leave for Russia in the spring of 2006.

They are both experienced in doing children's ministry and are hoping to see the work of the Center grow while they are there.

Liza is originally from Petrozavodsk and Eric grew up in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. They met doing inner-city children's ministry in Minneapolis, while Liza was attending a local Bible school and Eric was at St. Olaf College. They were married in 2003.

"But how are men to call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'how beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!'" Romans 10:16