Once main targets for persecution by the atheist Soviet regime, Baptist churches in the Omsk region of Russia are now seeing the Kingdom of God invade their communities through their cooperation in Operation Andrew projects — and you can be a part of it!

The city and region of Omsk is one of the most famous and economically-developed areas in the Russian Federation. Founded by the Kazakhs Army in 1716 as the main fortress in West Siberia, Omsk city played an important role in expanding Russian territories into the east. This region is also known as a main location of early 20th Century spiritual revival in Russia. In 1906, eleven years before the Russian Revolution, Omsk city welcomed the first Baptist Congress of Siberia, paving the way for evangelical church planting all throughout Siberia. During the Soviet Era when the

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DON’T MISS #GivingTuesday

There’s Black Friday and Cyber Monday...and then there’s #GivingTuesday, an international day of giving! After Thanksgiving, lock arms with us to give the hope of Christ to the lost around the globe. Help us raise $7,777 on November 28th by sharing our social media posts and telling the world why you support International Commission. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to learn more about what exciting things we’re cooking up for this year and to join in on the fun!

Onward in Omsk

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Communist government tried to abolish religion in the USSR, the majority of active church leaders in Omsk were arrested. The landmark First Baptist Church building in the city was confiscated and later returned twice by the local authorities.

At the beginning of 1990, Omsk had only one Baptist church. Missionaries from western Russia moved in after the fall of the Iron Curtain, and today the city of 1.2 million people has 19 churches, with 56 churches in the surrounding region. There are still very few evangelicals in the area and only 2,600 Baptists in the entire region. The Russian Orthodox Church holds a strong influence there, as well as many cults and para-religious groups. But God is moving.

In April of 2016, International Commission organized a National-to-National outreach project with local Baptist leaders which resulted in 74 decisions for Christ and 2,323 non-believers hearing the gospel! Another project followed this year with similar results. It is remarkable what God accomplished through the association’s own local mission teams of only 15-25 volunteers. These projects serve as examples of what’s possible in Russia and throughout the world when ordinary believers obey the Great Commission.

Don’t miss the opportunity to join them in the harvest! These churches have invited you to come win souls with them in Omsk May 11-24, 2018. The estimated trip cost is $3,390, and applications are due by the end of January — so apply today!

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A church in Trujillo, Venezuela was changed because of their participation in an International Commission project in 2015. Since then, members of Hay Vida en Jesus (There is Life in Jesus) have added new believers to their congregation and learned how to share the gospel with their friends and family.

Member Norvis Luques tells that before that first visit, the church felt like they were wandering in the desert preaching the gospel for ten years without seeing one soul saved.

“My church is full now, thanks to the project we participated in,” says Luques. “Those new believers asked us to share the gospel with their family and friends, and now we have even more new believers.”

That was not the only change; Hay Vida en Jesus has been involved with subsequent projects, including a National-to-National this July in Costa Oriental along with 20 other local churches. The teams shared the Good News with over 2,000 people and rejoiced in seeing over 1,000 decisions for Christ and 500 baptisms in a single week.

“It was indeed a celebration!”

“Even with my country going through hard times, God has blessed us with enough resources to stay safe and keep doing the work He has for us to do,” Luques says. “I would like to encourage others and invite others to experience a project.”

It Was Indeed a Celebration

Thanks to all who joined us for a Celebration Dinner this season! We loved spending time with all 407 of you to share a fine meal, great music, inspiring testimonies, and a wonderful time of response! Gifts and commitments from our events in Norman, Tyler, Dallas, Fort Worth, Lubbock, and Amarillo totalled $149,361. Including the generous challenge gifts, you invested $298,762 to further Great Commission work!
Thanksgiving is a time in the US when families gather to celebrate the many ways that God has blessed, cared, and provided for them. As a ministry, Thanksgiving is an opportunity to say THANK YOU to the Father for His continued grace and favor.

This Thanksgiving presents a special challenge for one faith community. Embracing a deep, “only through the Spirit”-kind of understanding of the truth of 1 Thessalonians 5:18 is our prayer for all those recently impacted by the tragic events at First Baptist Church, Sutherland Springs, TX. The leadership of IC invites you to join us in a regular routine of prayer for those victims, their families, and others in the community as they are comforted by the Spirit and live out their obvious faith in the days and weeks ahead.

Project Statistics 2017 (TO DATE)

- 600,944 decisions recorded
- 2,642 receiving churches
- 10,331 participants mobilized
- 145 n2n projects
- 27 international projects

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

- COSTA RICA: Feb. 3-11
- NEPAL: Feb. 14-25
- KENYA: Feb. 21-Mar. 5
- CUBA: Feb 23-Mar. 4
- ASIA: Mar. 7-19
- HONDURAS: Mar. 10-19
- UGANDA: Mar. 14-26
- KOSOVO: Apr. 19-30