

WHILE OUT SHOPPING, THE PEOPLE CAN BE DOWNRIGHT MEAN & are generally rude to you. We found a solution to this & to the queues--to take our 11-month-old baby along. Her name is Vera which means Faith in Russian, & people would often let us to the front of the line & start smiling & be nice. Just a little thing like shopping with the children could turn into an event where many people saw a bit of love. Apart from shopping & the rat race, we found many people very warm & hospitable, sincere & open.

RUSSIANS ARE REAL PEOPLE, good at heart, sincere & much less superficial, much deeper than most Americans, whom they consider to be flippant, somewhat uncultured & ignorant of politics. People generally would like to go to America or the West, perhaps not so much for so-called freedom, but more for what they think is a material abundance there of all the necessities of life.

WE WATCHED TV AT TWO DIFFERENT TIMES, the first in Kiev where when we went to swim at the Dnepr River we



A bread wagon in a village along the way to Kiev.

met a couple near us on the sand who had a baby Vera's age, & we got to talking & they invited us to their house where we saw some TV.

HE HAD A LARGE COLOR TV & very nicely furnished apartment. On TV were 2 different football games, as Russians are very much into sports, & on the 3rd channel they had a ballet contest. Ballet is very much used, along with song, to bring to the masses entertainment & message.

THIS MAN WAS THE TUBA PLAYER FOR AN ORCHESTRA &

had travelled outside Russia to a few countries such as Italy giving concerts. He spoke no English, but his wife, who studied at the university, did. They were very nice to us & invited us for a very good meaty dinner, improvising on the common things available at the moment such as cucumbers, which were the only vegetable we saw for our 17 days in Russia except for some occasional & expensive tomatoes.

WE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO FRESH FRUIT or even saw any the whole time there, except that in one store we found some delicious grape juice, & in another city we found some apple juice which was more like apple sauce. In almost all cases, store-bought food is packaged very poorly with its contents simply stated rather dully with little design or artwork, as there is only type & no competition, only one company--that of the State. This is what is so different at first from the West, as there is no publicity, not all these neon signs, not much color, no fancy stores generally, but just what is necessary to serve its purpose. There is no pornography at all either or pictures of women being used to portray something. Women have equal rights & often responsibilities.

WELL, NOW THAT I'VE TALKED SO MUCH ABOUT THE COUNTRY, let me tell you about some of our exciting experiences. We were really thankful that we had come with a car, as we were able to move around much more freely & were completely able to decide what we wanted to do once we were in the city of our itinerary. Plus it proved to be much cheaper. Our entire expense for 17 days was

only \$400, so it can be very cheap.

IN KIEV WE WENT TO A BALLET WHICH WAS SUGGESTED TO US BY OUR INTOURIST GUIDE at the campgrounds. We sat right up in front & saw one of the most fantastic shows that we had ever seen & were both just breathless. They started singing & then dancing & had such variety & humour that we were taken away & both kids were just silent, watching during the whole two hours.

AFTERWARDS, AS WE WERE WALKING TOWARDS THE METRO, we casually started to talk to these two simple girls who were taking an interest in Vera who was smiling at them. It turned out that they were taking the Metro also & were 2 of the singers in the ensemble. After a little more talk & making friends, one of them invited us to their house. So we took another bus & got to their apartment.

WE HAD A GOOD SNACK IMPROVISED FROM THE FOOD AVAILABLE--cucumbers of course, but with hard boiled eggs & cheese which was all very good & satisfying. I spent a lot of time talking to the husband who played a treasured tape of Boney M in the background which his father had gotten him one time when he went to the West for work. Their house had almost no furniture at all except their bedroom & a fantastic piano. He opened up 2 bottles of champagne which we all finished off, & so we stayed up till real late talking.

MARIA WENT IN THEIR BEDROOM WHERE WE PUT OUR KIDS DOWN TO SLEEP, & she saw a cross on the wall & used that as a spark to talk a little about God & their beliefs. She took the cross off the wall & smiled & then put it back on, & Maria said she was really smiling



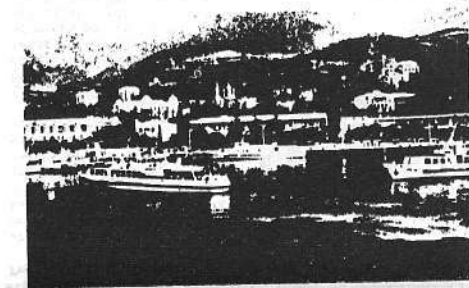
Many are the Russian sheep of David.

& full of love. She was definitely a child of light & said that many of the others in the ballet also believe in God. We didn't talk a whole lot more about that afterward or anything, but having simply made that contact really led to a deep friendship!

DURING THE 17 DAYS OF OUR TRIP, we got 15 addresses--12 from Russians & 3 from other foreigners. In Odessa, about the first day there we met a Russian student who told us many interesting things about the interior of Russia, how there are endless forests & lakes & it takes 8 full days to cross Russia. He spoke a very intellectual English which he had learned himself from books & listening to the radio.

WE HAD SEVERAL DAYS OF TALKING TO HIM, & though he professed not to believe in God, he certainly was very receptive to our love & our talking about the spiritual. He told us that he liked to go to the occasional old Orthodox churches & light a candle & put it there to burn, that it was something exotic for him to do, as he didn't see too many churches. He said that he knew many young people who did similar things, as perhaps they would come from one of the new cities which had been built in only the last 20 or 30 years where there was no church & perhaps they had never seen one.

WE SAW SEVERAL CHURCHES IN THE CITIES WHICH HAD BEEN MADE INTO MUSEUMS & even dedicated to atheism. Before



Beautiful Yalta where we arrived by ship from Odessa. Here thousands of tourists worldwide arrived to enjoy the clear blue waters of this Russian Riviera.

leaving this boy, we gave him our last "Love is Forever" tape which we believe will even get him saved. He was very thankful & had a cassette player--not everyone has them like in the West, but they mostly have record players. He was very sweet & also promised to write, as he said he also loved Italian music. He said he really hoped that he would receive our mail, as he said sometimes it gets lost.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH RUSSIA'S PLAN FOR AFRICA, they have agreements with dozens of African countries, & they split the cost of scholarships for 10s of 1000s of African students studying in Russia who are the best students or the cream of the crop from their countries. These

students go for either 5, 7 or 9 years according to what degree they want to attain. The first year is devoted entirely to learning Russian, & the next 4, 6 or 8 years toward their degree.

WE HAD A CHANCE TO MEET & TALK DEEPLY WITH MANY OF THESE AFRICAN STUDENTS, many of whom are brought up Christians in Africa & several of whom had Bibles in their rooms & even met together at times to pray & read the Bible. Many of these students we have already been reaching in Europe, giving them thousands of pieces of lit, "Thoughts from Ho" books & even entire Mo Books.

ONE NIGERIAN STUDENT WHO HAD BEEN LIVING IN RUSSIA FOR 8 YEARS & was married to a Russian girl confessed

that they had to play along quite a bit, as they all knew that Russia was interested in getting them on the line & believing communism, but that they in their hearts knew what they believed & worshipped God & were interested in returning to their countries.

THERE ARE MANY RUSSIAN GIRLS WHO MARRY AFRICANS, & several of the young men said that it was very easy to get girls in Russia, that there was no prostitution but that the girls loved to love free & liked foreigners.

WE DID HAVE A FEW OTHER HEAVY EXPERIENCES but it is probably better not to publish them. Next we'll send in about Romania where we got 4 souls & 4 potential disciples in only 10 days! (PTL! GBKAYIYABI!)

decided to move into a bungalow. PGL! The next day we started to meet some heavy people, because now we were able to live a little more comfortably so could get more time to pray & read the Bible & aim at getting out to town to meet Russians since we couldn't meet them at the campsites.

OUR FIRST CATCH WAS A GOOD ONE, a sweet dear lady in her 60s, a person who works with the cream of the crop of the Soviet Union, educating them in a certain field. (Names & details left out for security!) She just fell in love with our children, & we got to have good heart-to-heart contact with her, & she wants to meet us again when we return there. What a miracle!

WE HAD FELT THAT IF GOD WANTED SOMETHING DONE ON THIS TRIP, He would have to lead us to influential people who could give us ability to work more freely under their wings of protection.

THE NEXT DAY WE MET A HIGH OFFICER IN THE U.S. SECURITY FORCES, who knows both Gromyko & all the other top Soviet officials, but even though he was born Russian, he's now living in the States & might not be useful in our work in the USSR. But we'll keep up our contact with him thru the mail, as we also had a good hearty contact with both him & his wife.

AT THIS TIME OUR FELLOW MISSIONARY FAMILY HAD TO REMAIN IN MOSCOW because of an appendix operation on their eldest boy, while we continued on down south. The boy is now okay, & they returned to Scandinavia after 10 days in Moscow & a week in Leningrad.

IT GOT TO BE VERY SERIOUS FOR AWHILE, & the little boy could have died because we thought it was only a

stomach illness at first. But after we prayed for him asking the Lord to heal him directly or show us if we could do something, I read in a baby book about appendicitis. So thank the Lord that He answered our prayer & showed us what it was; otherwise the dear little boy surely would have gone on to be with the Lord.

THIS WAS A VERY SOBERING LESSON FOR US ALL, & when we had desperate prayer on the way to the hospital we got the verses, James 4: 13-14. This confirmed how close it was to death, but we claimed the Lord's mercy, because we knew that we were in God's will. Praise God for His mercy!

SINCE WE HAD THE WHOLE TRIP ALL BOOKED IN ADVANCE, they had to change plans & we continued on our already planned route, but now with more respect for the morrow & thankfulness for each mile that we were able to drive without accidents.

WE HAVE NEVER SEEN NOR EXPERIENCED THE SIGHT OF SO MANY ACCIDENTS IN OUR LIVES! Every day that we had to drive we constantly claimed the verse Ps. 91:7, "A thousand shall fall at thy side & ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee." The bad roads, poorly cared-for cars, hot weather & maybe even alcohol were the reasons for some of the accidents. But it was also mainly the outright crazy & lack-of-love careless driving that caused most of these accidents. We drove over 6,000 km. without it coming nigh unto us, thanks to the Lord!

AFTER 8 DAYS WE CAME TO THE BLACK SEA, which is the Riviera of the Soviet Union. Here we got to spend 10 days together with a family, & we became close friends with them & have an invitation to meet them again. They have the status of diplomats

in the socialist countries & are working on a fairly high level, a good contact to follow up.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, we met one of the most popular & famous men in the culture & entertainment field in the USSR, an "oldie goldie". He is about 50 years old, & wherever I have shown his personal card that he gave me, people say that he is one of the most famous persons within his field or profession. We are personally invited by him to come & have the seats of honour in Moscow. Hallelujah!

SO FAR, NONE OF THE CONTACTS HAVE LED TO ANYTHING MORE DEFINITE, & we have to go back to Moscow if we are to see what these open doors may lead to. We feel that the first trip would be incomplete without a follow-up trip. It is in the hands of the Lord whether or not we are to return. We want to & our burden is to go back there for at least 14 days to a month.

IN CLOSING, WE'D LIKE TO SAY THAT THESE WERE JUST A FEW OF THE PEOPLE THAT WE MET ON OUR TRIP, just a few of all God's little miracles that kept us going, just a tiny bit of everything that happened.

AT PRESENT WE ARE TRAVELING AROUND WITH A 2-HOUR SLIDE SHOW consisting of over 200 pictures with sounds that we recorded while taking the pictures in Russia. We're showing this to local congregations, friends & to everybody who is interested, collecting funds & addresses for our next trip. Hallelujah!

(PGL! GBY! Please put it on Video for all the family to see! Amen!) --a Family, let's help 'em go back to Russia, amen! Send your gifts thru WS marked inside "For Russia" & which team you want to help--& you Russia pioneers give us more info about travel & costs--for others to go! GBKAYI!)

Meeting Upper Class Russians!

FRUITFUL TRIP TO RUSSIA INSPIRES COUPLE TO PLAN FOLLOW-UP VISIT!

From D. & S.; Europe:
GBY! WE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE SOVIET UNION, & we were somewhat puzzled over the deep friendship we found there & were wondering how we could express this very thing to you. And boom! There it was, "The Russian Faith Test"!

It blew our minds that this mag came the very same day that we returned from Russia. We also found out that we started our trip to Russia the very same day as Dad had the dream, "The Russian Peace Dream", one year earlier, July 14, & our stay there was exactly 40 days! PTL!

ONE MUST SAY THAT THE TRIP WASN'T A VERY PLEASANT excursion judging from the viewpoint of food for our family, accommodations, decent roads to travel on etc. Even the people could be so cold & hard at times that you almost felt confused by this contradiction

of what you thought them to be.

BUT THEN WE SUDDENLY WOULD MEET SOMEONE WHO WOULD OPEN UP EVERYTHING he had inside & show you love & warmth & share all with you. It was incredible! We found a good proverb in the Seven Star Diary for this situation that we were in: "They are bad explorers who when all they can see is sea, think there is no land." Many times in Russia it was just like sea--huge masses of people, but then every once in awhile we found someone who stood out from the crowd.

COMING IN THRU CUSTOMS, THEY SEARCHED ALL CARS VERY THOROUGHLY, making sure that you didn't bring in anything illegal. It was no problem to bring our personal Bibles with us, as the officers looked at them & had no objections. And on the subject of religion, there are still

a few open churches with people attending services, & there are many people who openly claim to be Christians. We don't know much about the underground church & it is illegal to have any contact with them as they are illegal.

HOWEVER, A DIRECTOR OF A TOURISM INSTITUTION INVITED SOME TOURISTS THAT WE MET to visit his local church, & he spoke openly about being a Christian, to our surprise.

THE FIRST 14 DAYS WE SPENT IN Leningrad & MOSCOW. The campsites were guarded, & only for tourists, so we had to get out of them to meet any Russians. This was not easy, as we came to the Soviet Union with the thought that we could just make contact with the Russian people by sitting & playing songs etc.

WELL, THRU A STORM NEARLY BLOWING DOWN OUR TENT, & then very hot weather, we