

**Russia 2018 Ministry Trip**  
(Pastor Mark Wheeler; revised 8/4/17)

***INVITATION***

John & Naomi Musgrave have invited me to return in April 2018 to teach another 3-day course for pastors and leaders in Tsibanobalka and Elista. The pastors & leaders in both cities asked me to teach on the book of Revelation.

***THE NEED***

The critical need of the church in Russia is for well-trained pastors and leaders. John & Naomi Musgrave, missionaries sent out and supported by Crossroads Bible Church in Bellevue, WA, focus on that purpose. The Musgraves lead a ministry called Mentoring Matters where they are investing in several Russian pastors.

As part of the Musgrave's ministry, I went to Russia once a year to teach a series of 3-day, intensive Bible classes:

- 2011 – Leadership principles of Joshua (book of Joshua)
- 2012 – the life of David (1 & 2 Samuel)
- 2014 – the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, & Joseph – Genesis 12-50)
- 2015 – the life of Moses (Exodus – Deuteronomy)
- 2016 – the book of Romans (chapters 1-8)
- 2017 – the book of Romans (chapters 9-16)

Carol joined me in 2011 and 2014 and served behind the scenes.

Due to the size of the facility, the initial classes were limited to men. In 2015, 2016, and 2017 the classes were open to men and women.

The first three years (2011-2014), the classes were only offered in Tsibanobalka (near Anapa on the northern end of the Black Sea). The bulk of the students traveled twelve hours by car from Elista in the region of Kalmykia (in the steppes region of the Caucasus Mountains near the Caspian Sea).

The past three years (2015-2017) we extended the trip by one week in order to offer the course in two locations, Tsibanobalka and Elista. This allowed us to train twice as many people on the same trip. The plan is to do the same in 2018.

By returning to the same place over and over, I have been able to build on previous relationships and invest even deeper in the same pastors and leaders—Vanya, Kolya, Sasha, Sandzhik, Mergen, Slava, and many others. This practice follows the model of the apostle Paul (Acts 14:21-22).

**WHEN**

The *tentative* dates are April 8-22, 2017.

April	8-9	Sunday – Monday	Travel	Fly from Boston to Amsterdam (overnight)
	10	Tuesday	Travel	Fly from Amsterdam to Moscow
	11	Wednesday	Travel	Fly from Moscow to Anapa Shop & prepare for class
	12-14	Thursday – Saturday	Teach	Teach class in Tsibanobalka
	15	Sunday	Worship	Attend church in Anapa
			Travel	Drive from Tsibanobalka to Krasnodar
	16	Monday	Travel	Drive from Krasnodar to Elista
	17-19	Tuesday – Thursday	Teach	Teach class in Elista
	20	Friday	Travel	Drive Elista to Krasnodar
	21	Saturday	Travel	Drive Krasnodar to Anapa
			Travel	Fly from Anapa to Moscow
	22	Sunday	Travel	Fly from Moscow to Amsterdam to Boston

**VISAS**

I will be applying for a Humanitarian Visa which covers Religious Work. This requires a Letter of Invitation (LOI), and the Visa.

Visas can be applied for 90 days prior to the trip.

**BUDGET**

<b>Travel Expenses</b> <i>(estimate – cost of airfare could increase)</i>	
Visas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 month Letter of Invitation (LOI) - \$67</li> <li>• DHL service to deliver LOI from Moscow - \$100</li> <li>• Registration in Moscow - \$25</li> <li>• Visa from Russian Consulate in NYC - \$230</li> <li>• Travel to/from NYC - \$100</li> </ul>	\$522
Airfare – International flights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boston to Amsterdam to Moscow (Roundtrip on Delta/KLM)</li> </ul>	\$1800
Airfare – Domestic flights (Aeroflot) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moscow to Anapa (roundtrip)</li> </ul>	\$300
Hotels in Amsterdam, Moscow, & Krasnodar (5 nights)	\$400
Misc	\$130
Meals – while traveling	\$70
<b>Total Travel Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,222</b>
<b>Class Expenses</b>	
Help underwrite costs for pastors/leaders to attend (Registration, lodging and meals, translation, printing, travel reimbursements)	
Class in Elista	\$1,500
Class in Tsibanobalka	\$1,500
<b>Total Cost (estimated)</b>	<b>\$6,222</b>

NOTE: The proposed budget is \$1,000 more than the 2017 trip. This is due to the cost of airfare being higher, and increasing the class expenses.

**FUNDING**

- Fundraising would begin in mid-September and end by December.
- Letters would be sent to people both inside and outside First Central Bible Church asking for financial and prayer support. The goal would be to raise as much as possible.
- In the event of a shortfall, the missions' budget line item for short-term ministry trips would be used to supplement the fundraising efforts.
- ***All funds received will be used for trip expenses and will not be refundable unless the entire trip is cancelled.*** Unused funds will be used at the discretion of the Missions Committee for future short-term ministry trips.
- The Visa application process would begin in early January.
- Tickets would be purchased as early as possible to avoid rising costs.
- There is \$298 left over from the 2017 trip.



Elista

Kalmykia

Tsibanobalka