

Russian friends in the Lord are reunited at the conference in Moscow.



Abby Mattox tries to give Caleb Hess a welcome kiss at the conference. Both are children of missionary pastors.



# Meet Me in Moscow

Russians meet in the capital city for the **6th** annual Pastor and Leadership conference. *Story by Esther DeWitt. Photography by Tom Price.*

Starting each new year out with a time of renewed vision and focus on the ministry, the annual Pastor and Leadership conference in Moscow, Russia brings together missionaries and Christian leaders from throughout the former Soviet Union. It is an exciting time for people from many churches to gather, fellowship, and receive inspired teaching. Calvary

Chapel Church Planting Mission, which sponsors the conference, works throughout the year to plan, prepare, and raise support for the conference.

Pastors from the United States and Europe come to teach and encourage those who have dedicated their lives to ministry in Russia and the surrounding countries. Missionaries who have served for many years in the field also participate in the teachings. Special worship is led by the worship teams from several of the fellowships in Russia.



Some of the 450 conference attendees pose for a photograph in the lobby of the hotel.

Ildar Karamov, pastor of CC North St. Petersburg and Ilya Gromov, Moscow CC Bible College director.



Ira Bazaluk (right), working with CCCPM, greets friends at the conference.



George and Debbi Bryson



This year's theme is 'Russia within our Reach.' As the sixth annual conference, it is looked forward to with enthusiasm and attendance is expected to top five hundred. The conference is held January 31<sup>st</sup> to February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Several teams from churches in the U.S. are traveling to the conference to serve and minister. These support teams arrive early, allowing the staff of CCCPM to

attend the conference free from concern about the details involved in regard to the conference.

Brian Brodersen, pastor of Calvary Chapel London, England, who taught at the first conference, will be returning to teach this year. Pastor Ken Ortize, from Spokane, Washington; Rod Thompson, who ministers in Millstat, Austria; and Danny Hodges from St. Petersburg, Florida will be teaching as well. Calvary Chapel Church Planting Mission director, George Bryson, will serve both as MC and as a teacher. George's wife Debbi will head up the women's teachings.

## ***new Russian Bible college***

Throughout the world September signals the start of the semester for college students. This September saw the start not only of the semester, but of a new college in Moscow, Russia.

Calvary Chapel Bible College of Moscow is currently located in the dorm that houses Calvary Chapel students. It is part of the ministry of Calvary Chapel Church Planting Mission, that reaches throughout the former Soviet Union. It is a two-year program, teaching through the Word of God, and is an extension of the Calvary Chapel Bible College in Murrieta, California.

***"I want to thank them for their prayers. I can really feel them in my life here."***

Russian students attend the Bible College with full scholarships. The scholarship covers tuition, lodging, meals, basic needs, and transportation. This enables them to focus on their classes, while preparing for future ministries.

As a CCCPM ministry, the Bible College in Moscow is under the leadership of Director George Bryson. Ilya Gromov is the on-campus director of the Bible College. He has been a Christian for over six years and was most recently on staff at Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg, Russia. Ilya lives in the dorm alongside the students and shares in their enthusiasm.

"I'm really hoping that the Lord would touch their hearts through the Word of God. I'm excited to see how it is going to affect their lives," he said.

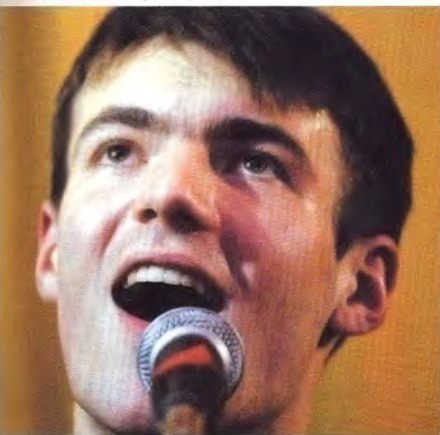
Alex Orelchikov, a pastor in Moscow and a teacher at the Bible College, explains the need for the Bible College, as well as the excitement over it.

"I know of a lot of Russian churches that need people, workers, laborers. They need someone who will be prepared, that will already have a sound Biblical foundation, and be willing just to serve. That's what we need. I believe that this great crowd of students will be a great help in the future for all of those pastors and those churches."

Calvary Chapel Church Planting Mission continues to raise support to fund the Bible College in Moscow. There are more students who would like to attend in the coming semester, and as scholarships are raised, more students will be able to attend. The staff of CCCPM, the Calvary Chapel Bible College of Moscow, and the students would like to thank all of those who have supported the college both financially and through prayer.

Bible student Uliana from St. Petersburg sums it up when she says, "I want to thank them for their prayers. I can really feel them in my life here."

Member of CC Kiev praise team.



Ken Ortize (right) keeps the other pastors laughing.  
w/ George Bryson, Danny Hodges, Alex Orechikov, Jeff Fadness.



Singing praises unto the Lord.



For most Russian Christian leaders, finances are very tight. The economic crisis in Russia has effected nearly everyone. Financial support is raised to cover train and bus tickets to Moscow, as well as hotel costs and meals. This enables those who feel led to come with the ability to do so. All who attend are very grateful and many mark the conference as a life-changing event.

The 1999 conference, themed "Calvary Distinctives," brought fresh vision and focus to the ministry in Russia at a time when many were discouraged. It was a great way to start off the year, which proved to be very fruitful throughout the country. With new churches planted, a Calvary Chapel Bible College founded in Moscow, and many other effective outreaches around the country, 1999 was an exciting year of ministry. Many cite the conference as a point of encouragement and commitment to continue on in service to the Lord, and in support of one another.

Calvary Chapel Church Planting Mission asks for continued prayer for the year 2000 Pastor and Leadership conference.

**>>TO REACH/SUPPORT THIS MISSION**

CC Church Planting Missions  
(760)639-4433  
800-33CCCPM (800-332-2276)  
email: chriswheatley@cccpm.com  
www.calvarychapel.org/cccpm/index.htm

Anyone interested in attending the conference as a part of the support team, or sponsoring a Russian or missionary to attend the conference is encouraged to call (800) 33CCCPM.

The conference participants pray before receiving communion.



Tim Mattox, pastor of CC South Moscow, hugs a brother in Christ as the conference draws to a close.

