



Meet Dmitry Zborsky

By Sally Hinzie, Virtual Strategy Coordinator

Dmitry is a church planter in Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia. Let me tell you his story.

Dmitry was saved at 21 in a halfway house for drug addicts. (He is now 29 – married with a child.) This halfway house was operated by a church in Siberia whose pastor had a vision for a church in every city in Russia with a population of 500,000 or more. This pastor has a unique church planting strategy. He trains church planting teams and then sends them to the city on a one way railroad ticket.

Dmitry said when his team (of 10) got off the train they only had one decision to make – do we turn left or do we turn right? They chose to turn right. Five members of the team got jobs to support the other 5 starting halfway houses. They now have 3 halfway houses/social centers in the area around Nizhniy Novgorod. His church is currently running 100 (less than a year old) and over ½ of the congregation are parents of kids who are getting off drugs in the halfway houses.

The folks staying at the halfway house must work and must pay to stay there. That makes the halfway houses self supporting. They can be crowded. One of the team members has a labor pool and they can work for him if they wish.

As Dmitry disciples these new believers, he tells them they have 2 choices – become entrepreneurs or missionaries (who will go on the next team to the next city with a 1 way railroad ticket.) Many need to be entrepreneurs because they have served prison terms.

At one of the houses in a village on the outskirts of the city, they worship outdoors. Dmitry said, "We wanted to buy a tent, but it was too expensive, so we had to be creative."

For more information about missions in Russia, contact Sally Hinzie at 713.957.2000 or at sallyhinzie@ubahouston.org

