



MOVING THROUGH THE CITY

Moving about St. Petersburg is a very new experience for us. Like most Americans we've traveled about our hometown by car. But, here the most popular mode of transport is the Metro.

The St. Petersburg Metro is the city's main form of public transport. Built during the 1950s the subway system serves 2 million people a day.

The system is one of the deepest in the world because of local geology. One station being 334 feet below ground. Because of the depth the Metro has one of the longest escalator systems in the world.

The Metro besides being functional is also an artistic wonder. With stations having themes and art included in their construction. You can follow us at our social media pages.

www.facebook.com/LawsonstoRussia

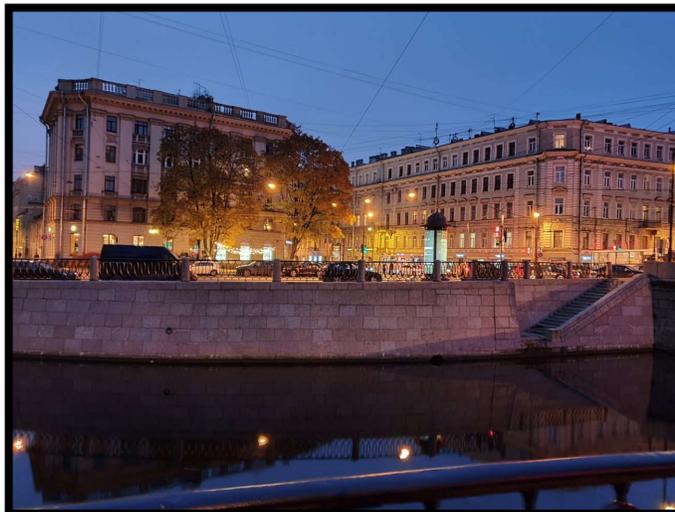
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Life, Honey, and New Beginnings



Left: The neighborhood near our home in St. Petersburg, Russia. Bottom left: The street leading toward our home.



our 20 plus pieces of luggage and backpacks to where we were staying.

Since that first night it has been a whirlwind of finding our way around the city, getting kids registered for school, connecting with the theological institute, starting Russian language courses, finding a permanent place to live, and furnishing our new home.

“Life is not meant for honey,” was a phrase I heard when we first arrived in Saint Petersburg. And, after being here and establishing our lives in a new place I'm beginning to understand a bit more on how this Russian proverb applies to life.

We arrived on a cold, rainy night and were quickly reminded that we weren't in Florida anymore. Thankfully though that was the biggest trial we had to face our first night in Saint Petersburg, because the rest of the Russia team members were at the airport to help us move

As we went about our efforts to establish ourselves in a new city that proverb about life and honey kept coming to mind. Saint Petersburg is a large city and like any large city anywhere in the world it has its good and bad. Our temporary home was near a monastery called Alexander Nevsky with a cemetery where many notable Russians from history are buried like the author Dostoevsky and the composer Tchaikovsky. Wherever we go it's like walking through Russian history.

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Restored window from St. Anne's Lutheran Church, St. Petersburg, Russia

PLEASE PRAY:

- *For the newly elected Bishop, Rev. Ivan Laptev, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia that he may be strengthened to fulfil his new role to lead the ELCIR to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their neighbors.*
- *That the seminarians at the Theological Institute in Koltushi be encouraged and preserved as they continue their studies to serve our Lord and Savior.*

GIVE THANKS:

- *That we have been able to establish ourselves in St. Petersburg and now have a place to call home.*
- *For being able to serve our God's call for us in Russia*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *The opportunity we all have each day to serve our Lord.*

New Beginnings



Left: Our apartment block.

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And where you look it's an architectural marvel from the moldings on buildings to the ironwork on gates. But there has been a tragic side also, such as when we came upon a homeless man's death outside the Metro station we use. When you see events like this it's that reminder of why it's so important to share the Gospel message of Jesus wherever and with whomever because we never know how much time there is to hear.

On a personal level I broke a tooth that had to be repaired. Imagine having to find a dentist who spoke English, especially when we still have trouble at the supermarket knowing exactly

what we're buying as we work out reading the language. Thankfully though, I was able to find a dentist. After getting my tooth repaired that same day my cell phone was stolen while riding the bus home. Life was not meant for honey.

Finding a place to live was our most pressing concern but through a realtor we now live on the second floor of a three-story apartment building. It's located in a courtyard on an island on the western edge of Saint Petersburg. Still in the city. We now have a permanent place to call home.

Without you we would not have gotten this far in our Lord's calling to serve. And I thank all of you for your help and support.

Lamentations 3:22-23

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.*



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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Make checks payable to Mission Central or The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Jerrald Lawson/Russia."

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