

A Bold Vision: Swamp Boats in Russia

This is extreme missions. Assemblies of God missionaries in Russia are coming alongside the national church to execute a bold vision: proclaiming the Good News in every city, town, village and people group in the country within seven years.

Russia has 129,000 population points spread across 11 time zones. Our vision is to share the Word of God in each of them, no matter where they are, no matter how hard they are to reach. To accomplish this task, we plan to build 15 mobile ministry teams of 25 people. Team members will definitely have to count the cost before signing up. Yet despite the one-year commitment required of each member, three teams have already formed.

Each team will daily move from one town to the next. The sheer numbers demand it. We estimate that every team should be able to visit 25 population centers within a week, totaling 375 stops among all 15 teams. This equals 1,625 per month or 19,500 over the course of one year. By the end of the seventh year, all of Russia will have heard the Good News.

We will work to plant new churches and train pastors and missionaries throughout Russia as God provides the direction and the resources. Our focus will be the hidden people groups that inhabit the frozen wastelands of Russia; the forgotten people who travel the streets of our cities; and the people groups that have been resistant in the past.

Until now, we have gone only to the easy places, those towns and villages accessible by road. We must go to the places where there are no roads. Most of the isolated groups can be reached by helicopters and swamp boats in the warmer months and heavy-duty all-terrain vehicles in winter. We have one swamp boat and a few used vans to transport our three active teams, but because of the hazards of traveling in temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees below zero, we will need at least two vehicles per team.

Cutting the Frontier in Russia will require a great investment of time and resources, but it will yield a return beyond measure.

Rick Lang
Area Director, Russia

