

From Russia, With Love

God fulfills life-long dream

It was while in college in the '70s that Daryl Gunnarson first felt a strong desire to live and work in Russia. He applied for jobs behind the iron curtain after he left college. Nothing opened up, so he went to work for Proctor & Gamble in Cincinnati, Ohio, and told P&G that he was interested in working in Russia.

Daryl got married and started having children. And every year he went to the international job section at P&G and told them his desire to live and work in Russia.

Fourteen years pass. Then one day he got a call from HR. "Still want to work in Russia?" Daryl moved to Russia in 1995 with his wife and kids, ages 5,7, and 9.



Daryl with translator



Russian students in Speaking the Truth in Love

After settling in at his job for P&G in Russia, Daryl said, "Okay God, what do you want to do now?" Daryl felt like the Lord told him to "Feed my sheep," which he understood to mean *he* was to train pastors and leaders. The Soviet Union had collapsed and churches were growing all over Russia. These churches were hungry for training. .

In 1996, just a year after arriving in Russia, Daryl and his wife planned a pastor's conference. All eight pastors they invited came, plus about 70 others. Daryl and his wife paid for everything out of their own pockets.

Daryl and his family returned to the US in 1998. Before they left, his Russia pastor friends asked if he was going to continue the conference. Daryl said yes. Every year since Daryl and his wife had put on the pastor's conference. But now they don't go alone. They take a whole team with them. They expanded and now have a

business conference and are working with Russian counterparts to staff and run a drug rehab center.

Divine Appointments at an EMI LIFE Seminar

The church Daryl attended encouraged its elders to attend Equipping Ministries International seminars. Daryl went to one and ended up taking almost all of EMI's courses. Daryl felt strongly that the EMI training model would work well in Russia and thought that this training would be great for pastors/leaders.

It was while Daryl was attending an EMI seminar that he met a businessman in his small group who asked Daryl, "What do you need right now?" Daryl told the man they didn't have enough money to put on the conference that year, that they were \$4,000 short. The man wrote him a check for the whole amount.

While at that same EMI Seminar, Daryl met Steve and Svetlana Parish, a pastoral couple from Tennessee. Svetlana had taken EMI courses in Moscow. When she moved to the States with her new husband, she was overjoyed to learn Cincinnati and EMI Seminars were a driving distance away. Without knowing any of Daryl's background, they told him they believed God wanted them to work in Russia, in the same region where Daryl had lived and worked. And as only God knew, in the same region where Daryl had lived and worked.

Daryl worked with another couple-- Sacha and Natacha -both Russians who have started translating EMI materials into Russian. They finished Listening for Heaven's Sake and Speaking the Truth in Love in 2006. Daryl says he is very excited about having all of the EMI materials translated into Russian.



Steve and Svetlana Parish