

# BEING HOME

June 2019

## Home Дом

In English, when we use the word “home” we mean more than the building where we sleep at night. It’s more than just a house or a shelter, it’s a feeling of belonging. This is a concept that I’ve been challenged with since I moved overseas. When you accept the call to be a missionary and move to a new country for an extended period of time, you’re faced with the question, “Where is my home now?”

Over the past few weeks, I’ve been on *home service*, the time back in the United States when missionaries reconnect with supporters and churches. It’s a chance to update everyone on the work happening abroad and ask for continued prayers and support. Most missionaries also use home service to spend time with family and friends, people who are so dear to us but whom we rarely get to see.

But *home service* is a bit of a misnomer. Home for me, at least, that place where my

things are, where I spend most of my time and where my routines are in place, is more and more in St. Petersburg. That’s a reality that every missionary faces, when memories are made in a new place, and friends and church families grow in a different country and through a different language.

So, I find myself constantly in between two “homes.” Each country has something that the other does not. But really, this is the situation for all of us as Christians, regardless of where our calling takes us. Our real home isn’t in any country on this earth. Jesus, our Savior, is preparing an eternal place for each one of us, one that will completely encompass that feeling of *home*. Everything will be as it should be—that’s a joyful reality each of us has to look forward to. That’s also what motivates us to share God’s love and tell others the wonderful message of salvation!

## Prayer Requests

“If we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just to  
forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from  
all unrighteousness.”  
I John 1:9 (ESV)

- For children’s camps in Russia—that the volunteers would prepare well and have inspiration and patience, and that the children would come, ready and eager to hear God’s Word
- For English Bible Camps in Poland—that all travels would go smoothly and that God’s Word and love would be shared through his servants
- For safe travels back to St. Petersburg, Russia



Beautiful artwork on the wall of the International Center of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. I visited the staff for a missionary reconnect this May.

If you receive this newsletter through the mail, but would prefer the email version, just let me know! Send me an email at [alyssa.anders@lcms.org](mailto:alyssa.anders@lcms.org) and I'll gladly make the change.

## Support

**I'm now online! If you would like to support my work in Russia, visit:**

[www.lcms.org/anders](http://www.lcms.org/anders)

**You can also send your gifts of love to our Friends at:**

MISSION CENTRAL  
40718 Highway E-16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to Mission Central

Write "Russia/Alyssa Anders" on the memo line

## Final Meetings

I have been on the road for seven weeks now. I've lost count of all of the places I've slept or miles I've driven. My time in the States has been packed with meetings, presentations, introductions, family events, get-togethers with friends, hours spent at my computer updating contact sheets, writing thank you notes, trips to the printer, and so on. And on.

As I plan for the remaining days of home service (I'm leaving on the 14th of June), I am reflecting on everything that has happened in the past seven weeks. I am blown away by the amount of love and support and encouragement I have received from all of you. God has blessed each of my visits, and I'm amazed at how he has been with me each step, and each mile, of the way.

## Back in Russia

I have a few days left in the US, not much time to complete my engagements and get my bags packed, but I've already started thinking to what is ahead. Once I get back to Russia, my focus will change from reconnecting with supporters to preparing for summer camps. This year, I have the opportunity to help out with children's camps in Russia again.

There are two camps happening in Koltushi, the village where the seminary is located, in the beginning of July. Aside from being a general volunteer, I'll teach an English breakout session. Last summer I enjoyed getting to know some of the kids and seeing how easily they find ways to communicate through

the language barrier. This year I have an additional year's worth of experience with Russian, so hopefully I can deepen some of those relationships and share God's love and the Good News of Jesus.

Immediately following the children's camps, Sarah and I will be heading to Poland to help with the English Bible camps there. These camps are wonderful opportunities, for so many reasons. The theme for the curriculum this year is "God's Gifts," and I know that God's Word will be preached to the kids, and that is the greatest gift of all. It's also wonderful to see how the body of Christ comes together and makes these camps happen; teams from America come over and join churches in Poland to teach kids from the churches and surrounding communities. Missionaries in the Eurasia region, as well as staff back in St. Louis, also help to coordinate the summer camps.

I'm enjoying my time in the States. I've been able to take part in family events, including Father's Day and Mother's Day celebrations. I've been able to babysit my nieces and nephews, and spend time with friends that I don't get to see often. I treasure these moments, but now I'm looking forward to getting back to Russia, my other home.



My sisters and I!