



United Research World Prayer Focus

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submitted by John MacCallum

During the past decade, the Russian people have chosen to learn about democracy and have begun to grant themselves freedom and accept responsibility for their nation and themselves.

The challenges are monumental: laws to promote ownership and property rights; the right to vote and run for elected office; free enterprise and individual economic opportunity; freedom to worship without restraint; and freedom from military and political oppression, among many others.

But the strengths are also many: an eight-hundred year history and culture rich with courage and stamina; a deep appreciation for art, music, literature and architecture; a will for survival; a special appreciation for children and generations of families; and a thirst for spiritual awareness and experience.



I have learned that Russian people feared Westerners during the Cold War just as we feared them--with fears fueled by prejudice and political misinformation. Now we can put aside those old images and begin to build the bridges of respect and acceptance that will prevent us from ever again being controlled by fear and ignorance.

Crime, poverty, continued excesses of police and political control, health problems, drugs and alcohol, all interfere with the opportunities awaiting the Russian people. We need to direct our prayers toward these problems, and also to give thanks for the emotional strength and character of our Russian friends.