

## Mission Volgograd

# Reaping A Harvest In Volgograd!

Volgograd is one of the ten largest cities in Russia. The City of Volgograd has a population of over 1.5 million people. IRR/TV's outreach to the residents of Volgograd entered its most intensive phase in the beginning of March. "It really is a saturation of the city with the Gospel message using all media simultaneously," says IRR/TV's director Hannu Haukka. "We are using radio, TV, newspapers, billboards, internet, public transport, and in addition all local churches in the area have mobilized to take part in the outreach."

### City Officials

The campaign is unprecedented in Russia and



has produced positive response from city officials. One city administrator said, "We have failed to bring about the spiritual reform in the life of our city. You are doing what we failed to do."

With daily radio and TV programs, billboards, print media, those living in the city cannot miss the message: **Jesus gives you the power to change.** The city officials have particularly marveled at the strong unity amongst the city's non Orthodox churches.

### Billboards

The 20 by 10 foot billboards have attracted a lot of attention. The owner of one advertising company was visibly touched when he first inspected the sample copies of the billboards on the computer screen. He froze and after a moment of silence he turned to us and said, "we have never seen ads like this before around here. You can expect a strong response once these billboards are put up."

Daily TV programs seen by 1.8 million people have been tailor made by the IRR/TV production teams from testimonies of changed lives of people in the Volgograd area. All of the churches have provided material for these programs. "We believe the Lord has blessed us with this unique opportunity to reach all of Volgograd now," says Laura Haukka, responsible for program production.

In addition to the daily programming Volgograd's

regional television station is committed to airing a 60-minute live telecast every Sunday evening during the campaign. Viewers call in and ask questions about the changed lives they see on TV.

One 47 year old man called within 5 minutes into a Saturday evening program and wanted to have prayer and experience the change in his own life. He was fighting an alcohol problem. He was saved that night.

Another viewer, a lady, had suffered from depression for ten years. She called in and told her story and received counseling and a visit from one of the staff counselors. She received Christ and was delivered from her depression.

In another case a young woman came into a church after having seen a **Power to Change** billboard and calling the number on the ad. She committed her life to Christ that evening.

The lines are busy. "Currently we are taking up to seven calls simultaneously. People are making decisions for Christ," said local missions office manager Yuri Ananiev.

### The Tool

Every person who contacts the outreach center receives a tailor-made evangelical book **Experience the Power That Can Change Your Life.** "We are out of books and need to print more immediately," says IRR/TV director Hannu Haukka.

Would you like to help this effective outreach mission with an extra gift this month? Be a part of this great campaign in a concrete way. Please pray for its success.

