



# LIGHT TO THE WORLD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY & KOSTROMA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Written and published by the teachers and students of  
“Light to the World” Christian Academy in Kostroma, Russia



March- May 2018

## “Tell me, who Jesus the Savior is.”

Vlad and Vika are our missionaries in the Caucasus. Vlad’s reports are interesting to read. Here, we will share a short passage from one of them.

*During the first year of our living in the Caucasus, Vika got acquainted with A..., a Muslim girl. Her father was killed by radical Muslims a year ago because he was a military officer in the Russian Army. Before her father’s death A... was a usual secular young girl, but after her father had been killed, she decided to put on a hijab and become a Muslim secretly from her mother and elder brother. But when they found out about it, they pushed her away from their house.*

*One morning we were reading James chapter 3 and discussing the main idea of the chapter, when A... called and asked us to invite her to our place to have tea with us. We told her that we were having a Bible study class and added that if she wished she could join us. She came and participated very actively. A day later she asked us to invite her for tea again. When we were drinking tea, she told Vika: “Tell me, who Jesus the Savior is.” Yes, it was exactly what she said: “...Jesus the Savior”... Frankly speaking we did not expect it, but Vika immediately began sharing the Gospel with her; she started from the fall of Adam and Eve, spoke about the sacrifice of Abraham and finished with the death of Christ on the cross and His resurrection... Then we told her who Jesus is for us both in our lives... During our next talks Vika told A... her personal testimony and it touched A... so much that she had tears on her eyes. She began to repent and said that she lived in sin. But when we talked to her again we noticed that some young girls who teach Arabic in a mosque were influencing A.... to stop talking to us. Culture plays a big role here. The culture of shame and behavior of a person in general is defined by local society. That’s why all young Christians go through severe condemnation and are cast away from the society here.....*

*(a piece from Vlad’s report-diary)*



## Graduation at Light to the World Christian Academy

On May 23 we celebrated another graduation party at our Christian Academy. It was the 10<sup>th</sup> graduation party in our school’s history. 11 ninth graders and 11 eleventh graders graduated this year. It was a very touching ceremony, where graduates and their parents thanked our school. There were many guests including parents, grandparents, other relatives, and friends. We sang songs, recited poems and watched videos which showed how the graduates first came to our school 11 years ago and the way they grew up during those 11 school years. Almost all ninth graders will continue their study at our school for 2 more years. As for the eleventh grade graduates, they will either enter a college or university or find a job. We hope and pray that the seeds we have planted into their hearts will produce a good harvest and our graduates will grow into strong Christians. Some of them, including Anastasia Krasavina (11<sup>th</sup> grader) and Julia Trostina (9<sup>th</sup> grader) accepted Christ as their personal savior and were baptized into Him during their school years at the Christian Academy. One graduate, Danil Gailit (11<sup>th</sup> grader), would like to become a church minister and is applying to St. Louis Christian College.

*(written by Alexey Gribov, LTTW school principal)*



Julia is second from the left.

## Student Places First in English Competition

In April, Julia Trostina, one of our high school students, placed first at an English competition typically meant for college-age students at a local university. Even better than winning the competition, several of the judges made comments that they were not only impressed with her English skills, but also by her character! Way to go Julia!

*(written by Connor Ferris)*

## Basketball Ministry

Please pray for our basketball team and their participation in the basketball tournament of the Kostroma Region. The team practices in the gym at Light to the World Christian Academy. None of the boys on the team are believers or attend church. I try to serve these boys and witness to them about Christ and help them to accept Him as their personal Savior. The basketball tournament is a special time when I pray with the guys before our trainings and actual matches, and I tell them the Gospel. I began a discipleship course with one member of the team. His name is Vlad Visheslavsky. He is very inspired by the purpose of church. He says that he believes in God and admits that he is a sinner. But he has not accepted Jesus yet. Please pray for the salvation of Vlad and the rest of the team, and ask God to give me wisdom to tell them the good news.



*(written by Maxim Gorokhov, youth minister)*



## A Family within a Family

Our family ministry is like its own small family within our church. All are united by our love of God. When we meet together we study the Bible. At our last meeting, we spoke about the way a husband should be as well as what his wife should be. We had lots of people and it was great! We send you our love!

*(written by Oksana Chilikova, family ministry leader)*

## Open World Special Needs Camp

Social Fund “Open World,” which helps children with autism, organizes a week-long camp for special needs kids every summer. Some teachers from Light to the World Christian Academy volunteer at the camp.

Each helper is responsible for one child. We spend the whole day with our child, eating, walking, doing sports, and making crafts together. Helen and Nadya teach crafts and sports. Vera Tutrina, a Russian teacher from the Academy, joined us too. Her main goal in the camp was helping bridge the gap for the helpers. Every day she met with helpers to find out if we had any difficulties serving the kids with autism. She gave us advice how to manage ourselves better. This camp project is one of the ministries through which we try to reach parents and their kids.



*(written by Oksana Chilikova, family ministry leader)*