

# WORLD REACH®

“PARTNER with us in reaching the WORLD with the GOSPEL OF CHRIST through the local CHURCH”

Dear Friends,

May 2007

For many years, Gisela has been accompanying Botho on his trips to Eastern Europe. Therefore, her excitement was not as great as in years before but, as the famous German poet, Goethe, said, “Who is going on a journey, can tell a story.” And that is what Gisela wants to do:



STALINGRAD BATTLE MEMORIAL

*Twelve years have passed since I have been with Botho in Volgograd and a lot of things have changed. You don't need to take a bus in Moscow anymore and hurry to the next subway station to get on another bus that will bring you to a different airport at the other side of the city, hoping that you will be there in time to catch your connecting flight. We could even check our luggage directly from Frankfurt to Volgograd and the same on the way back. So, we were excited. Arriving in Moscow, it looked as if the employees of the airport had all the time in the world. That makes you nervous if you don't know what is going on and the departure time of your connecting flight is getting closer. Finally, they brought us to the national airport at the other side of the runway. We found the correct gate for departure and waited for the call for our flight. Suddenly, everybody jumped up - us, too. Botho asked where the flight was going and they told us to Socci at the Black Sea. Did that mean our flight was delayed? Did the gate change? Botho tried his best to get some information, which was not easy, not only because of the language but because even the workers at the airport did not know where or when the flight should leave. Finally, we identified a group of people who also wanted to go to Volgograd. That was encouraging. Suddenly, they jumped up and started to run. (That is the only way to describe their way of moving.) Even though we didn't know what was going on, we followed them to a different floor of the airport. Obviously, there had been an announcement (that was not understandable) that the gate had changed. So, we finally caught our plane and were picked up by a dear couple who brought us to the place where we stayed for the following weeks.*

*We stayed at the office of a mission and, therefore, had more privacy than staying in a home. On the first morning, the schedule for the coming twelve days in Volgograd was explained to us. We were asked to hold seminars, including three units in five different churches. That meant every evening and on weekends, in addition to the afternoon meetings.*

*The brothers and sisters welcomed us dearly. Every noon, we were invited to have a meal at different homes and in the evening the local church took care of us. But, besides all this organization, I think you may also be interested in my impressions of the city:*

*Did Volgograd change much in the last twelve years? I think that the living conditions are better and there is more work for which they get paid. But, compared to a western country, life is very simple and not really comparable.*

*The old apartment houses are looking very rundown - but this does not say anything about the*



*inside of them, which could be very well kept. The living conditions are very, very simple (to say the least). It is frightening to see how few things people have to live and get by with and then they go to work looking well dressed. The environment looks so desolate, although they tried to clean everything for spring.*

*If you enter a neighborhood of private homes, you can see that some wealth is growing because everywhere there is the modeling of houses. They are adding on to the old houses and new homes are being built. (Some are pretty big.) But, the streets are without pavement and, because of the number of cars, there are only potholes.*



*You do not need any signs for speed limits. Therefore, you can understand why the people buy off-road vehicles. Still, most people have no car so they use public transportation. The bigger part of it is private and does not belong to the city. The so-called "Mashrutkas" are minibuses that can carry about 15 persons and are licensed for special routes. But, since they are private,*

*they try to earn their living through this. Of course, there are bus stops where they normally stop, but if the people see a minibus they want to take, they jump into the road and wave and they will be picked up. Many of these buses are on the roads. Between one traffic light change, we counted about 8-9 of them, besides 1-2 buses.*



*The way of payment is impressive. You can pay your money by passing it from the back row up to the driver and will get the correct change back by the same way. The system works even in large buses with 50 or more people on board.*

*It was great to see how Botho is appreciated in the different churches. Many remembered last year when he was there with our oldest son, Arnulf. Often he was asked what subject he will teach next year and when he will come again. It looks as if Botho's ministry is a part of the local church life, which they do not want to miss. So, they are looking forward to what will be the topic for next year.*



*(Back to Botho):*

One moment we are experiencing that our ministry is changing because of the local situation on the field, that new projects need to be developed and that there is a growing request for the Theological Teaching Service. On the other hand, we see that the group of people in Germany who support us is shrinking. We ask you to pray for a change in that situation, that more believers in Germany will be interested in our ministry. Maybe we can even find some more churches in Germany who will support us. This, too, is a prayer request. So, please pray for an extension of our home base. Thank you and may God bless you.

Yours,

Botho and Gisela Heinz

*(Please visit our webpage: <http://TheologischerSchulungs-Service.de>)*

**World Reach – Celebrating 25 Years of Ministry**

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