

# *Using Technology to Fulfill the Great Commission, Yakutia, Russia*



*by Mike Campbell:* How many 92-year-old World War II vets do you know that understand what a flash drive or an MP3 file is? Brother Bill Davis of Henrietta does, and he uses the technology to fulfill the Great Commission. Brother Bill's ministry has evolved over the years from starting churches in Indiana to retiring with the plan of fishing with the grandkids to a whirlwind tour of Romania helping them to strengthen, start and staff churches. Now, over twenty years after retiring from starting churches in the United States, Brother Bill recognizes the importance of using today's technology to reach a lost world effectively.

Even though his building across the street from the First Baptist Church parking lot on Graham St. looks like any other, inside are the tools that help take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Early in the CSI ministry, CSI volunteers would use high-speed printers to produce booklets that he would depend on missionaries to deliver due to the high cost of shipping. Today, Brother Bill uses his technology to communicate around the world with like-minded evangelists by using his web page, [www.churchstarts.com](http://www.churchstarts.com) as well as email, Facebook and even two-way interactive video such as Skype to meet with his team members worldwide in real-time.

He even uses his laptop to be able to Skype from home to meet regularly with international Church Starts leaders in many different time zones so that it would be convenient for them.

**Here's an example - a letter he received from Stas Efimov, CSI Secretary in Yakutia.**

*Dear Bro Bill,*

*Greetings to you and to all who pray and support God's work here in Yakutia! We praise God for every person who prays and supports the CSI ministry here in almost the end of the Earth.*

*I represent the local evangelical union called Association of Churches of Evangelical Christians. Our churches were founded by Baptist missionaries from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus since 1990s. We are 23 churches longing to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ over our whole region and (possibly) other regions and even countries.*



*We have translated several courses of CSI and now use them mostly in children's ministry. There are four churches using Old and New Testament stories for children because it is really reaching the heart when people hear the Biblical lessons in their own language. So at the moment about 50 children regularly come to church to hear the Biblical lessons provided by CSI and translated into Yakut language.*

*Recently we've completed audio recordings of Old and New Testament stories and are going to multiply it on flash drives to distribute them to people. CSI kindly took a part of expenses of purchasing the flash drives as well as fully covered the expenses of audio recording. So right now we have 150 flash drives to distribute. People living in cities can use the website while people from villages where they have either no internet or it's very slow can get the flash drives.*

*Also we are planning to organize a mini-conference gathering Christian women who either already work with children or help children workers or plan to begin to serve children. It will be*



February 17, 2018 just a one day conference. We plan to gather 10 women to teach them how to use the CSI materials. As some of them already use the materials they will share their experience and also teach others.

Please pray for the conference with us.

In Christ, Stas, CSI Secretary in Yakutia

**Thanks to the efforts of Stas and his CSI team, the seminar they planned was a great success! Here is his report.**

*Praise God the idea of seminar became true! We wanted to gather ladies who minister to children and use the CSI materials, for quite a long time and have been praying about that. And finally everything did come together.*

*So I asked my mother church in Moxogollokh could they allow us to have a seminar in the church house and they kindly allowed and even served us as good as they could providing us with the meal and coffee and tea during the seminar.*

*Ten ladies who already are serving as children ministers at their churches came to Moxogollokh to share their stories, hear the Word of God and get encouragement. Five of them teach children at Sunday schools and five others either help with children ministry or begin to serve as teachers. They're actively using the CSI's Old and New Testament stories while teaching children.*

*After an opening prayer I had a short message for them noting such things like it is really important to invest into children because Jesus said to allow children to come to Him, that children are the same all*



*around the world as well as their parents are. It is just right and good when children hear about God the Creator and about Jesus since youngest age.*

*Then every attendee shared her story how she came to Christ, what they do in their own churches now and how they use the CSI materials. Every sister told that she is happy to use the Biblical lessons in*



*Yakut language since it is a heart language for most of children they teach. They also noticed the simplicity of the lessons so it is easy to teach and get some feedback from children. They even use the lessons for adult believers and said that it's very helpful for adults too as they understand Bible better while studying the lessons.*



*Then sisters shared their experience of using the CSI materials. Sister Luba said that once she got and read it she liked it. She told about a little 5-year-old boy regularly coming for her lessons. His name is Viktor and he goes to kindergarten. He actively tells other children at kindergarten about Jesus! It was such an encouragement for all of us. Another boy, Gena, likes to think and reason after he heard the Biblical lesson. Also sister Luba (and actually every person) noted that it*



is really good that the Biblical lessons are in two languages – Yakut and Russian. Some children prefer to read in Yakut, some in Russian but all understand Yakut language. So it easy for them to have the text in both languages.

Sister Valentina told us that she has drawn a pictures of Biblical stories and children have to find what pictures fit the best to the lesson. Other sisters liked the idea and now want to create some games using pictures for Biblical lessons.

After a very tasty lunch we had an example of Biblical lesson and sister Luba taught how to do that. Sisters really liked the creative and alive way of her teaching.

At the end of the seminar everybody was encouraged that there are ten people who work just as we do. Especially it was a big encouragement for sister Albina who lives 1,000 km from Yakutsk. She said that now she can see she is not alone but there are other sisters ready to help her and pray for her.

So the seminar was really good and helpful for our sisters. They also got a flash drive with audio version of CSI lessons.

Thank you bro Bill and all the Board of CSI for the materials, support, and your participation in God's work here and may He richly bless all of you and your families!

Much love, Stas Efimov, Secretary, CSI Yakutia



Dear CSI Family, Loved Ones, Friends, Yakutians and Russians in Europe, the United States and across our hurting world, What a challenge is before us! Let us keep our eyes on CSI Secretary Stas Efimov in Yakutia and help him and his teams show the whole world how to strengthen, start and staff churches. Let us say with the Psalmist, “The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I need {NLT}. This is our day, our hour, our moment, our move to help launch a movement. Oh, what a day to be alive. The lost world is at our fingertips. Let us set examples, show the way, enlighten, encourage and inspire. We have the mind, the soul, the very heart and the promise of our Dear Heavenly Father. Let us keep before us the family we really are, the faith of our forefathers, the fires they fought and the future we face.

“...the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”

*Romans 10:15 Isaiah 52:7(NLT)*

“...the LORD will go ahead of you: yes, the God of Israel will protect you from behind.”

*Isaiah 52:12b (NLT)*

As Stas and his people are spreading the Good News across frozen-over Yakutia let us pray together as one and believe that many countries throughout our world will see and do likewise. The movement is on. *in Christ, Bro Bill*