

## #8 FAITH AND HOPE CENTER, SIBERIA LCMS OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL MISSION EURASIA REGION — \$5,000

**Leader:** The mission of the **Faith and Hope Center** in Novosibirsk, Siberia, Russia is to spread Christian knowledge about salvation, sanctity of human life, marriage, and family. Novosibirsk is a principal cultural and educational center in Siberia.

**R1:** *And so, from the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9,10 NIV).*

**Leader:** There are some two dozen institutes for higher learning within the city, making the student ratio higher than usual. Sadly, the rate of domestic abuse is higher too — an estimated 70% of women have experienced at least one form of gender-based violence in the home. With a high population of students and violence, the need for Christian counseling (especially women's and crisis pregnancy counseling) reaches the urgent level.

**R2:** *That their hearts may be encouraged as they are knit together in love, to have all the riches of assured understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, of Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:2–3 NIV).*

**Leader:** Deaconess Gloria Vinogradova, a graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, runs the **Faith and Hope Center**. In addition to counseling services, the ministry provides computer training for Christian women, development and distribution of educational materials, support for single mother families, and organized education meetings. All these activities are aimed at speaking about God's love and expanding the human resources.

**R3:** *I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow (1 Corinthians 3:6 NIV).*

**Leader:** Every person, regardless of gender, confession, and age may come to the **Hope Center** whose work is to support people in difficult situations, tell them about God's love, bring them to faith, help them find their church, teach them to rely upon God, and to be more confident in prayer. That is a huge task; but with God nothing is too much!

**All:** **Dear Father, You see all that happens in this world. You are aware of every small detail of each of our lives. We ask that You would bless the efforts of Deaconess Gloria in Siberia — every detail! Pour out Your Spirit into the hearts of the people seeking help, growing their faith in You. In Your name, Jesus. Amen!**