



Whirlwind Missions

Outreach Update February 2015



Hello my friends!

I am outreach oriented. The first step in leading someone to Christ is being a friend. Missions is all around us!

Last year, we trained over 1,800 people in simple ways to make a friend with a stranger. Ashley and I gave examples and illustrations of our methods and then took our teams over to the Buford Highway Farmers Market to practice.

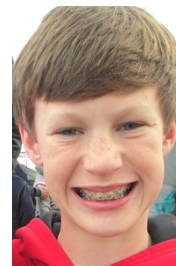
Ashley acted like she was pushing a baby carriage down the aisle in the market. I would say, "Hola!" (or whatever language I thought they speak) and went "OOOOOH. What a beautiful baby!!" The girls in the crowd would practice the sound women make when they see something really cute. . . .OOOOOOHH. Even the guys can do it! I asked the grown ups in the crowd if it was possible to say too many compliments about their children. They always responded that was impossible. So we practice complimenting people and their children.

The second way I've found it easy to strike up a conversation is by asking a person looking at something, "What's your favorite?" Or "How do you fix that?" People are amazingly helpful, especially when you're asking for advice. It makes them feel important and knowledgeable—in a position of strength. It is not unusual to have a person urge me over to another aisle so they can show me exactly what I should get.

Alex was no exception. We were in the Russian section of the Farmer's Market. "Priviet!" I said, in Russian, which means, "Hello!" Alex's eyebrows went up. He knew my accent wasn't quite right, but he'd never been greeted in his language by an American. "Priviet!" He responded. He was examining the many different types of salted fish from Eastern Europe. "What's your favorite?" He began picking up the different types of salmon. "In my country we have eleven different words for salmon. We love fish!" He explained to me the differences in the way they were cooked, salted, preserved or smoked. After about five minutes I told him, "Spasheba," which means "Thanks" in Russian. I had a friend of mine with us and we needed to take him back to the church. As we were were leaving, Alex caught up with me and asked, "Where are you from, Tim?" "I grew up in Kenya. I consider Nairobi my home." "WOW!" Alex replied, "I've always wanted to go to Kenya. Do you think I could find a job there?" I looked at him in amazement. "I don't think so, brother. They have nearly 50% jobless." "Oh. Thanks, Tim!" We shook hands warmly and we left. Normally, if I don't have another assignment, we would continue to talk, share about family, problems they might be facing. At that point we train people to ask, "Could I pray for you about that?" They always say, "Yes!"

You may think that missions is only overseas. Missions is on Aisle 4.

Love, *Tim & Kathy*



Take the Church, To the People!



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