

## RUSSIAN Recording Trip June 2006.

### *The KOMI Language.*

We set off from Belfast via Heathrow to Frankfurt in Germany and then a 5 hour flight to Perm in Russia . It is a city of 1 million people close to the Siberian border. We flew across 5 time zones and we noticed it never gets dark at night. The city itself is huge and we were met by an American missionary who put us up in a hotel for the night. (You must register that you are in the country and by staying in a hotel this can happen).

We left the next morning for a 5 hour bus trip to a town called Kudimkar where we were met by a young pastor with whom we were staying. The Russian buildings have to be seen to be believed. We began recording in the **KOMI** language with a Komi lady who had spent a month translating the scripts. She was great and we recorded with her for two and a half days. We recorded our Good News and Words of Life scripts. After back checking she said these would be great for her people.



There are approximately 100,000 Komi speakers in this region. Theirs is an oral speaking society and there is very little written in Komi. Their second language is Russian. On the Sunday we traveled about 2 hours to visit a local pastor in one of the many villages. His village has 300 people but only 9 go to the small



church. Most of the villages don't have a church and if they do they tend to be very small. We went to the Sunday service and shared why we were there etc and told them about our travels with Language Recordings. They don't have running water in their houses which are made of wood, and they collect buckets of water using the old fashioned yolks of 100 years ago here.

The pastor has a horse which he uses to plough and cut grass etc. no tractors at all in the village. The temperature in winter can go down to -30 degree but apparently they all manage well with huge fur coats and plenty of layers on. One

of the biggest problems in the towns and villages is alcoholism and there are many deaths by suicide. This is a huge problem throughout Russia .

We really found the people to be friendly and loving and we would certainly love to return in the future. We will send the completed cassettes via the American missionaries in Perm to distribute.