



RUSSIA

day 24

In 1917, the Bolshevik Party led by Vladimir Lenin, seized control of the country. A civil war broke out in 1918 and lasted until 1920. After the Red Army conquered Ukraine, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia, a new nation, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was formed in 1922. Until the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Russian people were forced to collectivize. Freedom, family, and religion were taken from the people. With policies of *perestroika* (restructuring) and *glasnost* (openness) and the fall of Communism, Christians were able to bring God's Word to the Russian people and start thousands of churches in the early 1990's.

Chicago became the largest center of Russian Jews and ethnic Russians in the Midwest. The Russian Jews who arrived in Chicago between 1881 and 1920 created a thriving outdoor market on Maxwell Street. These immigrants worked largely in the clothing industry; others became butchers, small merchants, or street peddlers. Ethnic Russians immigrating to Chicago settled in West Town, earning the area around West Division, Wood, and Leavitt Streets the nickname "Little Russia."

The Russian community in Chicago represents both Jewish and Russian Orthodox. **Pray for the many Russian Jews who only follow Judaism culturally. Pray for a softening of their hearts toward Christianity. Pray for over 10,000 Russian elderly who live in nursing homes and retirement communities. Pray that Christians will visit them and find the opportunity to introduce the Gospel. Pray for a revival among Russian believers. Pray that opportunities would arise for the Lord to heal many of their wounds caused by difficult past experiences.**



FAQS

SIZE

2x the size of the US

POPULATION

141,377,752

CAPITAL

Moscow

LANGUAGE

Russian

RELIGION

Russian Orthodox

UPG'S

68



POP. IN CHICAGO

23,000

LOCATION

Albany Park, Glenview, Mount Prospect, Rogers Park, West Town



VISIT

Tbilisi

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ISAIAH 6:8

"I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'"

