

Notes

INTERNATIONAL ADVENTIST MUSICIAN'S ASSOCIATION



The Zaoski Theological Seminary Church choir, directed by Elena Godunova, sings for the October 8 church service during a visit by IAMA's president Elsie Buck.

GREETINGS FROM MOSCOW!

Russian and American educators met this past week for the first United States/Russia Joint Conference on Education. The meetings were held at the Presidium of Science at the Russian Academy of Federal

Service and I was here as a delegate in the area of Music and Multicultural Education. What a tremendous experience this has been!

All-day meetings were scheduled during the week, with

Dr. Alexander Asmolov, Vice-Minister for the Russian Republic, Russian Ministry of Education, as one of the first speakers in the plenary session. Asmolov, considered one of the

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GREETINGS FROM MOSCOW . . . cont.

most progressive of the leading Russian educators, initiated this conference. Working sessions between the delegates of the two countries have dealt with sixteen topics, including Language Arts, Gifted Education, Multicultural Education, and Music.

Each day was filled with exciting discoveries for all delegates as information was exchanged between both countries. Learning about music education in Russia, visiting two schools on Wednesday in the

Moscow City Palace for Youth Creativity, where we met teachers and experienced music classes, was a wonderful opportunity.

Education in Russian schools is going through a period of adjustment and change. Teachers are victims of the instability of the ruble. Those we talked with in school #1828 (schools are numbered, not identified with a place or name), in the southern part of the city of

Moscow, are earning the American equivalent of fifty dollars a month.

In one of our sessions an interesting point was made by V. V. Aleev, from the Institute of General Secondary Education, Russian Ministry of Education, Moscow, when he stated the need to teach church music in the secondary schools in Russia in order to promote "reconstruction of the holistic picture of the musical art, which is founded on three musical



**The Adventist Theological Seminary in Zoaski, Russia.
The building at the right serves as both a church and a place for classes.**



A music teacher in School #1828 teaches her third grade class

branches: secular classical music, church music, and folk music." He went on to say, "The inclusion of church music into the system of secondary school general culture education may become an important step in overcoming the informational vacuum which was characteristic of artistic pedagogical practice in Russia of the late decades."

We visited with Dr. and Mrs. Harry Mayden during this week as well. Mayden is secretary of Education for the Euro-Asia Division. He tells us there are seven church schools in this division - new developments of the post-Communist era, with many challenges facing the

church in the education of its children and youth at this time.

On Sabbath, October 8, we attended church at the Theological Seminary in Zaoski, where we heard the church choir, under the direction of Elena Godunova, in a moving rendition of a sacred composition of Russian origin. It was our privilege also to meet Elena Bulgakova, who is the Dean of the Seminary Music Department. Hearing the deeply moving music of this worship service, from the voices of the choir and also from the congregation in the singing of two hymns, has given us memories to treasure for a lifetime.

In a few days we will return to America. We have learned much from our fellow musicians in Russia. Challenges face both our nations. For them it is the reordering of content and the enlargement of services; for us it is the recognition of the value of *worthy* music in the context of Home, School and Church.

For all that can be done to ennoble, uplift and enlarge the appreciation of quality music, my sincere gratitude and a very heartfelt *spasibuh*. May God be our guide and helper in the needs of today and in all the days before us.

October 8

-Elsie Landon Buck



Elena Godunova, Choir Director and Elena Bulgakova, Dean, Zaoski Seminary Music Department with Elsie Buck.