



## A Visit to the Urals – Freezing Temperatures, but Warm Hearts



My journey began by train in Omsk—where the thermometer already read  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$ . In Yekaterinburg, it got even colder:  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ . But the trip continued, and after another five hours on the bus, the temperature finally dropped to about  $-32^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Fortunately, there was no wind, so the cold was at least a little more bearable.

You really feel the extreme cold when you breathe: it feels as though there is less oxygen in the air. You want to take a deep breath through your mouth—but that is exactly what is dangerous. The icy air goes straight into the lungs and can quickly cause a severe cold.

Despite these conditions, the local people are not deterred. Wrapped up warmly, they come to the service—with rosy cheeks and friendly smiles. You can feel it immediately: they are happy to see one another.

During the sermon, everyone listened attentively. I spoke about Psalm 100: “Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.” This word shapes their lives: Everything is done on a volunteer basis. After the service, some visitors asked questions before we were invited to a lovingly set table. Homemade food, good conversation, and warm fellowship made the room feel warm—despite the icy world outside. Outside, there is a bitter frost, but in the hearts of these people, it is warm. Perhaps it is precisely this warmth that draws new people to the church. For every person seeks warmth, love, and genuine connection.

The world can sometimes seem cold—but Christ warms the heart. Martin Luther once said that God is like a blazing furnace full of love. This love is also palpable in the Northern Urals. And so the inner warmth of the community often has more power than any external cold.



The settlement I visited was once founded by deported Germans. The people had to work hard and didn't have much. Yet despite all the hardships, the first Pietist congregations in the Urals emerged here. Many were unable to return home after the war ended. They stayed, were buried here—and passed their faith on to the next generations. To this day, it remains visible and alive.

May the Lord continue to let warm congregations and open hearts grow in this often cold world. The climate may be harsh—but it does not determine the hearts of those who have experienced the love of Jesus.



### **Thank you very much for your support**

Thank you very much for your support through your prayers and donations. This makes it possible for me to visit people in the various settlements in the Ural Mountains and strengthen them in their faith. Please continue to support my ministry. I am employed by this foundation, whose staff and work are funded exclusively by donations.

Sincerel Yours,  
Alexander Scheiermann

#### **Thanks:**

- For the dedicated brothers and sisters in the Northern Urals who serve with joy and faithfulness.
- For the protection we received during our journey through the Northern Urals.
- For the volunteers who are passionately sharing the Gospel in the churches

#### **Prayer:**

- For the spiritual and physical growth of our churches, that they may grow strong in love and faith.
- That many people may come to know Jesus, open their hearts, and turn to Him.
- That the Lord may call new workers who are willing to serve Him faithfully.

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