

Brief Biography

Rev. Alexander Scheirman, Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East (ELCUSFE)

I was born on February 1, 1970, and grew up in Russia, in Siberia, in the Omsk region. My ancestors originally came from Germany, from Hesse. My ancestor Hartmut Scheuermann emigrated in 1763 to the Saratov region, to the village of Yagodnaya Polana. My parents were born in this village and lived there until 1941. During World War II, they were deported to Siberia.

There I attended the village school and completed 10 grades. It was a beautiful but also a difficult time for me. The Communist Party wanted everyone, including the children, to belong to the party. So I, too, was tested. All the children were forced to join the party. I was the only one in the class of 44 classmates who did not belong to the party. Although the Communists interfered with some things here as well, they often disrupted the broadcasts. Very often in the evenings, I heard the Word of God from afar through my siblings. This radio broadcast was my secret Christian congregation. Through my parents' upbringing and these Christian broadcasts, I was taught the Christian faith: so that I knew—Christ is my salvation and justification. Until I was 21, I did not own a Bible of my own. My parents had a German Bible, but we children could hardly understand it. I went to great lengths to obtain a Russian Bible—but without success.

The Communists destroyed not only churches and places of worship, but also all kinds of Christian literature.

At the age of 18, I was drafted into the Russian military. It was a formative time for me. There I was able to experience Communist ideology firsthand. The Communists taught that people are good. We just have to raise them properly, give them a good education, and then they will be perfect, living beings. And then I was in this Russian military and watched these supposedly loving people beating each other up, bullying each other. Above all, those who were physically and mentally weak had great difficulties. So out of my barracks—there were about 118 of us—roughly 20, I'm exaggerating a bit, were mentally disabled. All sorts of things were done to these people; they were raped, and edible food on the table was simply eaten by others. We were also given very poor food, and that was simply taken away. I once saw with my own eyes how these people were eating from a pig trough—the food scraps had been thrown into such a trough—and they were taking food from there because they were so emaciated. Here I developed a strong desire to get to know the Word of our Lord better.

In 1988, my family emigrated to West Germany. In 1990, I entered the St. Chrischona Theological Seminary (Switzerland). After completing my training in 1994, I married Irene, who was also born and raised in Russia (Omsk). We felt called to serve as missionaries in Russia. Our parents, who now live in Germany, were not enthusiastic about our decision. They said we could go to Asia, Africa, or anywhere else, but not to Russia. We want to share the good news with the people of Russia using the resources we have.

Thanks to the Lord, the communist system has collapsed. People have been deceived and disappointed. Young and old alike are searching and asking: What is the meaning and purpose of my life? We are very glad that Jesus can answer their questions, and that is why we want to point people to Christ. He is Lord and Savior; He has never disappointed or deceived anyone.

My wife and I have three children.

Our daughter Rahel, 29 years old, married

Andreas, 25 years old,

Daniel Josef, 17 years old

We have been missionaries in Russia since 1995.

- 1995–1996 Lutheran congregation in Moscow
- 1996–1997 Lutheran congregation in Omsk
- 1997–2018 Lutheran congregation in Saratov; in 1999, provost of the Saratov region
- 2018 Bishop of the ELKUSFO