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Untitled Photograph

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by inadequate enforcement and bribery. Until there is a spiritual and moral renewal in Russia, the economic improvement and environmental protection will be limited and improperly directed.

But here, too, there is hope. Young people particularly are showing a much-increased awareness of and longing for spiritual values. In the great Orthodox cathedrals one finds an interesting mix of old babushkas and young men. The seminaries are at full capacity. Christian churches from all over the world have entered Russia in force and taken advantage of the opportunities provided by perestroika. In fact, in Russia the church has more of an influence on the state than in the U.S. For example, a recent monument to World War II victories in Moscow included a new, functioning Orthodox cathedral... paid for by the state! It is the first new church building in Russia since the 1917 revolution. Another, similar, state-supported Orthodox cathedral is being built on the site of the great cathedral torn down by the Communists in 1935, just outside the Kremlin wall. Great opportunities abound in the spiritual realm.

So we see in Russia phenomenal contrasts between old and new, between rich and poor, between environmental beauty and devastating pollution, and between atheism and spiritual renewal. It is possibly because of these disparities that the opportunities are so great today. We of Concordia University have much to learn from and much to teach to the Russian people. God grant us the courage to do both.

Night Sounds

Screaming sirens, crying children
lost souls...

Cries for help sometimes heeded

Lonely streets, bitter cold who is
to care....

Why are they there, they are the
future....

To touch but one, is it enough
Someone needs to extend that
helping hand....

To help them understand

Learn to respect themselves
All is not lost out there
someone cares....

I've seen, I've felt their pain
I cry for them

But help can only come from
within....