

Winter and Christmas 2021

*HumanCare Russia wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year*

## Visit to Moscow

Two members of the board - Ellen Margrethe Krabbe and Elisabeth Louise Brøker - have been on a trip to Moscow to visit Fr. Pavel Vishnevsky and the congregation and handing out donations. We had also gathered a lot of clothes, especially children's clothes. In the picture to the left, Elisabeth Louise is squeezing as many clothes and as many Christmas presents for the children into the suitcase as possible.



We were warmly received by Fr. Pavel and our contact person in Moscow, Irina Smirnova, who picked us up at the airport. The middle picture is children at a Christmas service, and the picture on the right is from a family album, where the house's daughter receives gifts from Father Frost. It's similar to our Santa Claus.

In the next HCR News we will bring more pictures from the families with children

Several have asked if we really dared to go to Moscow during a time with Corona. But it did not seem more dangerous than at home, and they complied with the requirement of

Corona face masks, hand-hygiene and distance. In addition, we both had Corona passports with vaccinations and test results. They were to be shown.

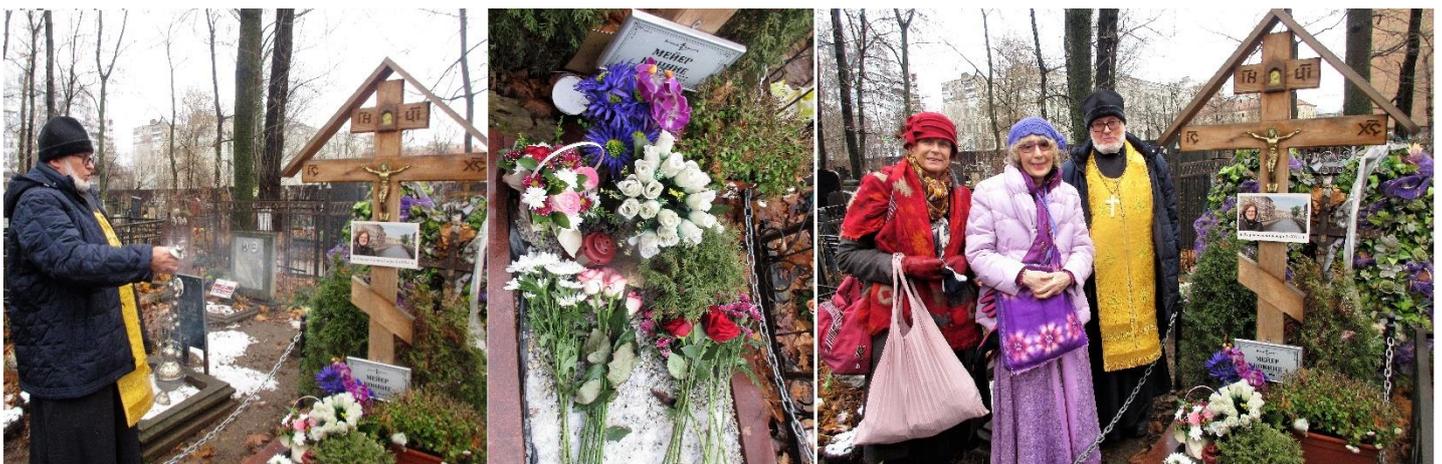
On Sunday we were in church. The service was, as always, very beautiful with a very well-sounding choir singing praises. Most of it we did not understand, but the words "Господи помилуй" / Gospodi pomiluy "Lord have mercy", we understood. It was sung many times. The children are naturally participating in the service and also walk around the church during the service.

When the service itself is over, you can walk around the church and lit candles. Some go to intercession. There was a kiosk in the church where you could buy candles, cards and icons. We bought icons which we can take to our next bazaar in Denmark. This icon, pictured to the right, depicts the Church Saints, Faith, Hope and Love, 3 sisters who became martyrs and behind them is their mother Sophia, which means wisdom. They have given name to the church.



When the service was over, we talked to a man, Nikita, who was a little boy when Connie came to church in 1992. She had been like a grandmother to him. He had received a lot of help during his upbringing. He had received a good education and was now himself a father in a well-functioning family. A fine example that Connie's work has born fruit. His younger brother also comes to church, and the following Sunday he is to have his child baptized.

One thing Nikita was sad about, though, that was the development in the city of Moscow itself. His childhood town had disappeared, and now there was instead a densely populated city with heavy traffic, and the nature around the city had almost disappeared. But that also means that there will be even more people in Moscow who need help. Officially, there are 12,655,050 inhabitants. The entire metropolitan area has a population of 17.4 million. But unofficially, many more live there. Things are going a little better for the middle class now, but the poor are still poor and need help. After the service we went to Connie's grave, where Father Pavel held a solemn little service with incense and blessing. And fresh flowers were arranged on her grave.





The evenings on Saturday and Sunday were very festive. On Saturday we held a beautiful birthday party for Connie, who would have had a birthday a few days before. Several of Connie's good friends attended.

Sunday night we saw a fantastic ballet with the most talented dancers. Unfortunately we were not allowed to photograph during the performance, so I took a picture of the amazing ceiling lamp and of the Christmas decorations on the way there. Everywhere we went in Moscow, there was New Year's and Christmas mood.

*Father Pavel and the congregation in Moscow send you  
the most heartfelt Christmas greetings*

### **The Christmas bazaar**

In Denmark, we also started early with Christmas preparations. Sunday November 14 HCR had a festive Christmas bazaar with folklore and fine Russian art. And of course, with donated gifts including home knitting: potholders in double layers etc.

The profits from the bazaar have gone to the families with children in Moscow. Thank you for your contribution. We had almost sold out of our Russian folklore. We therefore bought a lot more folklore now that we were in Moscow.

*We wish once again that everyone will have  
a merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.  
Best wishes HumanCare Russia*

