

Victor & Ilona Podluzhny

Area of ministry: Russia, Eastern Europe
Ministry focus: Sports ministry, discipleship
Cru: Athletes In Action
TBC global partner since 1992



Victor Podluzhny was born in the Soviet Union. He desired to rise in Russian society and so set his mind on gain, always striving for influence, power, and fulfillment. He was an athlete, winning recognition at many competitions for his physical abilities. Victor chose the military as his profession and joined the Russian Navy, rising to serve as the commander of a submarine. One day Victor and his crew came upon a capsized civilian boat in the Barents Sea, but the submarine and its crew were powerless to help these people in their need.



This feeling of powerlessness was a wake-up call to Victor. Suddenly he felt numb and uninterested in life; rising through the ranks, physical prowess, titles... all lost their appeal. Victor eventually left the Russian navy and moved to Moscow. There he met global workers with Cru who impressed him with their love and care as well as their lack of concern about position or power. Through relationships with these workers, Victor came to know about Jesus, giving his life to the Lord, his Savior.

After his salvation, Victor joined Cru: Athletes In Action. Today he is a Director of Sports Programs. Victor spends his time reaching out to and discipling athletes and coaches, putting on sports conferences, traveling to and attending competitions (including the Olympics), sharing his testimony, working on AIA printed materials, and more.

Victor and his wife Ilona were married a few years ago.

Joshua Project facts on Eastern Europe and Eurasia

Population: 329,261,000

Percentage considered Christian: 68.5%

Percentage considered evangelical: 1.9%

Source: www.joshuaproject.net/regions/9

Prayer Requests

- Upcoming summer sports conference - including training for elite athletes and opportunities to share the gospel with athletes and coaches
- Effectiveness in ministry
- Good times with family and children



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MISSIONS: MAKING HIM KNOWN TO THE FAR & THE NEAR