

WILLIAM WOOD MISSIONS TO RUSSIA



April-May 2011

SEND WILLIAM AN EMAIL MESSAGE! (OR EVEN AN OLD-FASHIONED LETTER)

If you've ever lived in a foreign country, and there was only one other person who spoke English fluently, then you are very familiar with the constant bouts with loneliness. You simply have no one to visit or share with on an ongoing basis. Other than the physical aging, fighting the loneliness may be William's biggest challenge as he remains committed to ministering to the people living in northern Russia. Therefore, we're calling for a "communication drive" for the benefit of William. If you have some time in the next two weeks, please take the time to either email or snail-mail a letter of encouragement to William. For those of you who served in the military, you can relate to how great it made you feel to get an actual, physical letter from home.

Following are the two addresses that you can use to communicate with William: His email address is w.wood@mail.ru. His physical mailing address is as follows:

William Wood
Centralnaya 43 Don
Ust-Kulom District
Komi Republic, Russia 168077

Again, please take the time to contact William. He loves to hear news from home—about the farming season, the local events, and especially news about people whom he holds dear in his heart.

WILLIAM LEAVES DON! (SORTA)

Many of you know that William has been considering leaving Don and heading for another village that isn't served by any Christian (or very few Christians) at all. This desire stems from the fact that Andrey, Simeon and Alexei are doing such a tremendous job of ministering to the people of Don and surrounding villages that William senses that he's not needed there anymore. In fact, you get the feeling that Don has become a sort of "Christian center," from which so many good works spring forth, spilling into the lives of people who live in surrounding villages while the Gospel spreads itself as well. We know that William and the three young men have allowed the Lord to use them powerfully in this amazing work, but we must also credit what has become a very strong church family in Don. They have rolled up their sleeves as well and busied themselves with spreading the Gospel along with helping out with all the good works of loving ministry.

So a year ago this past spring, when William was given the opportunity to go and build a church in the small village of Kodorodick, he welcomed the invitation. Since Kodorodick is six hours from Don and since William planned on spending 3 months living there, that meant neither Andrey nor Simeon could go along since they now have families that rely on them. William headed to Kodorodick without an interpreter and without his right-hand man. However, he had the enthusiastic support of Elisha, a young

pastor who was the first person to have both the vision and desire to bring the Gospel to Kodorodick. Elisha knew of William & the mission and had requested help from William before this, but this was the first time both schedule and resources would allow William to respond.

As usual the work done on the new church (an old house that needed abundant remodeling and repair work) included rebuilding the floor and solidifying the foundation, fixing the plumbing w/ a new bathroom, fixing the heating stove, building a new entrance, and putting on a new roof, installing electrical wiring, put up new walls and new lighting, repaired all the windows—or replaced those that needed replacing, along with numerous smaller projects.

The pictures that follow are of the project. William calculated the cost to be 329,086 rubles. At an exchange rate of 29 rubles per dollar, the total cost of the new church in dollars was approximately \$11,347. Try to put up a new church in America for that amount! What an honor and privilege for us on this side of the ocean to play a small part in the solid establishment of two churches in northern Russia, not to mention the 6 cell groups that Pastor Alexei has started in several more villages around Don. As always, thank you so much for your wonderful and dedicated support to the ministry in Russia, and may the Lord return blessing after blessing to all of you.



Pastor Elisha standing just inside the front door of the new church.



William and Pastor Elisha working on a new stove



A “before” picture of the outside entrance to the new church. How many differences can you spot?



An “after” picture of the outside entrance to the new church. It looks like William is still using the Heart Van.



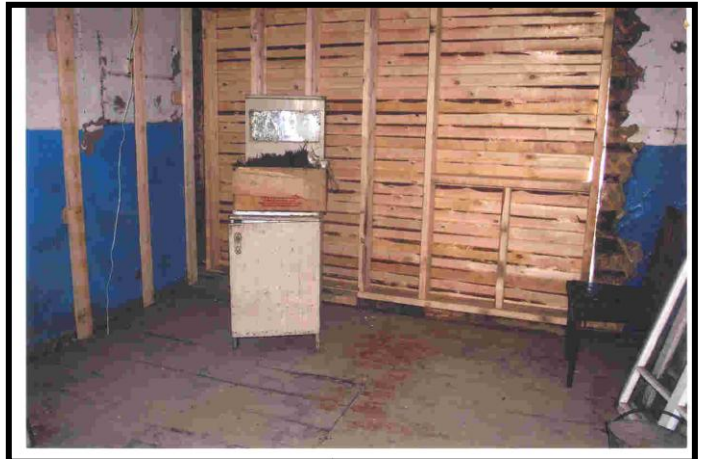
William & Pastor Elisha on the roof.



William putting some finishing touches on the the new roof.



One side of the new roof almost completed.



One room ready for the sheetrock.

Just a bit more on this project in Kodorodick. Pastor Elisha comes from a very large church in Syktivar, and he is married. He speaks very good English so that wasn't a problem w/ William going to Kodorodick without Andrey. However, Kodorodick is very similar in size to Ust-Kulom, so it's not as remote or small as the type of village William likes to minister in. The more remote and less modern, the better! However, there are several smaller villages around Kodorodick that William is currently investigating as a place to move to in the future.

WILLIAM COMING HOME IN NOVEMBER!

!!!BY THE WAY, William plans to be in the States in November and December! Of course, he wants to visit all the churches that currently support him and the mission. We will fill time slots on a first come, first serve basis. His first weekend in the States will be November 5-6th, and he will return to Russia right after Christmas. If you want William to come to your church or visit with your church group, please let Dan know ASAP! Dan can be reached at (309) 457-6220, (309) 331-3148, (309) 627-2593. His email address is cstonefinancial@juno.com.

