WILLIAM WOOD MISSIONS TO RUSSIA



November-December 2011

UPDATE ON WILLIAM'S JOURNEY HOME

We've quickly filled the schedule for William's visit back to the States. We're also excited to announce that Simeon will be joining him along with Anya, who is coming as Simeon's interpreter. Simeon and William have worked extensively together for many years, so Simeon probably knows a little English, but it will be good to have Anya here as well to help w/ interpretation. To date, the schedule is as follows:

Sunday, November 6th: Gladstone & Oquawka Methodist Churches Sunday, November 13th: Grace Evangelical Free Church in Aledo Sunday, November 20th: Rozetta Baptist Church in Rozetta (morning)

Countryside Bible Church (evening)

Thanksgiving-Nov 30th: East White Oak Bible Church in Carlock, IL Sunday, December 4th^h: Grace Bible Church in Dallas City

William will be returning to Russia on December 12th. Meanwhile, we still have plenty of Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings. William and Anya are also available to speak during the week at prayer breakfasts or events of that sort as well. If you would like to schedule William for your meeting, please contact Dan at (309) 331-3148 or at his email address: cstonefinancial@juno.com.

A special thanks goes out to Doris Nelson from the Grace Bible Church who is allowing our mission team to stay at her cabin on the river while they're here. Her gracious generosity is greatly appreciated! Also, a special "thank you" to Pastor Larry Van Gundy of East White Oak Bible Church. He and his church family will be hosting our missionaries over the Thanksgiving holidays. Pastor Van Gundy has also been a great help in getting William set up with a car for his visit.

Speaking of transportation, William will be using his own funds to get him and Anya to the States. He will also be spending his own money to rent a car and to provide meals for himself and Anya. This is keeping w/ the Board of Directors' ongoing pledge to never use any donated funds for any kind of administrative costs but only for the ongoing needs of the Russian people. However, please feel free to help William financially while they are here—all help will be greatly appreciated!

REPORT FROM PASTOR ANDREY

How are you, people of God? We are doing great here by God's grace. The fall is here, and people have harvested their potatoes, picked berries in the forest, and we are getting ready for the cold season. Here is my new report on what the Lord has been doing in our midst since my last report.

On April 17th, our little church in Don hosted a marriage seminar given by Pastor Pavel & his wife from the Pentecost church in Syktyvka. Pastor Alexei also brought his folks to the church, so we had quite a crowd in our church hall! The seminar was awesome. Living outside wedlock is widespread in Russia, so Pastor Pavel focused on the sanctity of marriage. One of our newest converts, Olga (Tamara's

daughter-in-law) said, "We need more seminars like that." Our church family in Don did a wonderful job catering the event, and our young ladies also attended the event.



Pastor Pavel speaks to the crowd. On the front row are four of our young church's ladies: Snezhana, Susha,Olga, and Tamara. It looks like it was a full house!

THE CHURCH HELPS WITH COMMUNITY CLEANUP

On May 6th, the Don church family got together to work at cleaning up the village gathered for its annual village cleanup. Part of the reason to do this is because May 9th is the Russian Victory Day, a day of celebration similar to our Fourth of July festivities. Grateful for the help, the Mayor assigned the church family to an area of the village littered mostly with discarded alcohol bottles. One of the helpers was young Vasily. You may remember that Vasily's mom died from alcoholism, and his dad continues to drink heavily. The church was fortunate to be able to send Vasily to a Christian church camp this past summer, where he was involved in Bible classes while making new Christian friends. Pastor Andrey reports that as Vasily was cleaning up the debris, he asked the question, "Why doesn't somebody ban this vodka? When I grow up, I will make sure it is banned!" It appears the Lord is building up another Warrior for His kingdom!



Young Vasily smiles for the camera as he carries trash to the dump truck.



Simeon's wife Anya and their two children Nikita and Violetta, help w/ the trash.

THE CHURCH FAMILY PARTICIPATES IN RUSSIAN MEMORIAL DAY

On June 21st, all across Russia are many memorial ceremonies that commemorate the attack of Nazi Germany upon Russia. It is called Russian Memorial Day. Pastor Andrey reports what a blessing it was for the church to be asked to be an active participant in the event. Of course, in the old days of Soviet rule, that would never have been possible. Given the recent "tightening" by the Russian government, it might not be possible again. However, the church family grabbed onto this opportunity to participate and present the Gospel.



Members of the Church family at the Memorial Day event: Marina, Zoya, Raya, Maria, Antonena, 2 ladies from the local Veteran's council, and Nina. Look how Marina has grown up—you may remember that Marina was one of the little girls that first looked over the fence when Andrey and William first arrived in Don. You also may remember that Nina is Susha's grandmother, who was not a Believer until Susha became a Believer. Nina would write articles to the paper about how much good William and Andrey were doing in the village, but she didn't want to become a Believer herself. And then Susha became a Believer and then Susha's mom gave her life to Christ. Then Nina followed—praise the Lord! Finally, you will always remember that Antonena was the only Christian in Don for years & years. She kept praying that God would start something in Don. Then William and Andrey showed up.



Simeon, Zoya & Raya singing a Christian song at the Memorial Day event.



Happy 5th Anniversary to Pastor Andrey & Lena, pictured here w/ Aaron and Daniel!