

WILLIAM WOOD MISSIONS TO RUSSIA



April-May 2012

SO WHAT'S SIMEON BEEN DOING LATELY?

We spend so much of the newsletter filling everyone in on what Pastor Andrey or Pastor Alexei are doing with the Don church and all the home churches that we sometimes forget the “behind-the-scenes” guy—Simeon. So we’ll devote this newsletter to showing you some of Simeon’s work. But first let’s give you a small update on William in his new home, Greva. He’s still melting snow to use in his bonya. However, the snow is beginning to melt, making all the roads into a nightmare—remember no pavement to Greva. He still doesn’t have a translator so the only person in Greva who speaks English is him. But that hasn’t stopped him. He’s befriended a widow and has been helping her with all of her firewood needs.

Once again, we’ll include William’s mailing address as he would love to hear from everyone. That address is as follows:

William Wood
Sovetskaya 101
Selo Greva
Koidorodskii Raion
Komi Republic, Russia 168191

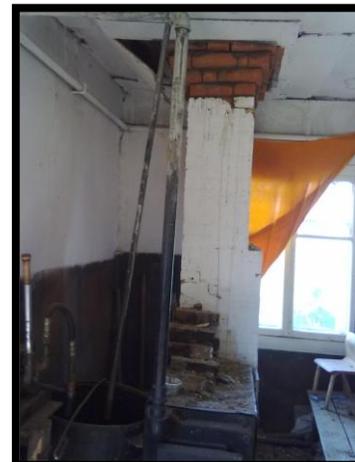
And his email (w.wood@mail.ru) stays the same of course, if you want to contact him that way.

SIMEON—THE WOOD STOVE MASTER

Zhezhim is a small village about 15 miles from Don. It is one of the poorer villages in the region. This past summer the local fire department insisted that the chimney of Zhezhim’s kindergarten building be redesigned for safety reasons or they’d have to shut down the kindergarten. Since Simeon has become the region’s wood stove master, the folks in Zhezhim asked him for help. Most of the houses and many of the buildings in the region have wood stoves so the Lord has used Simeon’s skills to both help many people out with their stove needs and also as an avenue by which Simeon can share the Gospel.



To the left, a picture of the new Chimney from the outside and to the right, a picture of the chimney from the inside of the kindergarten room.



To show you more specifically how he uses his woodstove work to spread the Gospel, following is a picture of his work on the stove of a gentleman named Sergei.



Sergei is not a Christian, but he is the brother of Vasilissa, a young girl who has been attending the Don church. Pastor Andrey calls Vasilissa “the church’s evangelist” as she is always working at bringing her friends to Christ.

So please pray that this opportunity to help Sergei with his stove also ignites a yearning inside of Sergei for the salvation of Christ!

SIMEON—THE WHEELCHAIR MASTER

Anatoly Napalcov is 80 years old and is partly paralyzed because of a stroke, which means Anatoly can only get around with a wheelchair. That’s pretty easy for most of the year, but when winter comes and the snow piles up, it is very difficult for Anatoly to maneuver. So Anatoly’s relatives asked Simeon to mount some skis on Anatoly’s wheelchair for the winter months. And as always, it was a great opportunity for Simeon to share the Gospel with Anatoly and his family too! They haven’t started attending the Don church yet, but that’s what everyone is praying will happen!



A view of the chair from the front.

Side view of the wheelchair on skis.



SIMEON—THE ROOF MASTER!

Pastor Nicolay has been pastoring a small church in Yackoge for several years now. He became the pastor after coming to know Christ while in prison. Along with pastoring the small church, he also ministers to several outreach groups in some of the other villages surrounding Yackoge, much like our own Pastor Alexei does. His house needed a new roof so Simeon agreed to help him with the project. Following are some pictures of the roof project.



Simeon and Pastor Nicolay take a break for a picture while putting the new roof on the house.

SIMEON—THE ELECTRICITY MASTER!

Remember Olga? She used to be a very heavy drinker before she came to know Christ as her Savior. She's been sober for 3 years now—praise God! Also, very recently, the Lord provided Olga the blessing to move out of her mother's very small apartment and into her own house. But the new house needed an electric meter. But not to worry, Simeon is on his way!



Olga inspecting Simeon's work from the ground.

Simeon focused on making sure the wiring is right. I wonder how cold it was on this day?



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