

William Wood Missions To Russia



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April – June 2014
2nd Quarter

HELPING OUT AT SCHOOL!



From L to R, Alexander, Constantine, Eugene and Irena show off their new winter clothing with two of their teachers

The Don Church has consistently stayed active with the local correction boarding school, which provides education, food and lodging to kids who come from problem families. Keep in mind that it's not technically the kids who need correction, but the parents who are often alcoholics and abusive. The kids are placed in the school for protection more often than not. Once again this year the school approached our mission team for funds to purchase winter clothes for four of the children who wouldn't be receiving help from any other source. Although the children are placed in the school, it is still the parents' responsibility to provide clothing for the children. For the four children pictured above, the parents had no financial resources to provide that help.

In Andrey's words the teachers are doing their best to help the kids while keeping them in school. Simeon and Andrey are regularly invited to talk to the kids, especially about tolerating one another and ways to stop bullying one another. For Simeon and Andrey, it's an excellent path to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Think about that for a second. In Russia, bullying is as much an issue as it is here in the United States. However, in a largely atheistic nation, two believers are invited into a school to speak about bullying and are entirely free to incorporate the gospel into their message to the children. Yet, in America, supposedly a predominately Christian nation, if two believers entered a school and began sharing the gospel, they would immediately be shut down. The irony would be humorous if it weren't also so sad. But glory to God that Simeon and Andrey are able to share God's loving message to these kids!

But there's even more good news:

This past March, Simeon and Andrey were invited to the school to show THE GODMAN, a movie about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



The children at the board school watching THE GODMAN. Again, would a school in America be allowed to show a movie about Jesus Christ?

According to Andrey, the movie was very well received and everyone watched it with great attention! Seeds have once again been planted!

DON CHURCH MINISTERS TO SOCIAL REHAB CENTER IN YUGIDYAG



Antonena and Tamara singing gospel songs at the Rehab Center. The Don church often visits as an entire mission team. This past March they were invited to minister to the folks who live at the Rehab Center in Yugidyag, a village about an hour north of Don. The center is home to the homeless, the handicapped, and the elderly. Along with the concert by Antonena and Tamara, the team gave away Christian literature and gifts.

SEEDS SPROUTING IN GREVA!

As all of you know, more than a year ago, William took off for the village of Greva, about 4 hours from Don, in order to establish a second mission post. Leaving Simeon and Andrey behind to continue the ministry in Don, William loaded up the heart van, drove to Greva, and landed there without much more than a dilapidated, worn-out house to call home. It was reminiscent of when William and Andrey first drove into Don except this time William went without a translator. Without the help of a translator, William's ability to break through the barriers and wariness of the Greva community has been much, much tougher.

However, in early April, our mission team teamed up with the Agape Mission out of Moscow to work at bringing medical help and reading glasses to many of the Komi villages. Their first stop was in Greva. Many of the locals showed up to get medical help and reading glasses. Best of all, the Greva villagers heard the Gospel once again. Despite his limitations in presenting the gospel to Greva villagers,

William has been very creative in getting people to Greva who can communicate the gospel clearly. He also finds materials that are easily understood—movies, cartoons, books—anything that helps bridge the communication gap. As usual, just as what happened in the early years at Don, it is through the children that William is finding the openings. Just like in Don, William’s house in Greva is becoming a “safehouse” for the children. They can come there and watch cartoons, play, draw and eat.



Two Greva youngsters sit at a table in William’s kitchen and read the Bibles that William gave them. According to eyewitness Pastor Andrey, these two young ladies did this on their own, with no prompting by anyone.

OUR ACTIVE & GROWING CHURCH IN DON!

It continues to amaze this writer that our little mission is so blessed to have such a strong church family in Don, led by Andrey and Simeon—two Godly men who have a heart for saving the lost. Yet these two men are constantly reaching out to the villages around Don—trying to create Bible study groups everywhere. We are so blessed!



The picture is dark but it shows our mission team having a worship service at Luba’s house in the village of Pozheg. Andrey & Simeon lead a small Bible study group at Luba’s house. The group from Agape joined Andrey and Simeon for this worship service.



The youth group at our Don church sing at the Easter service. Left to right: Maria, Dimitry, Violetta, Aaron, Nikita, Vladik, Daniel, and Natasha. Vladik & Natasha are siblings and come from a home where both parents are alcoholics. That’s Simeon wife, Lena, leading the singing.