

WILLIAM WOOD MISSIONS TO RUSSIA



August 2016

(This newsletter & others can be downloaded at wwmtor.org)

School Ministry

From Andre:

"As you know by now the Lord has been opening doors for our ministry despite all the opposition. The Ust-Kulom school for children from problem families has asked us many times to buy clothes for their children. In addition, we were asked to share the Word with the students and staff.

In February and March, we were able to buy them clothes. We were later invited to talk with the students about God. We went to the school and showed a new Bible cartoon about David facing Goliath. The children watched the film with great attention. They realized that God can help them face their Goliaths (which they have quite a few, as many of the students come from broken families, some of them have addictions, etc).

The staff came to us after the presentation and said they wanted their families to watch such great films as well. We gave them information on how to do that. The owner of the store where we purchased the clothes was so moved that he later gave us a lot of brand new clothes to give away. And...every time Andre comes to his store now he gives him a good discount!"

(Pictured below are some of the children from the Ust-Kulom school who received clothing items.)



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

With Henderson County recently changing to 911 addresses, please note the following address change for funds sent by mail to the ministry:

*William Wood Missions to Russia
C/O Steve & Dianna Law
1693 Township Road 1400 E
Gladstone, IL 61437*

New Law Restricts Evangelism

A new anti-terrorism law went into effect July 20 that makes it illegal for any Russian over the age of 14 to share their faith outside a registered religious building. All evangelism is now forbidden in private homes, via e-mail, as well as social media. The law is to be enforced by local authorities, with law-breakers subject to steep fines. It is currently unclear what ramifications this new law will have on the ministry. Please join us in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ as well as the Russian government.

William's Turning 70!

William's 70th birthday is quickly approaching this fall! Help us celebrate by sending him a card! Drop a birthday card (please no cash or checks) in the mail to our new address at:

*William Wood Missions to Russia
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1693 Township Road 1400 E
Gladstone, IL 61437*



Skype William!

As William continues to make incremental health improvements, you can be a great encouragement to him! William and his nurse Maria can be reached via SKYPE video calling at "zhureva." The time difference between Central Standard Time and Syktyvkar, Russia is eight hours, so keep in mind it's the afternoon over there as you're waking up in the morning. We hope that by calling William on SKYPE you can be an encouragement to him and help stimulate his brain activity.

Go Paperless!

Looking for a way you can contribute to the ministry that will save you time and not cost a thing? Sign up to receive WWMtR newsletters via e-mail! Just simply send an e-mail to newsletter@wwmtor.org telling us you'd like to receive our newsletters by e-mail and you'll be removed from our "snail mail" list. This will help the ministry save money throughout the year on copies and stamps. Thank you for helping us in this way!

New Meter for Sister Luba

From Andre:

"We have been helping our sister in Christ Luba, from the village of Kekur. Sister Luba is the one whose house we have been holding Bible studies for several years now. She has been a faithful Bible student...She works for the local dairy farm and makes very little money. She needed to have her electric meter replaced. So, the ministry bought her an electric meter and Simeon replaced it for her." (pictured at left)

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*William Wood Missions to
Russia*

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NOT GREAT NEWS, BUT GOOD NEWS!

As I address this to our family of donors, prayer partners and friends, it has been over a year since all of us first learned of William's debilitating illness. Stunned, mystified, confused—the words we could all use to describe our reaction to the news are many, and none of them are positive. What were we going to do?

I applaud my fellow board members. Steve and Dianna Law unselfishly provided literally miles & miles of legwork in order to straighten out the financial matters that suddenly confronted us. Larry and Kerry Van Gundy proved to be excellent liaisons between all of us on this side of the ocean and Andre and Simeon. The rest of us simply plugged in however and wherever we were needed even though none of us knew what the final outcome would be. One over-riding principal ruled our thoughts and actions: William's personal welfare was priority number one. Andre was truly a warrior in helping us in that regard.

Approximately sixteen months later, where are we? Many of us were praying for a miraculous healing—wouldn't that be a crowning moment of William's ministry? When that didn't happen, many of us hoped and prayed that the Lord would just take William to be with Him, fulfilling William's greatest desire—to live eternally with his Lord. That hasn't happened either. What is happening is that William continues to make slow, but steady, improvement. Larry & Kerry have made it a practice to skype with William regularly. During a recent visit William actually waved goodbye to them! Not only that, but he flashed them a "thumbs up!" What an encouragement that was to all of us when Larry and Kerry reported that!

To whom do we owe this positive news? Of course, it is God. He is sovereign in William's life. And one thing He has marvelously done is put a woman named Maria in charge of his care. She is an incredible caretaker! Maria has also stated that no matter what, she intends to care for William until he no longer needs her. What a blessing she is!

Andre and Simeon continue to minister to the folks of Don and surrounding villages. They've done that despite all the uncertainties surrounding the life of the mission. We anticipated that giving would diminish since the face of the mission was down. Giving has diminished, but Andre and Simeon march on, declaring the Gospel at every opportunity. In fact, they have both stated that they plan to continue the ministry regardless of what happens on this side of the ocean. That's amazing faithfulness that speaks to all of us!

As a board, in the face of all this, what then should we do? Certainly, we covet God's clear direction. And He has provided. How can we not continue to work hard on behalf of the mission when there is still hope for William, when there is amazing and good work still going on, when there is still wonderful work to do?

Therefore, we as a board are resolved to move forward with William Wood Missions To Russia. We do so with enthusiasm while also knowing that there are still hills to climb. We do so encouraged about the good work in Russia that continues despite the uncertainties. We do so faithfully because we believe that God has provided us the direction we should take.

We don't know who will join us on this new journey. We sail mostly in uncharted waters. But all of you are certainly invited! Our little mission has thrived over the past 15 years, and so many lives have been changed for all of eternity. Our hope is that you will join us for this next part of the mission's journey. What will God do next? We're excited about the possibilities.

May our merciful God bless you all,

Dan Ashton, President
William Wood Missions To Russia.

We thank everyone who has donated to WWMtoR with your gifts & pledges which help meet the needs of the Russian people. We are thrilled to say that 100% of your donation goes directly to the mission field. This is possible because William uses his personal pension for his living expenses, and all administrative expenses are donated by the board. So any contribution you make to the ministry truly goes to Russia, funding needs and service projects, and partially supporting William's full-time ministry partners, Andre and Simeon and their families. In William's own words, *"Praise our Holy God and thanks to all of you for allowing me to return to Russia.... and the people I love so deeply!"* Please continue to partner with us in this great work in Russia.

____ Yes, I would like to support William Wood Missions to Russia with my monthly gift of:

___\$100 ___\$75 ___\$50 ___\$25 ___\$10 ___Other

___ I would like to support William Wood Missions to Russia with a one-time gift of: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to William Wood Missions to Russia, c/o Steve Law, RR 1 Box 222, Gladstone, IL 61437

For more information contact: Steve and Dianna Law - 319-759-6251

Thank you for your giving!

"All (100%) donations will go toward helping the blind, elderly, poor, invalid, orphaned, widowed, and imprisoned of Russia with the basic needs of life. However, our main focus is to bring the Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to win souls giving all the glory, honor, praise, and thanks to God."

About William Wood

"If Paul was the chief of sinners, then I was the Admiral," explains William Wood. "God not only saved my spiritual soul, but my physical life as well." Hopelessness, drunkenness, greed, self-hatred, total dependence on narcotics, and suicidal tendencies ended when William called on God. "Having totaled two cars because of alcohol and drugs, I knew it was only a matter of time until I killed someone, maybe even a little child." That fear helped send William to his knees to accept Christ as his Savior in 1991. From 1992-1997 William participated with Josh McDowell Ministries on nine two-week mission trips to Russia. He has also worked with Russian missions with Dr. Bill Becknell of Agape Medical Center, Manchester, KY for four years.

William returned to Russia January 1, 2003. He initially set up his main base in the settlement of Don in the Komi Republic. The Lord used him and his ministry partners, Andre and Simeon, to plant a church there. When the church was established, the Lord led William to the village of Greva, six hours from Don, where he currently serves and shows the love of Christ to the Russian people. Andre and Simeon remain in Don, pasturing, leading and teaching the believers there; they continue in William's legacy of service and sharing the Gospel with the precious people in Don and the surrounding villages, both near and far. God is multiplying your generous giving to support these exciting ministries and to grow God's Kingdom in the Komi Republic.

WILLIAM WOOD MISSIONS TO RUSSIA

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You can contact William by email at w.wood@mail.ru

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