

# WILLIAM WOOD MISSIONS TO RUSSIA



December 2016

(This newsletter & others can be downloaded at [wwmtor.org](http://wwmtor.org))

## Simeon's Stoves

This past June, Simeon went to the village of Badiolsk to build a wood stove for Alexander, a prominent member of the local community. A few years ago he was involved in a terrible traffic accident and was in a coma for many months. Andre and Simeon have known the family for a long time and have shared the Gospel with them on multiple occasions. After the accident Alexander's relatives decided to construct a house for him and Simeon was asked to help build a wood stove. Simeon built a brand new stove for Alexander and it was such a blessing to him and his wife. Hopefully, they will experience God's love and forgiveness of sins. *(Right: Alexander, Simeon & the new stove)*



Also in June, a single mother from the village of Kebanyal contacted Andre and Simeon asking if the ministry could build her a wood stove. Simeon, brother Nikolay from Yackoge, and several brothers from a Baptist rehab center came to help her. Simeon built the stove for her and her three kids and shared the Gospel with them.

Then in September, Simeon traveled to Yackoge to help a woman named Alona. Alona has accepted Christ and was baptized, yet she continued to struggle with alcohol addiction. She went through a rehab center program and decided to move to the village of Yackoge where there is a Baptist church. A local believer gave her a place to stay but she needed a new wood stove, which Simeon was able to build for her.



### 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*

## Update on William

Did you know November 29<sup>th</sup> was William's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday? If you would like to wish him a belated "Happy Birthday," send an email to Andre at: [andrey12nn@mail.ru](mailto:andrey12nn@mail.ru) and he will pass your message along. Or, if you would like to talk to William face-to-face, give him a video call on Skype by searching the name zhureva. He will be able to sit up to see you, wave, and may even be able say "hello" to you! William continues to make incremental improvements. He is now able to eat through his mouth by himself! Thank you for your continued prayers!



From Andre:

"The Lord has been good unto us. He has been blessing us and keeping us. The new anti-missionary law was passed in Russia in July 2016. It has made it more difficult for many Protestant churches here to share the Gospel. We hear that some pastors are already being tried somewhere in Russia for violating the new law, yet here it has been pretty much the same. We have not really noticed any major difference so far. Praise God for that! The law has made it more difficult for foreign missionaries to come and share their faith in Russia. Very few Russian Protestant churches invite westerners to preach at their conferences any more. Foreign missionaries may still come but the local Russian church must have a written contract with them licensing their activity in Russia. The Don church is doing fine... Thank you all for your support and prayers."

"The village of Don got a brand new community building in November 2015. It was such a joy as there are very few things you can do in a village here in Komi in your free time (especially in the winter time). Our Christian brother Arthur (who attends the Don church) was appointed to be the new director of the building. The local authorities opened the building, but a lot of work had yet to be done inside the building to complete it. So, brother Arthur has been asking Simeon to help haul stuff to the building and install equipment there. Simeon has helped install fitness equipment, haul a piano, and other things for the needs of the community center. The locals appreciate the help a lot. The local kids and teens love coming to the Center to play ball and hang out. Brother Arthur has been very active in the community. Last Christmas he organized a Christmas concert in the Center. Many locals were invited to participate. The Don church kids recited poems and sang Christian songs." (Left: Simeon & his wife Anna singing at the Center. Right: Children putting the new Center to good use!)



## **Missional and Incarnational**

A Note from Board Member Pastor Larry VanGundy

From the very beginning when William “Woody” Wood sensed God’s calling on him to go to the Komi Republic, the ministry has been both incarnational and missional. When Andre and Simeon joined William, they also embraced and, even today, continue to carry out God’s work in a missional and incarnational way.

Let me explain. Let’s first define our two terms: “*Missional*” living is the adoption of the posture, thinking, behaviors, and practices of a missionary in order to engage others with the gospel message. “*Incarnational*” living is immersing one’s self into a local culture (as Jesus did) and becoming Christlike to that culture. The apostle John said, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). The Lord pitched His tent with us - moved into the neighborhood.

When William, Andre, and Simeon initially settled in the village of Don, they didn’t set up shop or go to start a church; they went to bless and serve people in the Komi Republic. They went everywhere and anywhere doing good, and their only requirement was they were going to tell people about Jesus’ love for them. They fixed and repaired floors, walls, roofs, and pechkas and banyas. They built playgrounds and painted. They chopped and hauled firewood and repaired vehicles. Anything.

They didn’t have office hours, nor did they just sit behind a desk studying and planning or strategizing, although there is nothing wrong with any one of those things. In fact, these are necessary and needful. Rather, they spent time with people serving them, eating with them, working among them, all the time showing them the love of Jesus and sharing the Good News of the Gospel.

In God’s grace and kindness, a church was eventually planted in the village of Don that still reaches out to many villages in the Ust-Kulom District of the Komi Republic.

Likewise today, Pastor Andre and Simeon do not have an office to go to. They work out of their homes and minister daily among the people, serving them in all kinds of ways. They continue to build relationships and forge friendships to the end that God will be glorified (Matthew 5:13-16). They have opened up their homes and their hearts to all in their villages and the surrounding towns.

The following verse summarizes the ministry then and continuing today through Pastor Andre and Simeon. “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38).

Maybe we can learn something from their approach and be more missional and incarnational. It is not without a cost. You will sacrifice comforts, privacy, and conveniences, and your schedule will not be your own. But aren’t we all called as God’s children to be His servants and witnesses wherever God has planted us?

He is worth any and all sacrifices!

Pastor Larry Van Gundy

East White Oak Bible Church

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, 1693 Township Road 1400 E  
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](mailto:w.wood@mail.ru)

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