

# William Wood Missions To Russia



March – April 2009

## HOW'S THE SAWMILL GOING?



On the left, a view of the outside of the sawmill. It's finally enclosed.

On the right, one of the men operates the huge saw.



When William and Andrey were in the States last year, many of you asked about the status of the sawmill. As you can see from the pictures, it is now enclosed. However, they still have to be careful about operating during the winter. Since the extremely cold winter, they try to do most of their winter work out in the forest, felling trees and preparing them to bring to the sawmill. Then when the temperatures get warmer, they bring the logs to the sawmill and prepare them.

The sawmill has been a huge blessing for the community. When he was here, Andrey commented on how the men who worked at the sawmill had regained their pride in themselves and Andrey said you could see that reflected in their homes in Don because they were making improvements in their homes because they had a regular paycheck coming in. It also has been a blessing to the ministry because if they need to rebuild a home or a roof or a culture center, they have an excellent place to go to get the lumber for most of their projects. William recently mentioned in an email how the world economical crisis has also affected the young business as it still tries to get its feet under it, so we need to be in prayer for that.

On the spiritual side, Anatoli remains the lone believer among them. However, we have great news on that front! Anatoli recently invited Andrey to come and do a Bible study with the men. Andrey is teaching "Manhood Through God's Eyes." He also reports that, so far, they're doing a good job of listening! I've asked Andrey to supply the names of the men so that

we can all be praying that they will come to know the Lord God as Savior. From left to right, they are Andrei, Anatoli, Vasily, Fiodor, Vasily, and Ivan.



## THE THRIVING YOUTH GROUP IN DON

The youth group in the Don church continues to be active and thrive. They typically meet every Sunday night (approximately 8-10 show up). Simeon and Andrey lead them and they watch Christian movies, sing and produce little skits. Many times they “take the show on the road” to other communities. For example, they recently made a trip to Kebanyl where they presented the gospel, sang, performed some of their skits and then handed out Christian literature to all the kids who came and watched. Another time, they journeyed two hours to Puzla and did the same thing. In addition, Simeon and Alexei did a puppet show about the 10 Commandments.



The young ladies of the Don youth group perform a song/skit in Kebanyl.



Handing out New Testament bibles in the Komi language to the residents of Puzla.



A Christmas concert performance by the youth group.



Andrey’s soccer ministry continues to thrive on the soccer field in Don that he & Simeon built. Apparently, the weather isn’t an issue!

## NEW BABY IN THE HOUSE!

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Anya and Simeon had a healthy baby boy, who they named Nikita. Nikita joins his older sister, Veoletta. We offer our hearty congratulations to Anya and Simeon, and may the Lord guard his life and heart as he grows in Him.

## VICTORY IN VOCH! BUT PRAYER NEEDED!

Even before he joined our mission team in Russia, Alexei had targeted the nearby settlement of Voch. He and Simeon had made some trips there, but the mayor of Voch wouldn't let them work there. Now, however, "there's a new sheriff in town" as the saying goes. The new mayor's name is Valentina, and Alexei got to know her quickly. Soon he was holding Bible studies at her house! Next thing you know, he and Simeon have been to both the school and kindergarten in Voch, along with several other homes. Valentina hasn't repented yet, but she and her two daughters are very interested in the Gospel. Of course, this hasn't set well with the local Orthodox priest, who has complained to the higher government authorities in Ust-Kulom. They have threatened to fire Valentina if she continues letting Simeon and Alexei come to her village and share Christ. Simeon and Alexei have stayed true to our mission's practice of helping people with their needs by wiring the outside bathhouse to the house of one of the local teachers. We need to lift Valentina and the entire village of Voch up in prayer that God's ministry there through Simeon and Alexei can continue.



Watching a Christian video during a home Bible in Voch.



Presenting the Gospel in song at the kindergarten in Voch.



You can see the new wiring on the bathhouse in the picture to the right. It's getting close to nighttime by the time the picture on the left is taken so you might not be able to see the new wiring strung from the house in the background to the bathhouse in the foreground. You can also see the new utility pole that Andrey and Simeon raised between the two buildings to keep the wiring off the ground.



**NEW CAR UPDATE! We have raised \$4,000 of the needed \$8,000! Thanks to everyone who has so generously donated! If you'd like to help, please let Dan or Steve or Dianne know as soon as possible!**