

# **WILLIAM WOOD MISSIONS TO RUSSIA**



November-December 2012

## **EVEN WHEN PEOPLE MOVE, WE'RE STILL THERE FOR THEM**

If you checked back through your old newsletters, you would run across the name of Svetlana. About 5 years ago, Svetlana surrendered her life to Christ while living in Don. She was a severe alcoholic and the Lord has set her free from this addiction. Svetlana lives in a village called Kebanyal now, and her five children are now adults. She is living in an old apartment there that the government officials decided to just give to her. However, it needed significant work. So Svetlana contacted Simeon and Andrey to see if they could help at all. That meant dismantling the stove and working on the chimney—keep in mind that a source of dependable heat is easily the most important part of any dwelling in northern Russia.



This is Simeon on the roof of Svetlana's apartment. And the second picture is Simeon working on the stove from the inside of the apartment. That's Svetlana standing in the doorway with a huge smile!

## **CHURCH CAMP ISN'T JUST FOR AMERICAN KIDS**

The ministry has worked hard at staying in touch with Vasily Nehoroshev. You may remember that Vasily lived with mother in Don up until she died from alcoholism. Vasily was about 8 years old at the time. Vasily now lives with his father who is also a severe alcoholic. However, Simeon and Andrey do their utmost to keep Vasily exposed to Christian teachings, like sending him to church camp. The same is true for Alexander Napalkov. Fortunately for Alexander, his mother is a Christian and faithfully attends the church in Don. But that doesn't mean that both Vasily and Alexander won't be exposed to the same temptations of alcohol as they get older. Keep in mind that alcoholism is rampant in northern Russian and the pressure to drink is immense. So any and all means to keep Christ in front of these two young men will hopefully pay off in the long term of their lives. At church camp, these young people are taught to

pray, to read their Bibles, and to worship along with the usual time for play and games. Both boys reported back about the positive influences of attending church camp. Alexander's mother especially noted some very positive changes in Alexander upon his return from camp. Please keep these two young men in your prayers—that the Lord will keep them, protect them, and grow them into young warriors for His cause.



In the picture above, that's Vasily on the left wearing the baseball cap. In the picture to the right, Alexander is pictured with the camp's director.



## IT'S A SUSHA SIGHTING! (AND UPDATE)

Remember Susha—our young lady who led her mother and then her grandmother to Christ several years ago? Susha has taken over the children's church in Don and has already attended 3 Christian camps this past summer. Susha has only one year left in Don as she will be graduating from high school and then heading to Syktyvkar, where she hopes to continue her education. Of course, we fully expect and know that she will continue to be an ambassador for Christ wherever she goes!



This is Susha doing her part in helping Simeon organize a Christian retreat on a lake near the village of Don. About 25 young people were able to attend the retreat. That young man in the picture is none other than Alexander, the young man in the story above. Please pray that Alexander becomes the same sort of ambassador for Christ that Susha has become.



## THE DON CHURCH FAMILY TAKES A ROAD TRIP

In the village of Timsher ( about a 2 hour drive north of Don), there is a tiny Baptist church. A man named Waldemar attends this little church and asked the church family at Don to send someone to do some ministry there. So Simeon, Andrey, Aaron, Nina (Susha's grandmother), Zoya, and Antonena. The traveling ministry troupe led the small church gathering in singing hymns then Nina shared her testimony of how Susha, her granddaughter, first helped bring Olga (Susha's mom and Nina's daughter) to the Lord and delivered her from alcoholism and then how she herself surrendered her life to Christ too. Andrey preached a message about the Garden of Eden story. After the service two ladies approached the group and started asking questions. It turned out to be a great outreach trip for the church in Don and an excellent way to connect with the small evangelical community in Timsher.



Fellowshipping with the small church family in Timsher.



The Don group takes time for a picture before they leave to go home.

### NEW VAN CAMPAIGN UPDATE!

You may remember that Pastor Larry Van Gundy and his wife Kerry spent part of their summer in Don and Greva (William's new home). When they returned, they paid for a fabulous newsletter out of their own pockets so that they could share their experiences with all of us. In addition, they shared how the ministry is in desperate need of a second van. So Pastor Larry and Kerry initiated a \$15,000 Campaign. To date, we have raised \$300. Sure, we're still quite a ways from \$15,000, but let's all continue to faithfully pray that the Lord will meet this need in His perfect timing! If you'd like to make a contribution to the Van Campaign, simply send us your gift & note specifically that the gift is to go to the Van Campaign. As always, thank you so much for all your wonderful support. You all are greatly appreciated!



**Pastor Larry and Kerry Van Gundy**