

WILLIAM WOOD MISSIONS TO RUSSIA



October – November 2006

A SECOND AMERICAN GOES TO DON

“It’s an excellent mission. Bill is doing a good job.”

That’s the official report from Steve Law, our mission’s vice-president after returning from a 10-day stay in Don, Russia in July. We had the pleasure of listening to all of Steve’s stories at the most recent annual meeting held in August.

You might think that Steve would have a favorable bias since he does serve the mission as vice-president. However, he went to Don feeling skeptical about a couple of things.

“One of the things I wondered about is if the mission team was just working for Bill because they were being paid to. But Andrey, with his skills, could be making huge money in Moscow. When you see the house Andrey and his new wife are living in—a two-story house with all the windows upstairs broken out—you wonder why they stay in Don. Simeon’s house is a tad better, but it doesn’t take long to see what a great heart Simeon has and what a good worker he is.”

Steve’s second skepticism concerned the people who regularly attend the house church in Don. “I wondered if they were just coming to get food.” (Steve’s referring to how the church family in Don remains at the house after each Sunday morning service and eats together.) But, believe me, it’s not a big enough meal for anyone to get very excited about. The Christians in Don are sincere!”

The most poignant scene for Steve? While he was there, he had the privilege of witnessing the baptism of two villagers, a 14 year old girl and a 40 year old man. “When they baptize people, they have to walk from the house to the stream. That means they walk through the middle of the village with everyone watching. That’s not an easy thing to do.”

The most humorous situation? Trying to convince the church family of Don that William really was an “outlaw” before he became a Christian. They were intensely interested in finding out as much as they could about William, but just couldn’t seem to believe the pre-Christian William existed at all.

There are so many stories for Steve to tell that we could easily fill a half dozen newsletters. The best thing to do would be to invite Steve to come visit with your Sunday School class, Bible study or as part of your church’s worship service. Steve can be reached at (309) 627-2778.

THE SAWMILL BECOMES A REALITY!

Although much governmental red-tape made the start of a saw mill appear to be almost impossible, we are happy to report that it is now up and running....Here in William’s own words is the latest update...

“Anatoli now has seven men working for him and orders for lumber (are) coming in from many different settlements. I was deeply touched to see these men working. Last year the same men were spending their time in drunkenness. One, our neighbor, was passed out on the side of the road several times. I see different men (now.) Once again you see hope. They have jobs after years of depression from lack of work...Even though it may be another year before they can take any sum for themselves. Anatoli asked me to again thank (those who have supported the mill.)”

William asks for your prayers concerning these men with a new lease on life, that you will “continue to ask God to save them.”

THE GOSPEL IN RUSSIA – HAVEN'T THEY HEARD BEFORE?

September 26, 2006 email:

We went over and did some welding on Erma and Anatoli's wood stove, a good three hour's work before they had hot water. Afterwards we were talking about the end times and the 144,000. Erma's mother said something I thought you would like to know. Her words – "Before you and Andrey came we have never heard Jesus came from heaven to earth to die for us so we could have a relationship restored with God." They did hear about Jesus but thought he was Mary's Son and well, they heard God's Son as well. They heard nothing of the Gospel. I thought for sure someone had been there before to share but not according to Erma, her mother, and Anatoli.

We have a lot more work to do getting the Gospel spread... more than I even thought....

October 2, 2006 email:

The director of kindergarten asked if we could go to Pocheck and pick up meat at a state owned farm located about an hour drive from here. Later that night the Mayor called and asked if we could pick up the meat for the school in Don as well as the Shereog school which is a 45 minute drive in another direction. The meat is not packaged – it's still on the hoof – so Erma and Anatoli went with me to help carry it. When we got there Erma went in the farm office and later came out with a lady who took us to the sorta-locker to get the meat. Erma told her how much kilos for the schools and then how many kilos for me, the American.

Erma went back to the office to pay, but came back out and said, "They want to speak with you." You see, I was the first American to buy meat from them and they had heard about me but never met me.

I started sharing my testimony. The director said, "Stop! I want to gather more people to hear this." Soon about 15 people were gathered and (we had) a good 40 minutes of sharing. Questions were coming as fast as we could answer.

When we finished, they said, "Why have you not come here?"

I said, "I haven't been asked."

"Now you have," she said.

She got all our contact information and we departed, praising God. Now join us in prayer that God will work out the details for us to return and bring many to Himself. Over and over we say, "God is Great! Amen!"

PASTOR ANDREY'S FIRST BAPTISM

We started out with five people showing desire to be baptized. One lady named Valentina was strong in her Orthodox faith and had called us "cults" and told several

Monthly Donations Needed!

We thank everyone who has donated to WWMtoR with your gifts and pledges. However, more funds are needed to keep William in Russia meeting the needs of the Russian people. Very few missions can say that 100% of your donation will go directly to the mission field. This is possible because William uses his personal pension for his living expenses. All administrative expenses are donated by the board, so any contribution you make to the ministry truly goes to Russia. 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 help us keep William 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 yearly gift of: _____

Name _____

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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 – 309-627-2778

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 has set up his main base in the settlement of Don in the Komi Republic. The WWMtoR Board is hoping to raise enough support for William to remain in Russia 5 years.

WILLIAM WOOD MISSIONS TO RUSSIA

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