

The Don Church

The last few months have been busy ones for Don and the church there...



This summer the village of Don celebrated its 300th anniversary. Many members of the Don church took part in making the event happen, and the occasion was marked by visits from many people from other towns and cities. It was a great opportunity for the community to get together, fellowship, and celebrate the history of Don.

Also this summer, the Don church held an "old classic" Bible study in the open next to a river. It was a great opportunity for the church to get together, worship the Lord, study His Word and enjoy some barbecue. It has become a fun tradition for the Don church every summer. (Not pictured are about 7 or 8 members of the church family that could not make it that day).



Pastor Andre's Family Adventure

The Kudinov's first family vacation in many years included visits to family as well as the neighboring countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania...



While the Kudinov family was travelling, they had the opportunity to visit several churches and worship with them. Pastor Neemo from a church in Estonia had visited the Don church once previously, now Andre was able to return the visit. Andre was able to be the guest speaker that morning—it was a great time of fellowship (pictured below)!



While in Estonia, the Kudinovs visited the Estonian University town of Tartu. There they met a local professor who had received a research grant to study the region of Komi. While he was in the Komi region, the professor was so impressed by the Christian church in Don that he felt led to publish a work on the role and impact the Don church has had on the local community! Tartu, Estonia is well over 1,100 miles away from the Don church... To God be the glory!! (Below are pictures from the published paper)



Singing religious songs at the church is usually accompanied by guitar and synthesiser.
Photo: Art Laeta, 2011.

The majority of the churchgoers are middle-aged and elderly women. Ethnically, most of the members are Komi, although there are also Russians (including the pastor) and Ukrainians and thus the services are held in Russian. The services are conducted in a private house adapted to accommodate religious gatherings (Photo 4).

PIRET KOOSA

Negotiating faith and identity in a Komi village: Protestant Christians in a pro-Orthodox sociocultural environment

Simeon's Projects

Don villagers stop by Simeon's on a regular basis for help with a welding project, car repairs, or other projects...



Just a sampling of Simeon's projects from this summer include: welding a stove on a bath house for a community member (above left), replacing the drywall in the Don church house (above right), work on the Don community center (bottom left), and helping a handicapped neighbor work on his house (bottom right).



Update on Bill



Here is the most recent picture of Bill from Pastor Andre. Andre visited Bill in Syktyvkar in early October and reports that Bill is still about the same. His nurse Maria is still taking care of him and his condition has not changed. Please continue to lift up Bill and his nurse Maria in your prayers!

For more pictures and continued updates on Bill and the ministry, look us up on Facebook at:

William Wood Missions to Russia

-or-

Website: <http://wwmtor.org>



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 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.

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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."