

# WILLIAM WOOD MISSIONS TO RUSSIA



January-February 2011

## THE GOSPEL IS SHARED WITH MARINA LODIGUINA

Over the past years, the mission has done several good works at the Ust-Kulom Correction Boarding School. They've been allowed to show Christian movies there and fellowship with the kids whenever they've been invited. The mission team has gotten to know the Principal there very well, and they've witnessed to her and her husband a few times. Some of the kids are mentally retarded, yet others just come from families dealing with huge problems like alcoholism. Marina came to the home because her mother died about a year ago, and she was living with her unemployed father, who was also trying to care for his sick mother. The Principal called William and asked if the mission would be able to buy her some clothes. As you can tell by the large bag Marina is carrying, Lena was able to help her find a good supply while Andrey shared the Gospel with her and presented her with a New Testament. Andrey also shared with her that the money for the clothes came from Christians in the US. Even little Aaron did his part, sitting in the back seat of the van with Marina and then turning to her to say, "Jesus loves us all!" Good job, little evangelist!



## THE WORK IS NEVER DONE



Last spring, William and Simeon took on another work project at the local Don kindergarten. They installed a new water heater and bathroom sinks. Once again, they shared the Gospel with the teachers there, but still no one from the school has come to know Christ. However, the mission team will continue its good work there by continuing to plant the seeds and wait patiently for the harvest.

## YOU JUST NEVER KNOW



L-R: Zoya, Leah, Tamara, Raya, Maria



Accompanied by Simeon, Zoya and Raya sing at an outreach in the village of Rutch.

You just never know when you might have an opportunity to reach out to someone with the Gospel. Raya's day started out normal enough. She was running some errands and just happened to run into Zoya, a retired school teacher, on Don's main street. Zoya's husband had just died of cancer, and she was feeling a great deal of emptiness inside. Raya invited her to the ladies' Bible study that Antonena holds every Friday night, and Zoya decided to come. She was overwhelmed by the ladies' kindness and love, not to mention the truth of God's Word. As Raya and Zoya became close friends, Zoya started attending church in Don. Then she gave her heart and life to Jesus. Zoya has expressed to the church family that her newfound faith has given her a new beginning, purpose and comfort in life. She volunteers at the church and recently joined the group who went to the village of Rutch on an outreach program. Not only did Zoya and Raya sing at Rutch, but they often sing duets during the worship service at the Don church. We praise the Lord for using Raya and the rest of the church ladies to bring Zoya to Him!

You just never know...how long did Antonena, who at one time was the only Christian living in Don, pray and imagine and hope that there might be a day when she would actually have a Bible study for ladies in her home? Who could have imagined that 10 year old Marina, who practically met William and Andrey while they were moving into the house at Don by peering over the fence at them, would be the path that God used to bring her parents, Erma and Anatoli, to Him. Erma then shared the Gospel with Raya, her mother. At first Raya resisted but then God changed her heart. That all happened way back in 2005-2006. Now, fast forward to the spring of 2010. Raya happens to meet Zoya on Don's main street...you just never know.

But that extends even further—with William's conversion way back in the 90's, and then how the Lord places this burning desire in William's heart to go to the people of Russia and spread the Gospel. Then the Lord stirs in the hearts of a handful of American Christians to support this tiny little mission. You just never know...

## THE DON YOUTH GROUP: ALIVE AND WELL



The Don youth group at the Komi church That's Susha, Svehana, & Marina standing in front of Pastor Andrey in the middle-back.



The youth deliver Gospel packets in Ust-Kulom L-R: Susha, Simeon's toddler daughter Violetta held by Pastor Andrey, Svehana, Marina, and Alona

Pastor Andrey and Simeon are keeping Don's youth group very busy. In October, the group decided to have a clean-up night at an intersection in Ust-Kulom. There is a bus-stop at the intersection and a little shed that people use to protect themselves from the cold while they wait for the bus. Beer, wine, and vodka bottles were scattered everywhere in and around the shed. After cleaning up the premises, the group left a small bundle of Gospel packets wrapped in plastic files in the shed, said some prayers and left. The next day, Pastor Andrey drove by the shed and saw that all of the Gospel packets were gone! Here's hoping and praying that even now, God is using those packets to bring people to Him.

Then in November, the group met up with a Komi church group in Syktyvkar. It was a fun time of fellowship, singing, and getting to know each other. They also enjoyed a small drama put on by the Komi youth about the value of a good marriage. Each summer, the Don youth get to attend the Komi Christian church camps. Also, if any of the kids in Don get the opportunity to go to college, they will probably end up in Syktyvkar. This way they will be very familiar with the church families in Syktyvkar.

To the right, Simeon & Susha work on the trash.



To the left, Marina shows a smile as she works hard at the trash pick-up. Svehana and Alona help out behind her.

