

WILLIAM WOOD MISSIONS TO RUSSIA



July-August 2011

WILLIAM COMING HOME IN NOVEMBER!

We're happy to announce that William will be State-side during the months of November & December. We announced that in our last newsletter and since that time, we continue to "firm up" itineraries. To date, the schedule is as follows:

Sunday, November 13th: Grace Evangelical Free Church in Aledo

Sunday, November 20th: Rozetta Baptist Church in Rozetta

Sunday, December 11th: Magazine Church of God in Magazine, AR

That leaves plenty of Sundays to pick from in order to have William visit your church. Or if a Wednesday night or another night would work best for your church or church group, just let Dan know, and he'll get you on the schedule. Dan can best be reached at (309) 331-3148, or at his email address : cstonefinancial@juno.com.

William will be using his own funds to get back to the States, and once here, he will purchase a very economical car, again from his own funds. That is keeping with the Board of Directors' ongoing pledge to never use any donated funds except for the betterment of the lives of the Russian people. However, if you would like to help William with his personal expenses while he is here, please feel free to do so. Also, we will need to provide lodging for William. If you would like to serve as one of the host homes for William during his time here, please let Dan know that as well.

The other piece of news to pass along is that William has found a new village to re-locate. It's called Greva (approximately 6 hours from Don), which is a small village near Kodorodick, the town we mentioned in the last newsletter regarding the young pastor and his wife who desired to build a church there. William found a house in Greva, which he purchased with his own funds. As much as we are able, the mission will continue supporting our three young pastors in Don and all the ministries they've helped William build around Don while helping William establish the new ministry in Greva. We trust that the Lord will provide as wonderfully and bountifully in this new leading as He has throughout the history of this mission.

We'll leave the rest of this huge change for William to tell once he gets State-side. Meanwhile, we ask everyone to be in prayer for this new adventure. It's exciting to contemplate about what the Lord God may cause to happen with all of this.

REPORT FROM PASTOR ALEXEI

As you remember, I minister with my family in the Ust-Kulom District. Since I started getting support from you in my ministry, I have had more opportunities to do outreaches, support my cell groups and preach the Gospel to more people. In my home group, we have a team of 4 people: that's my wife, me, and Sergei and Luba, who are married and are new leaders. Sergei and Luba live in the village of Loguinyag where Sergei does the children's Sunday School, and Luba holds Bible studies.

Right now we have 6 cell groups where Christians gather and study the Bible. As usual, once a month all of our cell groups gather together at one location for a service and fellowship. We also do workshops for our people to help them grow spiritually. Recently I invited a pastor with his wife to do a seminar on the negative consequences of living out of wedlock. Besides that, we continue to preach the Gospel, deliver used clothes for needy people, organize dinners for unbelievers to join us for fellowship, and simply visit unbelievers in their homes.

We have a great desire to launch cell groups in every village of our district, and we need leaders to do that. Like the Bible says, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.' That is why I ask you to please pray for new, serious ministers in our team. I drive a Russian 4-wheel drive vehicle. I pick up people and take them to our services and different events. Sometimes I have to haul more people than the law allows. Sometimes it is just easier to do it that way, rather than to hire another vehicle or to make 2 trips. That is why we already started to pray for a good van for our ministry. We will be thankful for your prayers so that our real needs are met. We praise the Lord for the Don church, for brothers William, Simeon, and Andrey who are always willing to help! May the Lord bless them! We also thank God for you, for all the prayers and blessings! God bless! Brother Alexei



Several of the cell groups meet together



An evening of Bible study at Alexei's house.



Clothes being distributed at Alexei's house



These ladies listen attentively at the marriage seminar

PASTOR ANDREY'S REPORT

We greet you again from Don, Russia with the latest info about what God has been doing in our ministry. The Lord has been good to us in 2011. The Don church, by God's grace, is growing in the Lord: different types of ministries are being developed. New folks have started attending church! To God be the Glory!

This past Christmas, Simeon and I took our youths to a children's shelter in the village of Ibe (about 3 hours from Don). The shelter is a boarding school for children who come from problem families. The state is taking care of them until either the parents straighten up, or the kids get sent to an orphanage. We just wanted the kids to have some fun and feel loved. We sang songs, watched a Christmas movie and gave some Christmas gifts to the children. It was a great time of fellowship and fun.

We've started doing more home visits. As you know, we are no longer allowed to share Christ at the culture halls in our district, but we can still share our faith in private homes. We believe the Lord put it on our hearts to be visiting people in their homes. One example is a visit a group of us made to Dunya's house this past spring. Dunya is an elderly woman, a shut-in who cannot walk. During the visit we shared the Gospel with her and her daughter. We sang Christian songs in Komi with them, and we left a series of Komi messages with them to listen to.

Then there was our Bible-study course graduation. This is a study many of us in the Don church went through for an entire year. We finally finished it on April 6, 2011. What a joy it is to see so many of the Bible students from the Don church mature in their faith! Finally, we love you and wish you great blessings! Pastor Andrey.



Snezhana, Marina, Alona join Andrey at the Children's shelter as they open their Christmas Presents!



Andrey and the church ladies enjoy their visit w/ Dunya and her daughter.



Andrey and some of the Bible Course Graduates enjoying their last study time together.