

William Wood Missions To Russia



July-August 2009

SUSHA'S MOM RECEIVES CHRIST AS HER SAVIOR!



Many of you may remember Susha's story. When William and Andrey first arrived in Don, Susha was among that first group of little girls that first curiously peeked over the fence. Soon Susha gave her life to Christ and became a member at the church in Don. As she got older, she began helping with the youth group activities, mainly with the younger kids.

But there was always a dark spot covering her life. Her parents, Olga and Valeri, were alcoholics. And her grandmother Nina also lives w/Susha's family. Nina is not an alcoholic, and she once published a letter in

(Left to Right: Andrey, Lena, Aaron, Susha, and Susha's little brother)

the local newspaper that praised the work of the mission team. But she's not a believer either.

Susha's situation led many of us to begin praying for Olga, Valeri and Grandma Nina. Following is how God answered our prayers:

This past winter, Susha showed up at the evening Sunday service just a tad late. She was terribly upset and crying. Andrey asked her if her parents were drinking, and Susha nodded her head. William immediately stopped the service and asked everyone to begin praying for Susha's parents.

The next Sunday, Olga surprised everyone by showing up for the morning worship service. Nothing happened that Sunday, but the following Sunday, the same thing happened—Olga came to church again. The 3rd Sunday, no Olga. But on the 4th Sunday, Olga was back. And this time she was ready to turn her life over to the Lord!

Since then, Olga has become a faithful member of the church in Don and also vigorously participates in the Wednesday night Bible Study where she is full of questions about the Christian faith. We praise God for Olga's new-found and growing faith! If she were able to be among us face-to-face, we feel certain that she would gratefully thank all of us for our intercessory prayer on her behalf and also for making this mission possible.

ALEXEI'S NEW CAR!

Pictured below is the new car for Alexei and Alexei standing beside the car. It's a four-wheel drive that enables Alexei and Simeon to go practically anywhere they want as they minister in all the surrounding villages of Don. The car cost \$8,000 and as of this newsletter, gracious donors have given \$5,515 extra for the car. As we said in an earlier newsletter, since this was such an important need for the ministry, the Board was willing to use regular donations for the purchase of the car if the Lord saw fit not to lead anyone to give extra. But, praise God, so many of you responded with giving beyond your usual gifts, and we praise God for your gracious generosity! Having said that, we are still accepting donations specified only for the car. If God lays it on your heart to help us raise the last \$2,485, then just go ahead and send a check to us, specifying that this is for the purchase of the car only.



MAKING ANOTHER MOVE IN THE MISSION

As many of you know, this past June, William made a surprise visit back home to Illinois. He was only here for about five days. In typical William-fashion, he used his own money to fly to Chicago, catch a bus to Peoria then hitchhiked to Burlington, where he purchased a small tent and a bicycle from Wal-Mart. Then he camped out at a park near Burlington. He didn't want to be a bother to anyone.

More importantly, what prompted the trip back? Simply, William wonders if it's time for him to move on from Don, and he was seeking counsel from the Board. William doesn't think he's needed in Don anymore. Andrey serves very capably as the pastor of the church while also heading up the home base for the mission. Simeon and Alexei team up to reach out to the villages surrounding Don. Simeon provides all the handyman skills as usual while Alexei teaches God's Word.

So William would like to open up another ministry somewhere else in the northern reaches of Russia. That would mean hiring a new interpreter since Andrey would stay behind in Don. Hopefully,

though, the new interpreter would be a combination of Andrey and Simeon. This would also be an additional cost to the mission as we think it's very important to continue supporting the work of Andrey, Simeon and Alexei back at the Don headquarters while creating a new outreach.

It's exciting to see how God has blessed the mission thus far. Because of the gracious generosity of all our donors, William and the team have never ever lacked the funds to help others as they spread the Gospel. We believe that the mission can handle this growth because the Lord has proven again and again that He's the Provider of all! We're not asking anyone to give more, but one way you can help is to continue to spread the word about William Wood Missions To Russia. We currently have five churches that faithfully and strongly support the mission, but we can always use support from one or two more churches. If you know of a church that might be willing to consider support of the mission, please contact either Steve or Dan. Also, it's always amazed us when we receive a check in the mail from someone who we've never heard of. That happens either because of word-of-mouth or because someone hands off one of the newsletters. Please continue to do that. That may not seem like much to you, but God has blessed that richly!

Of course, we'll keep you posted as to this latest development. Meanwhile, we hope that everyone will join us in praying for this possible new venture by the mission team. If this is the direction that God wants the mission to go then we want to be faithful and steadfast as we move forward with this.

2ND CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE HELD IN DON!



Could it be that Don's becoming a Christian center in northern Russia? Pictured below is a picture of the 2nd Christian conference held at the little church in Don this past spring. I believe that is Alexei at the podium. Andrey is also working w/ one of the pastors in Skytivar to hold a youth retreat in Don next spring. One of the most interesting parts of all this is that this is happening as the Orthodox church is applying more and more pressure via the local government to stop our mission team. Please continue to lift up the mission team, asking for God's protection as they continue to spread the

Gospel and help the needy in all the ways that God leads them to.