



Footprints Notes



Footprints International's Ministry In Russia

Summer 2008

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Holy Trinity Church

The congregation has been enjoying the preaching and teaching of Pastor Vadim. Scott Larson, a student at Gordon Conwell Seminary, has also done some preaching at Holy Trinity as a part of his summer internship program. As this newsletter goes to press, preparations are being completed for Holy Trinity's evangelistic family summer camp program which will take place in mid August.

Community Center Under Construction

After 10 years of cramping our activities into various apartments and most recently a basement, construction of the Community Center in Tyumen is now underway. It's exciting to see walls going up and a dream becoming a reality.

This building will provide much needed space for the ministries of Holy Trinity Church and for various programs of the Cultural Center. It will also be used to support some of the activities of the Christian Community at large.



Phase 1 of this project (the weather tight shell) is scheduled for completion by November. The shell (which includes exterior walls, roof, windows and doors as well as interior floors and stairways) must be completed before the severe Siberian winter weather arrives. Due to rising prices in Tyumen and the declining value of the US dollar, we currently need an additional \$25,000 in the very near future in order to complete the shell before winter. **Additional support at this critical time will be greatly appreciated.**



The Cultural Center Library



Tatyana Philipova - Librarian

Our library is open to all, but most of its regular patrons are believers or seekers. While a few library patrons take books only for them-

selves; most share books with friends, co-workers, neighbors, fellow-believers. Small group leaders are the most active library users. They use books and other library resources; such as audio cassettes, CDs and DVDs, as effective tools for discipleship and their small group's growth. The local Christian community appreciates our work and supports the library to the extent of their abilities.

I believe these are the main tasks of our library - to help children love to read and to fill a spiritual void in adults. Our books offer a source of help

and comfort; a breath of fresh air which is so necessary in the world of modern non-Christian literature.

Children are a subject of my special attention and concern. Most children today are not interested in reading books, mostly because parents don't read books together with their children anymore. This results in a lack of communication, diminished reading skills and language competence, and ultimately leads to alienation. I talk to parents and explain to them the importance of developing the habit of reading

when a child is very young. We work together to choose books that would be interesting for their child, taking into account his or her personality and interests.

The CEC library is the result of efforts of many people: those who started it; those who have been praying for it over all these years; those who support it financially; those who provide it with books and other resources; those who help us develop it. And I praise the Lord for each of them.

LIFE ON PURPOSE

BY JEFF & AMY BRAKE [HTTP://LIFEONPURPOSE.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://lifeonpurpose.blogspot.com/)

Jeff & Amy lead camp interpreter discussions on relationships & the most important relationship of all.

We've been conducting a weekly discussion group with interpreters from Camp Ark. Attendance has been between 15-20 people each week! In the last month the topics have all been focused on relationships: What is



love? What is truth? What is trust? Who can be trusted?

At 7pm people start to gather at our apartment. We have

conversation in Russian for about 30 minutes. We do our best to keep up, and we are usually furiously scribbling notes in our notepads as we learn new words and phrases. We've been introducing them to American baked goods as a special culture sharing. And they've helped us learn how to make a few Russian favorites. This week's taste treat was banana bread. Russians don't have anything like it - and it was more popular than Grandma's.

Following time for chatting, we usually have a discussion for an hour or so. This week, we had an incredible 2 hour long talk where several nationals shared their stories and how

they've learned that the father can be trusted. It was an emotional time but quite useful for all in attendance.

After the talk, we take a brief break for tea and more baked goods and then we wrap up the night with a game. One week it was an hour of charades! It was great fun. The Russians all guess in English and get to use their extemporaneous language skills while having a lot of fun.

We've been building great relationships with this group and we're excited for the opportunity to share with them about the most important relationship of all.

BIBLE COLLEGE

In May, two teachers made return visits to the college to the delight of the students: Dr. Wally Hostetter taught the Old Testament Survey course and Dr. David Brown taught the Wisdom Literature course.

David and Marsha Brown also conducted a Christian mar-

riage seminar and Linda Hostetter conducted several seminars for widows while the Bible college was in session.

The Bible College remains in need of a Russian academic dean and additional funding. Please keep this matter in your prayers.



Dave Brown Works With Students

Dr Ebud Garcia and his wife Neiva to teach courses on Biblical Theological Orientation & Doctrine of God this fall.

CAMP ARK 2008

33 kids Out of 77 non-believers & 2 interpreters made first time professions of faith .



104 kids, including 34 from three orphanages, participated. The Russian staff of 37 came from four churches in Tyumen and from churches in Ekaterinburg, Kurgan, Omsk, Karaganda and Urengoy. Two

interpreters and 33 kids made first time professions of faith. The American team worked so well together that many of the Russian staff didn't realize that they were from three different churches. Friendships were made that will endure and grow through the wonder of email and cell phones!

A first at camp this year: One family with 6 children, ages 5 to 18 were among the 26 Americans who participated. In addition to the usual sports,

crafts, music, games, English lessons and tie-dye T-shirts; talented team members added individual jump roping and provided caricatures of the campers this year. Another first: The Americans won the Russian-American soccer competition! One interpreter, a Russian folk dancer, gave an impressive demonstration of his skill, to the delight of all.

TRADITIONS - RUSSIAN WEDDINGS

BY SALLY FOOTE

To be legally married in Russia, a couple must be married in a government marriage house by a government official, in accordance with a standard procedure. Clergy are not licensed to conduct weddings. As in an American wedding, the bride is dressed in a white gown and the traditional wedding march is played as the bride and groom walk into a hall followed by their friends and relatives. The couple agrees to the marriage, saying "I do" and exchange rings but make no long term commitments to each other (no "richer or poorer"). After signing papers, guests congratulate the newlyweds and quickly go to the next room where the newlyweds dance to recorded music. The entire wedding takes about 20 minutes and then everyone leaves to make room for the next wedding. This goes on all day long, one after the other.

The couple then drives around town taking pictures at special places - like the eternal flame monument to World War 2 in Tyumen (each city has its own special places). There is usually a large party at a restaurant or hall where more of the couples' friends and family attend

and party into the night. A new tradition in Tyumen is for newlyweds to inscribe their names and wedding date on a padlock, attach it to the walking bridge over the Tura River and throw the keys into the river.

If the couple wishes, a church wedding takes place as soon as practical after the government wedding. A typical Protestant wedding ceremony will usually be at the end of the next regular worship service. The pastor will talk about marriage, ask the couple about their commitment to each other and to Christ and confer upon them the blessing of the church. A reception follows with food usually prepared by friends and family. The couple sits in front and guests are required to entertain them with a special toast, song, skit or tales from the bride and groom's youth.

A typical Russian Orthodox wedding will include much more ritual and symbolism. Holy Matrimony is one of the Mysteries of the Russian Orthodox Church in which a man and woman are united by the Holy Trinity. The bride and groom hold candles to symbolize their spiritual willing-



ness to receive Christ. Crowns are held over their heads as signs of the glory and honor with which God crowns them during the Mystery. They are crowned as the king and queen of their own home; the domestic church, which they will rule with fear of God, wisdom, justice and integrity. The crowns are also signs of martyrdom since every true marriage involves self-sacrifice on both sides.



*Candles & Crowns
hold special Meaning in
Russian Orthodox
weddings.*

An Item for Praise

Days before returning to the US, Sally visited a doctor for a very bad cold and fever that started at camp. The doctor ordered a CAT scan which showed what the radiologist called an "unconfirmed" tumor. Subsequent examination in the US showed that the mass was a swollen lymph node, as a result of pneumonia, which was receding. Praise the Lord! Thank you for your prayers.

*Newlyweds lock an
engraved padlock on the
love bridge to seal their
marriage.*

PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

BY VICTORIA ROMANOVA

For 5 years the **Right for Life** Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC), with the help of volunteers from local churches, has counseled women, as young as 14, who wanted to know if they were pregnant. All of them received a free pregnancy test, saw the film "Silent Scream", and heard the Good News about our Savior, Jesus Christ. Most of them did not realize the serious physical and psychological consequences of abortion

nor the depth of the sin of abortion. Although many women ignored this information, 8 babies that we know about, have been saved to date.

Offering free ultra sound testing will greatly increase the influx of clients. What a blessing it will be when every mother (fathers, too) can see her child in her womb and tell others about this kind of service at the PRC. More babies will be saved and more

women will hear about Jesus.



We appreciate the contributions received for the purchase of an Ultra Sound system and plan to have it in operation by year's end.

It's not a Choice,

*It's a **Baby!***



Footprints, International

"Sharing Culture - Sharing Christ"

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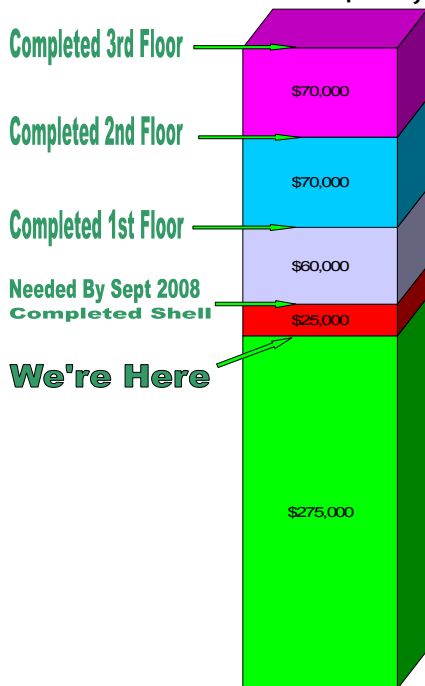
Prayer Requests

As friends and supporters, we count on your continued prayers for this ministry, In particular, We would appreciate your prayers for:

- Funds to complete shell before winter
- Solution to Russian Visa Problems
- New students for the Bible College
- Acclimation to Russian culture for Jeff & Amy
- Continued progress in Russian for Jeff & Amy and Jeff Bain
- Completion of Support for Jeff & Amy and Jeff Bain
- Strength, stamina and wisdom for Jim & Sally

Community Center Building

Goal - \$500,000



THE TYUMEN BUILDING FUND



With inflation running as much as 20% in Russia and the Dollar falling in relation to the Ruble, construction of Holy Trinity needed to begin now or perhaps never. We stepped out in faith. We trust that God will provide the final \$25,000 by September to make the completed shell weather tight with windows, doors, and a roof. Siberian winters would not be kind to an open building. Can you help us reach our immediate Goal?

Yes, I want to do what I can to close the gap so that winter will be kept outside where it belongs. Please accept my contribution of \$_____ Name_____

Please clip this section and send it with your check to Footprints International, PO Box 211, Milford Michigan 48381-2504. All contributions are tax-deductible.



A higher standard
A higher purpose

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim Peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"