

The Family Report

Loving God...

Loving You...

June 10, 2007

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Volume 1, Issue 3

Russian Report 2007 (continued)

Continued from April 16th...

At 11:00 a.m. Teresa and I met Alicia and Tamara (Kostya's mother) and went to the hospital to see Valera (Kostya's dad) who has been quite ill. On our way back down the road to catch the bus we heard tires screeching and then a thud. I thought, "there has been a car crash." I ran a short distance to the corner and looking across the street I saw a body lying there in the road. Alicia and I ran across the road to lend assistance. Alicia is a nurse so she knew what to do. An ambulance was called and in the mean time Alicia did what she could. About one third of the lady's head was gone and I saw her scalp and a piece of her skull laying in the road. The ambulance finally

came and we loaded her on the stretcher and she was placed in the ambulance and was taken to the hospital where Alicia is the head nurse. Alicia said, "the hospital let her lay there in shock and did nearly nothing," and later that evening she passed away. It was a terrible sight to see and I had trouble sleeping for quite a while as I could see that lady's face in my mind!

Brother Boris (sister Marina's son) has to have a cornea transplant or the Doctor's say, "he will go blind." He is waiting on that procedure to take place. Marina said that a while back he and a friend were at a restaurant and they walked outside so the friend could smoke a cigarette. The police were standing there and told Boris he had broke a

mirror on a car and had to pay for it. Boris told them, "I didn't break a mirror on any car." They ordered him into the police car and took him out of town a piece and told him to get out of the car. There two men were waiting and told him to pay money and started hitting him in the face. He told them he had no money, so they told him, "to go away," so he walked back to town.

18th - We had a good service this evening and a number of members came out. While services were going on some boys were tapping on the windows so Lera went out to talk to them. In a few minutes here came six boys and they sat down and listened very intently. After services we gave them coke and cookies and they said, "we will be back."

Sunday morning the 22nd. The church house is nearly full. *Continued on page 2...*

June Calendar of Events

- Sunday (10th) morning service speaker: Wes
- Wednesday (13th) evening speaker: Luke (Eph. 1)
- Sunday (17th) morning speaker: Jeff
- Wed. (20th) evening speaker: Wayne (Eph. 2)
- Sunday (24th) morning speaker: Todd followed by a dinner evening: MOVIE NIGHT!!!!

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Happy Father's Day!!!!



Don't forget your dad on June 17th!

Check out the movie insert!

Invite a friend!!!

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A number of visitors have come and some members that haven't been around for some time. Nikoli has been talking with them trying to encourage them. Four members from the Michurinsk church have come to visit. Nikoli has recently baptized a woman from Michurinsk and she has come to visit. One of the sisters from Michurinsk said, "we have ten people meeting in my home now for services." Nikoli goes to Michurinsk every Sunday after Tambov services.

I had business cards made up for me with the church address, times of services, and Alicia's phone number for information. Teresa and I hand these out everywhere we go.

We meet many people in the market that get used to seeing us and we will often hand them a card. We were walking by the river one evening while Teresa was trying to help Dema (Vadim's son) with an English lesson. A man named Art heard us talking in English and came up and introduced himself. He said, "I have been to America five times and love it." He invited me to speak at the university as he teaches there. I gave him a card and Wednesday evening he and five of his English students showed up at services.

I met with Dominic, Roman, and Vladimir for lunch. Roman and Vladimir are young men who need to obey the gospel and I preach to them every year when we meet. Vladimir said that when he was twelve his grandfather took him to the Orthodox Church for baptism. He said the priest took him by all the icons

(pictures of saints) so he could kiss them. A piece of his hair was cut and placed in wax then into water to see if it would float. Then water was poured on his head for baptism." I told him, "water baptism is a burial not a pouring," and he took the information quite seriously.

While I was meeting with the boys for lunch Teresa had a visitor at the flat. One of the neighbors was upset about the boys coming to the services. She was speaking to Teresa in Russian which was not understandable but shaking her fist at her. Teresa said she tried to shut the door but the lady wouldn't let her and the woman kept trying to come in. Alicia went over to talk to the neighbors about the problem. The neighbor said, "you have made for yourselves about thirty enemies." The parents and grandparents don't want the children attending your cult as you are twisting their thinking." I met the boys on the street and told them what had happened. I told them they needed to talk to their parents and invite them to services to see what we are about." Alicia said, "the boys looked quite upset." Evidently the parents have no control over the boys so they want us to run them off any time they come to services. Why do we have an appeal to the boys? I told them when they came to services," we thank you for coming and hope you will bring God great happiness by the life you live and I want you to know I will be praying for you." Vladimir Motov told me later, "Gary, when you told the boys you were praying for them they were shocked. They will never forget

those words you spoke for the rest of their lives." The boys have not returned since this episode.

We spoke with Olga (Vladimir's wife) about her baptism. She was baptized in the Orthodox Church but has been reading her Bible and is coming to the conclusion her baptism isn't right. So I asked her, "what are going to do with what you are learning?" She replied, "I don't know. You see, if I obey the Bible I will be like a 'traitor' to my country and the Orthodox Church." Not only that, her sister is strict Orthodox and would be relentless! Olga is suffering from acute FEAR! Has fear ever caused you to make a decision that was contrary to the Bible? We can just as easily find ourselves afraid of other Christians, family, or friends. Isn't it easy to tell others what they should do to obey. We often tell them, "don't worry about what others think." But when we are faced with a decision that will cause us religious problems in our fellowship just as it does Russians in the Orthodox Church, then too often all the rules and good advice is modified. But then again, our situation is much different, isn't it??

Sister Alicia said that when her mom Lena was alive and found out Alicia was going to be a Christian she received the reprimand of her life. She said, "I was so nervous, my hands were shaking, it was just awful!" My mom said, "you will be a traitor and that church is nothing but a cult, etc."

Continued in next issue...



Happy Birthday, Randy (18th)!



Prayer and Praise Report

We have a wonderful privilege and honor to go to God in prayer. As you pray, please remember the following people:

Carolyn, Vicky's mother, who is dealing with several health issues.

Keith, Coeta's brother, who is sick.

Cathy M. who is suffering from emphysema due to smoking cigarettes.

Jennifer M, Paulette's niece, who is emotionally struggling after being left by her husband.

Please also remember the two children involved. They are currently staying with Paulette.

Mark, from Arkansas, who has been arrested.

Shirley, Luther's daughter, who is suffering from lupus.

Ladonna and Lauren, both Henry's friends, who are suffering from cancer. Lauren is a freshman in high school and is only 15 years old.

Wes, Stacy's uncle, who is also battling cancer.

Kevin, Randy's brother, who is battling an addiction to drugs.

Olivia M. who has cancer. She is only 5 years old.

Gary D.'s father who is recovering from a stroke.

Fay B. who is cur-

rently undergoing treatment for cancer.

Randy M. is dealing with heart trouble.

Frieda D. who also is suffering from heart problems.

Leonard, Wes's uncle, who has cancer.

Dan, Randy's co-worker, who recently had a stroke.

Brenda, Stacy's cousin, who is going through a divorce. She has two children.

Johnny, Rick's brother, who is serving in Iraq.

Ray, Wes's friend, who suffered a stroke.

Gary K. who is starting divorce proceedings.

Grant T., Randy's nephew, who was recently diagnosed with Crohn's disease.

Tonya, Teresa's sister-in-law, who is recovering from surgery.

Boris, in Tambov, Russia, who is needing cornea transplants. Also, **Valera** in Tambov has pneumonia.

The family of Jim Shaw as they are dealing with the unbelievable tragedy of his murder.

Nellie, Pat's mom, who is suffering from a blockage in her neck.

Frank, Jean's stepdad, who has a spot on his

Lucas S. is recovering from a car accident.

Dan and Denise, neighbors of Todd and Alicia, who are currently separated.

Additionally, remember **Mike and Jim C., Beth and Michael** (friends of Kat and Don), **W.D.** (Randy's neighbor) and **Ann** (Wayne's mom).

We also don't want to forget to praise God and give thanks for all He has blessed us with.

Rick's recovery from surgery can be explained as nothing less than a blessing from God.

Also, we praise God for **Ronny Jr.'s** recovery from the infection he suffered.

Thankfully, **Vicky's** foot surgery was completed without any complications.

And, **Teresa's dad** is doing better from gallbladder surgery.

We are thankful for **Gary's and Teresa's, and John's and Gayle's**, successful mission trip to Russia, as well as their safe return. Much good work was accomplished. We want to continue to remember the **Tambov congregation.**

We are also thankful that **Courtney's** test results came back much less serious than they could have been.

Praise God!!!

Our Vision

Community

It is our vision to become an active member of our immediate community; to provide hope, help, love, acceptance, and spiritual encouragement.

Growth

It is our vision to welcome new people into the fold, and help them discover the gifts and talents that God gave them to be used in proclaiming Christ to a lost and dying world.

Faithful to God's Word

It is our vision to remain faithful to God's word, to place Christ first in everything we do, and to allow ourselves to be led only by His Word and Holy Spirit.

Concern for Others

It is our vision to become intimately aware of the needs of our congregation and community and to actively try to meet those needs.

Evangelism (Reaching the Lost)

It is our vision to focus intently on ways to reach the lost in our local community and in foreign lands, and to send missionaries from the body on short and long term mission projects.

Leadership

It is our vision to have scriptural leadership; to have elders, deacons, and teachers within the next two years.

Family Atmosphere/Relationships

It is our vision to maintain and promote a true family environment where all may feel they belong and everyone knows each other's name.

No complicated forms to fill out...

No medical exams...

No embarrassing health questions...

We'll accept you on the spot!!!

Just call or stop by.

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**We meet to worship God together every Sunday morning at 10 am and
Wednesday evening at 7pm.**

We hope to see you there!!!