

The Family Report

Loving God...
Loving You...

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Above: Gary baptizes Yuri toward the end of the trip. Yuri has been friends with Kostya, a brother in Tambov, for many years. He has also transported luggage for Gary and Teresa for several years. What a blessing this is!

Check out a current log of John's and Gayle's experience in Russia online:

www.xanga.com/yourauntyourfriend

The Work in Russia

Wednesday, May 2nd, Gary and Teresa arrived back in Wichita after a 15 hour flight (still better than swimming across the ocean) and a month in Russia. They brought several interesting stories back with them.

While their account usually begins after landing in Russia, this year they were on the same plane as a German couple they befriended several years back but had lost touch with. This made for a nice reunion.

Once in Russia, they dealt with faulty water heaters, a scheming college student, visiting boys, and an angry mother, among other things.

All in all, the trip was a huge success. Great work for the Lord was done and progress was made.



Above: Despite fines for going over luggage limits, Gary and Teresa do not pack light. Almost as important as addressing the spiritual needs in Tambov is addressing physical needs. These bags carry needed clothing and medicine to our brothers and sisters in Tambov.

Look for a detailed account of Gary's and Teresa's month in Russia in upcoming issues!

Don't miss our Spring Fling!!

Where: Kaw Lake

**When: Friday-Saturday,
May 18th-19th**

What: good food, good fun, good fellowship

A night of camping and fishing will be followed by a Saturday worship service and fish fry!

Get with Todd for more info...

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You Shall Never Wash My Feet

By: Gary Barrett

The story of Jesus washing the disciple's feet is recorded in John the thirteenth chapter. Through the years this has been understood by some to mean that all Christians should wash one another's feet after communion and by others to mean, we should be servants to one another's needs. The debate will rage on this subject as to its meaning as it has on countless other Bible subjects through the years. The point I would like to focus on is the fact that the Apostle Peter was willing to withstand the Lord's will by refusing to allow Jesus to wash his feet. In verse 8 of the text Peter says, "You shall never wash my feet." I am left with the impression Peter was very determined in his persuasion. It is a good time to ask the question, why hadn't the disciples washed the Lord's feet already and then followed by offering to wash each others feet? This does appear to be a loving and considerate act one could perform for another in that day. It would appear they did not have much of a "servant" mentality.

While in Russia this year some of the members were talking about their economy gradually turning into a "service economy." I have heard that same statement made relative to America. In

short the idea is we would rather be served than we would to produce. I suppose then it should not be strange that we would ask the question, "WHAT CAN THE CHURCH DO FOR ME?" As one old timer put it, "hand me, fetch me, give me, or bring me." Many are willing to attend services but are unwilling to contribute to them. We will even give money to the church but prefer not to be directly involved. Often our mentality is, "let others take care of the work of the church and when it doesn't go to suit me I will simply complain about it."

It appears Peter had at least two problems. First, he hadn't offered to wash the Lord's feet and second he didn't want the Lord washing his. It seems to me to be a complete person in the service of the Lord one must be willing to serve and to be served. We understand the meaning of "being served" but have trouble with the idea of "serving." Everyone has a talent he or she can use in the service of the church.

Hebrews 10:24-25: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us en-

courage one another." In the two verses we are told to "consider" (to think about very seriously) and to "encourage" one another. What I do with these verses will indicate whether I view them as a "suggestion" or a "directive." If I view them as a "directive" I will need to give serious thought to how I might implement them. If I try to encourage you and you try to encourage me we can comply with the Lord's will as given in these two verses. I believe it is apparent that God wants us on both the service and production lines!

FOR MORE ARTICLES,
VISIT:
WWW.GODSBIBLE.ORG

We are so excited to be working on a bi-weekly bulletin full of our congregation's news, events, prayers, and praise. We hope that this can be used as a resource to keep you connected, informed, and involved.

We hope to include recipes, crafts, and other sections and columns in future issues, and invite your comments, suggestions, and even criticism.

It doesn't matter how many people want to get involved, please contribute anything you'd like. Let us know your thoughts and ideas!

*God bless,
Johnie and Amy*

Happy Mother's Day!!!

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 currently 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.

Ronny Jr. who is recovering from an infection.

Gary K. who is start-

ing divorce proceedings.

Also, please continue to remember the **Virginia Tech students and their families** as they deal with that horrific tragedy.

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

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.

We are thankful for **Gary's and Teresa'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**, as well as **John and Gayle** as they are over there currently.

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



Happy Birthday!!!

Nita L. (7th)
Kat (16th)
Teresa (20th)
Jean (21st)



Happy Mother's Day!!!

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.

B a d C r e d i t ? ? ? N o C r e d i t ? ? ?
B a n k r u p t c y ?
D i v o r c e ?

T h a t d o e s n ' t m a t t e r t o u s .

W e a c c e p t e v e r y o n e ! ! !

J o i n o u r f a m i l y i n w o r s h i p p i n g G o d .

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Happy Mother's Day!!!