

BARNAUL NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

May - June 2009

IN BARNAUL

After a cold winter it is good to see the blacktop on the roads again. All the snow is finally gone and the trees and grass are in a race to fulfill their part of the season and produce what they can before the fall starts its battle again. It always amazes me how quickly the grass grows. Even before all the ice has melted it starts to put out green shoots around the edge of the melted snow. God has designed nature in a marvelous way all around the world.



TEACHING

We are in the middle of the final quarter for the school year 2009. It is a little weary for the students who have been engaged in the learning process since September 2008. They have taken in large amounts of knowledge and I am proud of them. But even more, they are using it.

Among our graduates will be two deaf students. We are still excited and see God working through the deaf throughout Russia. One of our graduates will return to the city of Habarovsk in the far eastern part of Russia. He is eager to begin working with the group he was part of before coming to study.

NEW CHURCH PLANT

Our first year class has more than a head full of knowledge. Knowledge of the Word of God is vital to their success as missionaries to their fellow Russians, but these students are eager to see the message get out of the classroom and into the street. Spearheaded by two of our first year students, a new church now has its first convert. Praise God!

Galina Vlasova is our new sister
In Christ!

If you have any old communion sets not being used, we can surely use them. Please contact me and I will see how I can take some back to Barnaul. Also some tables and chairs would really make Bible study more convenient. If you would like to donate to this please let me know. These new church planters are determined to do all they can financially. They provide for their own transportation so far, as well as some kind of



refreshment for those who come to the Bible studies. It is great to see the spirit of Jesus they have captured and exude. Please continue to pray for their faith as well as those near the Kingdom.

The church planted a couple of years ago could also use a few extra chairs. The group that now meets at Ostrovskiy is around 35 plus, and often some have to sit on chairs made for children.

JIM NORVILLE

Jim and Lavon Norville came to Barnaul to visit, and as always we were excited to see them. They spent 10 years in Tomsk, and Jim returns there every year and manages to visit as many other congregations as possible. He addressed our students for 4 days and was asked to speak for 4 special evenings to the local church at Prolatyakya.

SIBERIAN RETREAT

One of my highlights each year is the Siberian Retreat, sponsored by the Prolatyakya congregation. Of course it takes a lot of people to make this a success. Some of our graduates participate in this, as well as Christians from other congregations. Joseph and Sonya Rhodes put a lot of work in organizing this retreat. This year a brother from North Atlanta, Georgia (a family psychologist) came and taught his heart out. The family everywhere is under fire from "the world", and this is very evident in Russia.

One of our graduates (Leonid) saved for 7 years to be able to come to this retreat. He has not been back to Barnaul since his graduation. He works with a team in Yuzno Sakalinsk. To put this in perspective, he had to fly for 8 hours to get to Barnaul. It only takes 9 1/2 hours to fly from JFK to Moscow. Russia is just so huge it is hard to get a handle on its size. I was ecstatic to see him and get to visit with him. Yuzno is a city at the tip of Russia just before the Japanese islands. It was worth the whole retreat just to hug his neck.

NO GOOD NEWS

I am back in the States now and still haven't received my check from President Obama. Surely it is in the mail! (Ha)

Love you!
Jerry & Pam