



Fall 2008



Dear family and friends,

Thank you for your prayers and support. Let us update you on how God has been blessing our family and your ministry through us. First, some information about the ministry:

Linda and her good friend, Jo Owens, were scheduled to leave for Russia the day that Hurricane Ike hit the Houston area, where we live, so they had to delay their trip until November. They will be mentoring some of the developing women's leaders in Krasnodar, Russia. One of their ministries which seems to be well received and effective is that of Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS).

Joe will spend much of October overseas. First, he will be teaching "Contemporary Theological Issues" in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**. This is a graduate level course for students from Russia, Central Asia, and the Southern Caucasus republics of Georgia and Azerbaijan. Then he will fly back to Moscow and lead a trip to Israel for our Russian staff, climaxing with our staff conference there.

Developments in Russia

The War between Russia and Georgia over Control of South Ossetia: There continues to be finger-pointing on both sides, and many Christians in both Georgia and Russia are angry at each other. Pray for cooler heads and spiritually mature leaders in the region to have a great influence. As a Mission we have sent aid to both our Georgian partners and our Russian partners to provide humanitarian aid to those in need. Our Baptist partners in the Russian province of North Ossetia are asking us to help them train church planters and leaders now in South Ossetia, the occupied province in Georgia. Pray that God will use the crisis to turn many to His beloved Son.

Growing Persecution and Limitations: Several former Soviet republics are experiencing more restrictions on religious freedom, and many have been put in prison for their faith or forced to flee their countries. And more and more missionaries are losing their visas. As a mission we are prayerfully re-examining our strategies.

Did you know that . . .

1. **Joe set up a graduate level school** in a suburb of Moscow in the early 90's, known as the Center for Advanced Theological Studies;
2. And that he moved the school to Almaty, Kazakhstan, and renamed it **the Central Asian Theological Seminary**;
3. And that three of our Central Asian leaders, were able to transfer credits and now hold **masters degrees from Dallas Seminary**;
4. And that we are in the process of transitioning this program to be a part of an accredited graduate school in the USA, the Bakke Graduate University, so that our students will be able to receive **accredited, international degrees**;
5. And that a very capable theologian, Dr. Carl Brown, an Evangelical Free Church missionary to Russia, has accepted the position of Director of this program;
6. And that we plan to provide courses in Central Asia, Russia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan.

Prayer Praise and Requests

Praise . . .

- For our son's wedding and our grandchildren's baptism (see below);
- That we had only minor damage from Hurricane Ike, and now after two weeks have electricity;
- That Linda is slowly recovering from her partial knee replacement and is now able to travel again.

Pray . . .

- That God would bless Chris and Jessica in their marriage;
- For Joe when he has gall bladder surgery November 6;
- For the transition of much of our ministries in the Russian speaking world to nationals, as many expats are forced to leave;
- That God would supply through His people to meet our support needs during the current downturn in the economy.

The Wall family has been experiencing great blessings in recent days!

Our son, Christopher, was married to a wonderful lady, Jessica LaRoue, on October 4.

Chris and Jessica met at work and became good friends. Both are sports enthusiasts and enjoy friendly conflict over her support of the Denver Broncos and his commitment to the Oakland Raiders.

We all love Jessica, and her family really enjoys Chris.

We were delighted that many of our family and friends from Texas and Colorado were able to join us for the wedding and reception.



**Caleb and Marissa were baptized
by their father**

On Sunday, September 28, Scot baptized our two grandchildren. Because of the hurricane, our church in Magnolia, where Scot is the pastor, met for services beside the lake behind the house of our good friends, Jack and Shirley Frey.



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