



Fall 2009

Dear family and friends,

**Thank you for standing with us. We are getting ready for a lengthy ministry overseas in some areas that are quite dangerous, so we greatly appreciate your prayer support. We chose a picture of us for this newsletter that was taken a few years ago when we were in Colorado, as a reminder that we will be heading to colder climate in a few weeks in Russia. We will be traveling most of October and part of November. Please pray for our health, stamina, and protection, as we will be in a region that is known now for terrorism and criminal kidnapping. Here is a quick overview of our upcoming travel schedule:**

**Joe will travel to Krasnodar the 13<sup>th</sup> of October** and work with our team to work on arrangements for the masters level training later this year that will be held in the Biblical Leadership Training Center.

**Linda will join Joe in Moscow** for meetings with our leadership for Russia the **week of October 19-23**. Linda is now overseeing all of the women's ministry projects in Russia, and she will have to meet and plan with local Russian women's leaders.

**Joe will fly to Vladikavkaz and Linda to Krasnodar for the last week in October**. Linda will be a part of a training team for women's leaders, and Joe will participate in the Church Planting Best Practices Institute.

**Linda and Joe will meet in Moscow on November 1**, and then **fly to Baku together on November 2 for the first week in November**. Joe will lead the Best Practices Institute there, and Linda will work with the local women's leader to develop women's ministry plans for Azerbaijan.

**We will return together via Moscow on November 10.**

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for our health, stamina, and safety during our travels this fall.
2. Continue to pray for the two major women's conferences this fall: one for MOPS leaders and one for Entrust Bible training.
3. Continue to pray for the Best Practices Institute.
4. Pray that the Lord will provide ongoing leadership for our masters level training in Russia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

# Report from Linda

**Natasha Knyazeva's Visit to America.** Our Southern Russia Women's Director, Natasha Knyazeva, came as planned, and kept a strenuous schedule in spite of her pregnancy. We went on a whirlwind tour of all of the Women's Ministries I could fit in during the month she was here:

- **Women's Bible Study** at Magnolia Bible Church, their **kick-off dinner**, and **MOPS**
- **Cypress Bible Church:** The Kynazevs talked with many people and shared their ministries.
- **Bridgepoint Bible Church** and their women's ministries headed up by Debi Hugel, including their Bible Studies, Mentoring Programs, and MOPS
- **MOPS Convention** in Nashville, TN. At the MOPS Convention we linked up with our EWMI National Coordinator for MOPS in the Russian Federation, **Leah Alieva**. Natasha and Leah WOWED the MOPS Leadership with their efforts in Russia. We now have **50 MOPS groups** in operation all over Russia, Azerbaijan, Latvia, and Romania.



Natasha and Armenian Lady she led to Christ recently

Many of you graciously participated in Natasha's visit in a many ways. She had so many maternity clothes offered to her that she had three large boxes left over! One lady gave her money to have all the maternity clothes cleaned so that they would be fresh for her. She received money from several of you to buy enough baby clothes (they are outrageously expensive in Russia) for at least one year and maybe two. And **Claudia Daniel** did an ultra-sound—it's a girl.

**Southern Russia Initiatives:** During the next 8 weeks before Natasha's "little girl" enters the world, she will be a very busy lady:

- She is helping Leah with the **All Russia MOPS Conference** to be held in Krasnodar Region this month.
- Then we have invited 25-30 ladies already in Women's Ministry, proven leaders in their congregations, and pastor's wives, to come from all over the Krasnodar Region to be introduced to the **Entrust five-year, multiplication training**.
- The last day of the Entrust training, **Myrna Alexander**, an American author and missionary to Russia, in addition to introducing the first **Entrust Course**, will speak at an **all day conference for more women in the region**. We also have invited all the key pastors in the region to a banquet the day the ladies begin coming to Krasnodar. We are asking these pastors to bless us and pray for this training over these next years.



Russian Women Love MOPS Craft time

*Pray with us that God's choice ladies will come and that their ministries will be blessed by God.*

Natasha and I will also be planning a **very special trip** for American women **this coming June**. Our objective is two-fold: to share the gospel with many **unbelievers** and give the **leaders** in Women's Ministries in Southern Russia a special week-end. At this conference we are going to ask **American ladies** to come prepared to really pamper the **Russian ladies** and **American missionaries** (We hope to be able to include hair-dressers, facialists, craft ladies, and other similar short-termers). We plan to have biblically based lessons on budgeting and home and family issues, accompanied by gospel presentations.

*Let me know if you are interested!*

**New Ministries in Azerbaijan:** Please join us in praying for God's leadership relative to **East-West Women's Ministries in Azerbaijan**. Linda and Jinks Greenstreet will be visiting Baku, Azerbaijan, in November to discuss ways we might be able to help **Tirana Merzoyev** (a major leader in the Azeri Baptist women's ministries in Azerbaijan). It is extremely dangerous to be a woman in their culture—especially for Christian women. We need your prayers to discern how God is leading us to be involved in developing leaders for multiplying women's groups that reach out to women who need Christ.