



## CHRONICLES

THE

Spring 2008



**Dear family and friends,**

Thank you for your continuing interest, encouragement, and prayer and financial support. We count it a privilege to extend your ministry through hundreds of national servants around the world—especially in many of the countries of the former Soviet Union.



**The Big news in our family is that our son, Chris, is engaged!!! A few weeks ago, on a cruise, he proposed to Jessica LaRoue. They both live in the Denver area, and they are planning to get married there October 4, 2008. Chris has been dating Jessica for about four years, and we all love her and are excited about their marriage.**

**Did you know that . . .**

- **Joe and Linda have been married almost 48 years, and they have two sons: Scot (43) and Chris (35).**
- **Scot is married to an Iowa girl, Darcy, whom he met in Chicago while traveling with the Andre Kole evangelistic team, and that he led Darcy to Christ.**
- **Scot and Darcy have two children: Marissa (9) and Caleb (7).**
- **Chris is marrying Jessica, who was born in England while her father was stationed there.**
- **Scot is pastor of Magnolia Bible Church where we are members.**
- **Chris is an independent loan broker and is also developing a computer marketing business.**

## **Now, more about the ministry:**

This month (April) Linda is hosting **Zhenya Slinkina**, one of our leaders in the women's ministry in southern Russia. Zhenya, with her team, is training, mentoring, and encouraging other women in Russia.

Here is a picture of Zhenya with her husband, Valodia, who coordinates the training and church planting in the Siberian Arctic, where they both grew up.



**In April, Joe will meet with the Mission's new Director of Church Planting, Bill Smith, to review and try to improve our overall strategy for Russia and the western former soviet republics. Bill has served many years as a Southern Baptist missionary, and he now leads seminars all over the world on church planting movements. Joe will also meet with the Azeri Partnership in Colorado in late April.**

**Then in May Joe will spend two and half weeks meeting with key leaders that he oversees in Russia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. He will also be meeting with our team that is doing evangelism and church planting secretly in a closed country.**

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Praise God that. . .

1. Pastor Zaur Balaev has been released from prison in Azerbaijan.
2. Two Russian pastors from Uzbekistan, who were deported recently now live in The Woodlands near Houston and are planting churches for Russian speakers in Houston, Dallas, and Austin, and have started a ministry that focuses on evangelism and church planting in the Russian speaking world—especially Uzbekistan and Ukraine.
3. Chris and Jessica are engaged.

Please pray that. . .

1. Zhenia's experiences in the States will prove profitable for the ministry to women in southern Russia.
2. As I (Joe) meet with key leaders in the States and in Russia, we will be able to develop effective partnerships and strategies to facilitate church planting movements.

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