



Dear family and friends,

We continue to thank God for such loyal and generous friends. And we thank God for His marvelous blessings on the ministries to which He has called us.

Report on Joe's Recent Trip to Russia. I was in Russia in January to facilitate the **transfer of the leadership of the Russian Field to a new Field Leader.** I was also there to lead a team in who were training national church planters.



A Special Blessing during Church Planting Training. One day we sent the class into the community to search for “persons of peace”, people who are open to the gospel (see Luke 10). **I prayed that the Lord would connect me with a person of peace that day,** but the Russians asked the Americans not to go, so as not to make problems for them. So we stayed at the BLTC (the Biblical Leadership Training Center), and I wondered how God might answer my prayer. Then a man at the BLTC brought his old friend to me and asked me to share the gospel with him. **Michael was wrestling with fear of his neighbor's magic,** and he was struggling with making the decision to trust in Jesus. After about an hour of discussion, Michael knelt and **prayed to receive Christ.** Michael wanted to get baptized right away. He wanted me to baptize him, but it was freezing outside. **So I baptized him in a bathtub.**

Plans for the Spring.

March: I (Joe) will travel to **Haiti** to preach for and encourage our EWMI **missionary/pastor in Port-au-Prince, Gersan Valcin.** An old friend, **Jack Frey** will travel with me. Jack has been raising funds for special needs in Haiti and would like to better understand the need personally.

April: Linda and I will both spend much of the month in **Baku, Azerbaijan, and Krasnodar, Russia.** Joe will be teaching a **master's level course on grace.** Linda's ministry is described on the next page.

May: We will celebrate our **golden wedding anniversary** with our two sons and their families on a Caribbean cruise. During the month Joe will need to prepare for key Mission leaders' meetings in Dallas. Later in the month, I (Joe) will be a part of an evangelistic project in Houston I have helped to develop. The project is geared to connect local churches with **32 different national groups** in the Houston area in the hopes of mobilizing Anglo churches to plant ethnic house churches. We call it “**Project 32,**” and it is built around an indoor soccer tournament.



Project 32



Report from Linda

April of 2010 will be a difficult month as far as travel is concerned, but a very exciting time for Women's Ministry in the **Caucasus regions of Russia and Azerbaijan.**

Azerbaijan. I will be traveling to Baku, Azerbaijan, with **Veneta West**, wife of our mission's Evangelism Director, **Theresa Simpson**, wife of our new Russian Field Leader, and **Becca Goulet**, formerly a part of our Central Asian team. We

will be leading a conference for developing women's leaders from all over Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan is a Muslim country, and most of these ladies **have suffered physical abuse and other forms of persecution** for their faith. Please pray with us for the safety of these ladies who will be coming into Baku. Also, we are asking for God's guidance that we would have just the right words and activities to encourage and refresh these dear ladies.

Russia. After our time in Baku, Theresa and Becca will return home to their families, and **Kristy Carmichael Edwards will join Veneta and me in Krasnodar, Russia**, for the second session of the Entrust materials, Discovery Bible Study. Several Russians will also be involved in the teaching and group discussions. Our session last fall was so successful, several pastors in the region twisted Natasha's arm to allow 10 more ladies to join the 30 we already have enrolled. Please pray that we can do the material justice, as well as conduct the group sessions effectively with such a large group. Natasha Knyazeva, our Russian partner in Krasnodar, has a new baby and will need to be away from her for many hours during the seminar. This is going to be very hard on their whole family. Please join us in prayer for her stamina and for a good sitter for her daughter, Sophia. In our opinion women can be a strategic tool in reaching their countries for Christ, but they need training and encouragement. That is our goal.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise God for:

- A good trip for Joe to Russia in January;
- And a good transition of Joe's Russia Field responsibilities to Dr. Timothy Simpson

Pray for:

- Joe's transition to Vice President of Field Ministries March 1;
- Joe's trip to Haiti in March;
- Plans for trip to Russia and Azerbaijan in April
 - Linda's women's ministries in both countries;
 - And Joe's teaching of a course on grace in both countries.



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