

February March 2008

Dear Pastor and Congregation,

We have been working diligently with the group of men that God has given us to teach. We have four men that come faithfully each week. These men are of various backgrounds and occupations, but each has an interest in learning the Bible. None of these men are saved and each has their own sin to deal with. It seems that with each lesson more questions arise which reveal an area of sin in their lives that needs to be dealt with. One of the men has admitted to an adulterous affair and is now on verge of divorce due to the affair. A second man has said that he is not married to his wife (as he calls her), but has been living with her the past six years. Each has a child from a previous marriage as well. We are glad to be able to answer their questions from the authority of the Bible. Pray for these men as they face these issues from God's perspective.

We count this a real blessing to have these men coming to our meetings. Russian men are very macho and even stoic. It is very common for a group of men to sit in the courtyard of their apartment complex and drink and smoke the day away. This is the Russian way. The cost to the country is great as men here have a life expectancy of only 62 years. In addition to this it has forced women to assume the role of men.

The population throughout Russia and the former Soviet Union is decreasing every year. The government in Russia has offered to pay families to have children. This has increased the birth rate, but has not addressed the underlying sin of alcoholism that plagues the country. It is said that a man is not a man until he has had his first drink and gotten drunk with "the boys". No government program can free this nation of its sin. Only the life changing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ can heal Russia.

We have been working diligently to gain residency status which will enable us to remain in the country long term. Thus far we have had little success as our papers were not accepted by the immigration department. There are several issues that we are trying to deal with so as to satisfy their demands.

We have heard reports that others have had the same difficulties while some have had no trouble at all. This is very common as decisions of this nature are very arbitrary and capricious depending on the region and the local officials involved. Please continue to pray us as we consider carefully our options for future ministry.

For Souls in Russia,  
The Jeff Christian Family

Received for February and March \_\_\_\_\_