

March 14, 2005

From Atlanta, Georgia, USA: We greet you!

It is nearly impossible for me to put into words what our just completed trip to Russia meant to us and the ministry God has entrusted to us there. Trying hard to cut down on flattering language and flowery rhetoric, I will get to the point: As our ministry's favor and reputation in the city and region grows, God is seeking to change forever the spiritual landscape of Russia through us.

At the beginning of our trip, we established a new, key partner with whom we will conduct a 3<sup>rd</sup> summer camp this August. That same day, we met with the faithful friend and partner with whom we have partnered to carry out the last three years of summer camps and two years of winter camps. Together, we agreed to expand the scope of our cooperation by adding a second session to our work beginning this summer. At the end of our trip, literally the last few hours we were in the city, a businessman approached us and, having heard of our work with children thus far, invited us to join in with a group of other businessmen who have adopted and care for an orphanage in the city. They have asked us if the orphans might become part of our year round follow up program as well as attend our camps in the summer. Obviously, the answer was yes. We also met with two different sets of parents of children who have attended our camps in the past. In each case, we were encouraged and affirmed by the parents as they have seen the blessing we have been in life of their child/children. They are eagerly sharing the news of our camps with their friends and personal network of contacts.

Everyone we met with, those who share our faith and those who do not, welcomed us with open arms and willing hearts. Many want to join with us in reaching youth through our camp efforts. Waking up each day on the trip was equated with a sense of expectancy as to what God would do next. It was so clear that he was going before us into every meeting and conversation. Even knowledgeable words spoken and prayed over us by our intercessors before we left came true to the very last letter. Brothers, sisters, and friends, what God is doing through Worldwide Youth Camps in Russia is awesome, *unspeakable*, and bigger than any of us. This little organization with whom we have cast our loyalty is seeing things unfold in front us that demands our faith not be added to but grown exponentially. Honestly, it is a bit frightening but it is the kind of fear that I think we all were created to know – the fear of the Lord.

Rejoice with us and pray simply that our faith will continue to increase.

A few final notes about our trip...we were able to visit with and encourage full-time, on site missionaries in Novosibirsk. To them and their families, this was a great encouragement. They need our prayers. It is hard to live in Siberia in the winter, learn another language, live out of suitcases while you remodel a home, deal with the pregnancy and birth of a new child, miss your family, constantly wonder what difference you are really making to the people there, live in a weakened church condition, and constantly be in a give-give-give mode when receiving is what you are needing more. I beg you to keep Les and Debbie and their kids Misha and Sydney in prayer as well as Kenny and Melissia and their daughter, son, and the child inside of Melissia. Pray for Stacy who leaves Russia in 3 weeks after more than 3 years of living there and investing herself fully into the lives of her local church. Pray for Bob and Iris who live in Russia 9 months out of the year away from their 15 grandchildren. Pray for Jim and Phyllis who recently had their car stolen as well as thousands of dollars worth of tools with which Jim blessed many Christians with free or at cost auto and home repair. The list goes on and on. Each one of these are worthy of our constant intercession and consistent encouragement.

We're back in Atlanta dealing with the subsequent fatigue that comes from a quick trip to the other side of the globe and back. As time goes on, we'll share with you some of the wonderful evangelistic opportunities that have come out of our work there. For now, this will suffice.

Bless you all. Keep us in your prayers. We beg that of you.

Rob, Traci, Benja, Nate, and Aidan Browne