



Taldykorgan Tidbits

May 2008

Morris and Jean Olson

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

So SAD . . .

Since our return to Kazakhstan at the end of March, there has been a significant change in our lives. The position that Morris accepted a call to serve in last July has been eliminated effective June 30, 2008. This decision was a shock to us and since then life has taken a new twist. We are busy sorting through our things, beginning to pack suitcases, and closing down the apartment.

Although our time in Taldykorgan was short, we praise the Lord for the opportunity to serve him among the people here. The time was filled with much joy and the work has been exciting. We have met many wonderful people and have seen how the Lord is working in their lives to further His Kingdom.

Thank you all for your wonderful support and encouragement while we served in both Russia and Kazakhstan. Each of you has been a vital part of the team for the work in this part of the world. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

So GLAD . . .

We are glad to welcome Colter Knippa to Taldykorgan from June 8 through August 10. He is the first short-term missionary to answer the call to serve here! His main focus will be at an English camp that Training Center Boomerang has held each summer for the past ten years. The camp is quite appropriately called “English in Nature.” Colter will serve for two weeks at the camp as an English coach and then return to the city for a break before his next two week session begins.



Colter contacted us about the possibility of serving in Kazakhstan after hearing about the need for camp counselors during our visit to Concordia Irvine this past February. He is very enthusiastic for this opportunity to serve as Christ’s ambassador to the people of Kazakhstan. If anyone would like to know more about short-term missionary work, please contact LCMS-World Mission at **1-800-433-3954** or www.lcmsworldmission.org.

We continue to work among the blind community and are glad to see how God is working through them.

- Stepan called to ask if we had the New Testament on tape for his friend. We continue to encourage him to witness to his blind neighbors. Although we are not accustomed to drinking beer in the mornings, when Stepan and his wife Galya invited us for beer and pelmani (a meat filled dumpling) early one day we accepted and now have another special memory!
- Alexander has contacted us about another friend of his who would like a complete set of the Bible in Braille as well as the New Testament in audio. What a joy it is to see how the Spirit is *Ablaze!* in individuals like Alexander as they are empowered to share the Good News of salvation.
- Kanat and Morris met on the pedestrian street not too long ago. During their conversation Kanat mentioned that he had listened to some of the Bible tapes that had been provided for the blind agency library where he is library director. As many of you will recall, Kanat is the owner of the white Labrador named “Larry” that had 7 pups this past winter. Kanat also shared that Larry will not have anymore pups because 7 pups in a small apartment is a real challenge!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for a smooth transition for us after almost 15 years of service overseas through LCMS-WM.
- Pray for Colter Knippa’s time of service as he works as an English coach at a camp near Taldykorgan.
- Pray for Stepan and Alexander to continue to be *Ablaze!* in sharing the Good News of salvation.
- Pray for Kanat to come to faith as the Holy Spirit continues to work in him through God’s Word.

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