



Taldykorgan Tidbits

October 2007

Morris and Jean Olson

Praying to the Lord of the Harvest, LCMS World Mission, in collaboration with its North American and worldwide partners, will share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.



Blind Ministry

Pictured below is the Blind Agency that is located right down the block from our apartment. The visually impaired do not live at the facility but they do work there making filters for vehicles. The individuals that are employed at the filter factory are paid a monthly wage of 5000 Tenge which amounts to approximately \$42. In the Taldykorgan region there are approximately 400 visually impaired people.



There is a library at this agency that is filled with many resources. On the positive side, there is an openness to have Christian Braille and audio materials made available to the blind that are associated with the agency. On the negative side, the percentage of the blind in the area that are able to read Braille is said to be around 10%. It was not a high priority under Soviet times to assist people with disabilities.



Morgan Freeman's Look-alike in Kazakhstan?

We recently had an opportunity to have lunch with the library director at his apartment to discuss the possibility of providing Braille instruction in the area. Our initial impression was that his mannerisms reminded us of actor Morgan Freeman. As a physician specializing in the treatment of bacterial infections, Kanat lost his sight some 20 years ago as a result of an eye infection. While at his apartment we had an opportunity to meet his immediate family ---- his white Labrador Larry and his wife Ludmilla who is a doctor. He is interested in continuing the dialogues to explore how Braille instruction and other services for the blind can be provided in the area.

Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc.

Dialogs have been initiated with individuals and organizations that could possibly help to meet the need of providing materials as well as instructors in the Taldykorgan area. Amongst the organizations is Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. (LBW) from which we have already received a number of Russian Braille and large print materials. We thank the Lord for opening these doors and trust Him to guide and direct us as we continue to seek his will in this possible outreach area.

Prayer Requests:

- God's guidance/direction on continued discussions regarding outreach to the blind in the area.
- Open minds and eager students endeavor to teach English using Bible Teachings Series materials.
- Wisdom and discernment for individuals involved in developing Christian education materials for use in correspondence course settings in Central Asia.
- Timely processing for our visas that expire the end of November ---first we were told we'd have to fly to America to get new visas but now we can go across the border to Kyrgyzstan, spend the night in Bishkek, and then bring the needed paperwork back to Almaty for processing.
- Praise and thanksgiving that we are well settled and have been blessed with good health and numerous ministry possibilities.

"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



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Serving in Taldykorgan, Kazakhstan
LCMS World Mission
www.lcmsworldmission.org

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