

Taldy Tidbits

Morris and Jean Olson, November 2007

Name Change

Please note the name change for our newsletter--Taldy Tidbits! Hopefully everyone is now familiar with where we are located and where we continue to ask the Lord to reveal the areas of ministry that He is blessing. So, now when we write Taldy please remember it is Taldykorgan, Kazakhstan where God opened the doors for us to serve Him in the summer of 2007!

In speaking with a young local couple over the weekend they conveyed how Taldykorgan was a dying city ten years ago and how it started to revitalize when it became the capital of the Almaty region in 2001. This couple moved from Almaty and shared how it took them two years to adjust to this area. We likewise wonder at times how long it will take us to really adjust to working in our new area. As was the case with this couple, we trust that the Lord will guide and sustain us as we get adjusted.

Thanksgiving!

Praise the Lord! We have been told that the grapevine travels quickly in the blind community and are thankful the "Word" is getting around. Since our last newsletter two individuals have contacted us for materials in Braille and also asked about the Bible on cassette, especially the New Testament.



Zoiya, who is 66, has been blind since she was 1-1/2 years old. She is diligent in reading the Bible, listening to the Bible and other Christian materials on audiocassette and prayer. Her request of us was to obtain replacements for three books of the Bible that have become worn and hard to read.

Zoiya regrets that it was late in life that she became a believer and questions how she can serve the Lord at this stage in life when her health is not good. Our encouragement to her was to call some of her friends to minister to them and pray with them and to share her faith with others when opportunities are presented. When the Bible materials that she asked for were obtained from the Bible Society in Almaty and delivered to her this week Zoiya shared with us some wonderful news. Since our last meeting she had called one of her blind friends and given her a set of audiotapes of the Bible. Praise the Lord for Zoiya's courage to call a friend and offer her the set of extra audiocassettes. Praise the Lord that the friend's response to Zoiya's offer was a resounding YES!

When we said good-bye and gave the usual "ooveedemsa" (We'll see each other soon.), Zoiya laughed and responded "We'll see each other in heaven!" What a joy it is to see sisters in Christ like Zoiya *Ablaze!* for the Lord as they share the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ with those around them.



Stepan has been blind since birth and moved to Taldy when he was eighteen. He was very appreciative of the New Testament audiotapes and Braille materials that were made available to him.

Stepan is an enthusiastic individual and kept insisting that he should make a financial contribution for the materials he received. Finally, we convinced him that they are a gift that Lutheran Braille Workers and the Bible Society want to supply for his spiritual nurture.

It was a humbling experience to meet Stepan and his wife in their very, very modest apartment and to hear about some of his experiences. As we ended our visit Stepan sent us on our way with a prayer. We praise God for the encouragement brothers in Christ like Stepan are to us.

Prayer Requests:

- For wisdom and discernment as we continue to seek the Lord's will in relation to ministry to the blind in our area.
- Thanksgiving for materials from Lutheran Braille Workers and the Bible Society that are being made available to the blind community in our area.
- Thanksgiving that individuals like Zoiya and Stepan know the joy of having Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- Thanksgiving that we were able to obtain new Kazakhstan visas in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan this month.
- Thanksgiving for our daughter who has a birthday soon!
- Safe travel, rest and relaxation as we vacation in Spain for a couple weeks in December.

"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