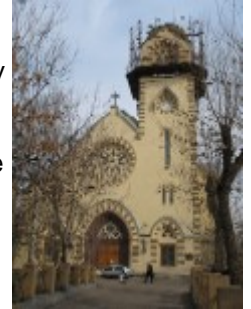


Newsletter from John & Susan Mehl
LCMS World Mission
April 2006



Moscow - John traveled to Moscow during Holy Week to visit with the missionaries and national church workers there. In the photo you can see part of this group--Jon Muhly, Dasha Shkurlyatieva, Brent Smith, Igor Alisov, John Mehl, and Matt Heise. The mission team continues to assist Russian Lutheran congregations with outreach programs, and also with leadership training through seminars and through teaching at the Ingrian seminary in Kolteshe, outside of St. Petersburg. Kolteshe is the only Lutheran seminary in Russia which grants degrees. In the smaller photo at right, you also see the Peter and Paul church in Moscow, which is being renovated inside and out. This building was used as a filmstrip depository during Soviet times and is being



restored to its former use. At one time this congregation had 17,000 members, ran a grade school and high school as well as a hospital.

New Eurasia RD - The team leader for work in Russia is Rev. Brent Smith. While John was in Moscow, Brent received the call to serve as the Regional Director for Eurasia. Brent has since accepted the call, so he'll be taking over John's position and is preparing to move to Germany with his wife Jennie and their three children, Zachary, Katelyn and Sophia. The Smiths were in Germany this past week for a meeting of Eurasia mission leaders from around the region and from the US. Brent led the meetings and has taken over leadership of the region. We pray that God will bless the Smith's transition to Germany and continue to bless the Eurasia region of LCMS World Mission. To the right is a photo of Brent and Jennie Smith.



Mehls to Hong Kong - Susan, Ted and John will be in Hong Kong next week to begin preparations for the Mehls to make the transfer this summer to the Asia Region. We'll be looking at housing and at Ted's new school. John will also go to Shanghai for meetings there, and will also participate in introductory meetings with the Asia Management Team.

Incidentally--because some have asked--our family will continue to live in Germany for two more months, until the end of June. This allows Ted and Louisa to finish school without a lot of upheaval. So mail--e-mail or otherwise--will continue to find us here until then.

While Susan, Ted and John are in Asia, Louisa will be in Basel, Switzerland singing with an International Youth Choir. As we have mentioned before, Louisa will attend high school at St. Paul's in Concordia, Missouri next year. So it may be awhile before she and Katrina get a chance to see Hong Kong!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Brent and Jennie Smith as they make their transition to Germany.
- Pray for the Russia team as they reorganize without Brent.
- Pray for Amy Kashenov, one of our missionaries in Kazakhstan who is in the U.S. for medical testing.
- Pray for Armand and Judy Boehme as Armand considers a call to be team leader in Kazakhstan.

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