

The last Saturday in February we had the privilege of going to St. Andrew in Pervomaika and watching the excitement of the children as they waited for the puppet show. Although the show was scheduled to begin at four o'clock quite a number of children were already gathered when we arrived around three o'clock. The children were told they could go outside to play for a while but many of them continued to sit patiently and wait. By the time the puppet show began, the room was filled to capacity. While most of those who gathered to watch the puppet show were children, there were also some adults and teenagers present. Thankfully the room was quite comfortable even though the pipes of the hot water heating system were barely warm. The program was filled with songs, games, stories and much excitement and enthusiasm. We heard about Jesus in the Desert, the Good Shepherd, and Jesus and the Tax Collector. Lutheran Hour Ministries provided gifts for the children when the festivities ended.



St. Andrew, located approximately 20 miles from the center of Almaty, began worship services at its present location in the fall of 2002. The congregation first gathered on the first floor of the governmental building but now meets on the second floor where they have a room for worship services and another small room for Sunday school. Deacon Sasha has been the spiritual leader since late fall of 2004 and has a strong passion for sharing the Gospel message of Jesus Christ with those in the community. English classes, computer classes, both Russian and Kazakh Sunday Schools and English Bible study are among the outreach efforts taking place at St. Andrew at this time. In the coming weeks efforts will be made to meet with the parents of the children who attended the puppet show.

It was great to see **Ablaze!** in action on Saturday at St. Andrew. To God be the Glory!

- Pray that these children, along with their parents, will want to know more about Jesus and will be willing to attend Sunday School and St. Andrew's services
- Pray for those involved in the puppet ministry that the Gospel message that is proclaimed through them is received with open hearts by those who hear it.
- Pray for Deacon Sasha and the members of St. Andrew as they share the Gospel message with others in their community.



Ablaze! Partners, Morris and Jean Olson
Serving in Almaty, Kazakhstan
www.lcmsworldmission.org

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