

# God's Mission in Almaty, Kazakhstan

## Blaze, Spirit, Blaze, set our hearts on fire . . .

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.

February 2007

### Village Visits:

In early February Morris (along with David Baker, Kazakh Ministries; Deacon Fisinov, St. Andrew; and Maira, translator) traveled to a couple neighboring villages to visit with groups that have begun to gather and worship together. The young man pictured in the lower left hand corner has emerged as the spiritual leader in the area. He requested help from our pastors when they officiated at a funeral in his village for a woman that wanted a Christian burial. In March this young man will attend a training program being held here in Almaty for church/group leaders.



### CALS Update:

The translation and development of various materials for use in association with Central Asia Lutheran Seminary (CALs) is continuing to move forward. Presently seven of fourteen booklets that are part of a "Bible Teaching Series" are in various stages of being translated into Russian. This series of self-study courses is written at an elementary level to teach principles of the Bible. The two of us are participating in an English Bible study that utilizes one of the booklets titled "Jesus the Christ." It is our hope and prayer that some of the locals who are participating in the Bible study with us will use the materials to study the Bible with others in either English or Russian.

### Visitors:

This week the deacons and a few laity gathered at Christ the Savior for a seminar on Stewardship February 27 and 28. Pastor David Belasic, New York, was the presenter. He arrived from Bishkek where he had also been teaching group leaders about the importance of stewardship in the church. His wife Joy accompanied him and while the seminar was being conducted Jean was showing her some of the sights in and around the city. In spite of another blast of winter the roads were clear enough to see the city from Medeo in the Tien Shan Mountains where one of the world's top ice rinks is located. This is also a popular weekend spot for residents of Almaty. Ascension Cathedral is pictured below.



## Prayer requests:

- ~~ Praise and thanksgiving for the opportunity to visit the villages and get to know other believers and see how the Spirit is working.
- ~~ Prayers for preparations of the training program to be held in Almaty March 13-28 for group leaders.
- ~~ Prayers of thanksgiving for continued progress in learning the Russian language.
- ~~ Thanksgiving for the gift of life--our grandson Benjamin Issac Lee Schmidt was born on January 31, 2007. His big brother Eli Michael was three on March 2.



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To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:  
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**Write "50052 Morris and Jean Olson - Kazakhstan" in the memo line.**