

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.

June 2006

The end of May Pastor Armand Boehme, Pastor Gennadij Khonin, and Morris took the fast night train, a thirteen hour comfortable trip, to Astana in order to attend the last day of the Synodical Convention of Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Kazakhstan (ELCRK). Pictured on the right is the group that attended the convention. The convention provided an opportunity for everyone to share their ideas and to strengthen relationships while working together to share the Gospel with the people of Kazakhstan.



During the convention time was set aside for the three from Almaty to meet with ELCRK Bishop Yuri Novgorodov (back row second from left) and Archbishop Edmund Ratz (middle row second from right). Archbishop Ratz is associated with the German Lutheran affiliated church body in Russia which is referred to as ELCROS. Other participants in the meeting included three representatives from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg (Germany). The discussions were focused on teaching seminary students and church workers and on possibilities for joint efforts between the two church bodies in relation to theological education (TE). A segment of the discussions centered around a desire by some of the present spiritual leaders and congregation members that TE be made available in a correspondence course setting in which the students study in their home communities, where they have secular jobs and families, coupled with periodic intensive 2-5 day sessions with an instructor. Dialogues will continue and proposals will be shared for further discussion on how the different groups can work together in providing Christian leadership training throughout Kazakhstan. It is exciting to see *Ablaze!* in action as the people of Kazakhstan share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ with those around them. To God be the glory!



A few months ago we shared with you that Pastor Armand Boehme had received a call to serve as theological educator/senior missionary in Almaty. In May Pastor Boehme announced his decision that he was declining the call. He continues to serve with the mission as a volunteer missionary. Pastor Boehme arrived in January 2005 and came prepared to teach at People of God Evangelical Lutheran Seminary (POGELS) for one year. He was asked to extend his time of service for an additional year and now will

be here through December 2006. His responsibilities include teaching and mentoring the future church leaders. Presently he is involved with obtaining, developing and organizing materials for correspondence courses. His teaching schedule has included traveling to Astana where he has taught two sets of two week classes at the seminary. Pastor Boehme is the one seated in the picture to your left with the students at the seminary in Astana. His wife Judy has remained stateside during Armand's term of service where she has been busy in the classroom teaching History and English classes. We thank them both for their faithful service.

Prayer requests:

~~ Guidance and wisdom as the different church bodies in Kazakhstan work together to train the future church leaders.

~~ Pastor Boehme and family as they continue to be separated while he continues to enjoy the opportunity to serve God among the people of Kazakhstan.

~~ Board for Mission Services as they seek a theological educator for the mission in Almaty.

Morris and Jean Olson

wermojo@yahoo.com

Serving in Almaty, Kazakhstan

LCMS World Mission

www.lcmsworldmission.org

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