

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.

July 2006

Moscow Missionary Visit:

Vicar Jon Muhly visited Almaty in late May and met with three church groups to encourage them in their personal witnessing. With the help of translator Maira you see Jon giving Morris the "Good Person Test" during one of his presentations on evangelism. This test is a way of using the Ten Commandments as a means of presenting God's law and showing individuals we will all be judged in the end. Jon shared different witnessing methods and practical evangelism tools with the groups, along with a guideline on The Gospel Message and how it can be broken down into four main themes that could help in witnessing conversations. This past year Jon Muhly has been serving his vicarage in Moscow, Russia, where he arrived in September 2005 with his wife and young son.



New Team Leader:

Reverend Tim Nickel, newly appointed Central Asia Team Leader, met with the missionaries in Almaty in mid-July to review roles, goals, and vision/direction of the mission. He brings to the team years of experience having served in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for several years working with church planting in the villages. Tim will divide his time between Almaty and Bishkek where the Nickels have served since 1998.

With Pastor Nickel assuming the role as team leader in Almaty, Morris will transition to the position of Russian Ministry Evangelism Coordinator. He will work with the national church leaders in coordinating activities to reach the people of Kazakhstan. In March Morris completed the last correspondence course necessary to become certified as a Director of Christian Outreach (DCO) through the Oswald Hoffman School of Christian Outreach. We thank the Lord for the educational opportunity Morris had to become certified as a DCO.

This and That:

English classes are coming to a close at the end of the month for Jean. This year her youngest student was eleven years old. Many of the students desire to study English in order to prepare themselves for better jobs. Sometimes it is a challenge trying to work with a group where the levels of ability are so varied. Just this week Jean was reminded of two individuals who took English classes offered through the mission several years ago with hopes of being able to move to Canada. These young men are now both leaders in Lutheran congregations in Almaty! Another reminder that one never knows what will happen when seeds are planted. To God be the Glory!



It's been a rather cool and wet summer so far. We've had lots of rain that has helped the city remain quite green and the flower beds to flourish. The flower bed in front of the office was recently brought to the attention of the "Akiem" (mayor) when he was in the neighborhood checking out the playground areas in the courtyards that have been redone. Throughout the city streets are being redone, curbs replaced and new, colorful playground equipment installed in many courtyards. The people see these physical changes and enjoy these improvements. What is more important for the people is a spiritual change, a spiritual awakening of the people throughout Kazakhstan. Pray for the Holy Spirit to open their eyes and hearts such that they come to know and believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Pray that He set their hearts **Ablaze!** with a passion to share this Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ with those around them.



Prayer requests:

~~ Blessings on Jon Muhly as he studies the Russian language and cultural to work among the people of Russia.

~~ Wisdom and discernment for Pastor Tim Nickel as he serves in the capacity as Central Asia Team Leader in both Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

~~ Guidance and direction as Morris transitions to his role as Russian Ministry Outreach Coordinator and works with the national church leaders.

~~ A servant attitude for Jean in the classroom when she begins English classes after their furlough time in the states.



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