

Olson August Newsletter

Dear Friends of the work in Kazakhstan:

The summer is passing quickly. In mid-July Jean returned from a six week stint in the states where she participated in a "Babushka" (grandmother) practicum with our seventeen month old grandson Eli. They went on numerous wagon rides, read many books and just enjoyed having fun together. Her presence freed up time for our daughter Tame and son-in-law Steve to take summer school classes. Morris kept the home fires burning where he diligently worked on the New Testament correspondence course and helped train the mission's new accountant. He and Evangelical Lutheran Centre (ELC) President Alex Shastlivi also spent a week in Astana, the capitol of Kazakhstan, at the ELCROS Synodical Meeting (German Lutheran).

The new accountant, Saule, started working in mid-May and is already initiating changes that will enable things to flow more smoothly. A Kazakh custom is that when one receives their first paycheck they celebrate. This week Saule bought a watermelon to share at the office after receiving her first paycheck!

Summer Bible School (SBS) sessions began in mid-July. The SBS sessions are held 3-4 hours a day for five days. It was encouraging to be at St. Andrew congregation in Pervomaika where the teenagers asked for an additional week-long session just for the older children. The eighteen or nineteen children attending ranged in age from four to 16 years. Although no adults from the congregation participated at SBS at St. Andrew, four teenagers were trained to help with the lessons -- Dima, Nastia, Natasha and Nastia.

Pray that Dima, Nastia, Natasha and Nastia continue to grow in faith and knowledge of God's word. Give thanks for Saule as she serves the mission in her role as accountant. Pray for wisdom and discernment for her as she endeavors to work with our mission team and ELC leadership to set up a new accounting structure and guidelines for the ELC congregations. Pray that many more children will come to hear of Jesus during the SMS sessions this summer. And, we thank the Lord for your continued prayers, support and encouragement for the work in Kazakhstan.

Friends,
Morris and Jean Olson
Serving in Almaty, Kazakhstan
LCMS World Mission
www.worldmission.org