

Dear Friends of the Work in Kazakhstan:

November 2005

In our part of the world, as well as in the USA, special attention is given to "thanksgiving" during the month of November. It is during this season that we as Christians give thanks to God for all our blessings. We want you to know that you are counted amongst our blessings from God. You are a blessing to us and to the ministry in Kazakhstan. Thank you for helping to share the Gospel in this part of the world through your encouragement, your prayers and your financial support. We are pleased that you have an interest in the work in Kazakhstan and consider you to be an important part of the ministry that goes on here.

In mid-November we traveled to St. Matthew's congregation. It is located in the village of Toonkerez approximately 24 miles from Almaty and has a population of approximately 4,000 people of which 60% are Kazakh. This worship community was initially started in association with a Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod World Relief project and was dedicated in October 2003. The mission driver delivered us in time for the Russian speaking morning worship service that started at 11 o'clock. It was quite evident that the congregation was very familiar with the songs as they sung with gusto! The church does not have an accompanist so they use a CD and a songbook that is compiled of songs and hymns for small groups entitled "Sing to the Lord". This congregation meets in one room of a small home. The congregation's desire is to enlarge this room with an entrance that opens to the street. This is important to this congregation because now those that attend services at St. Matthew must go to the back of the home and then pass through the living quarters of the deacon and his family. It is felt that this arrangement discourages some people from attending services because it makes them feel uncomfortable. This congregation is also interested in evangelism classes and other continued education classes. Pray that the Lord will bless the efforts of St. Matthew and Deacon Sasha as they strive to do evangelism in and around the village of Toonkerez. We are blessed to have this worship community as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Center (ELC) and pray that their enthusiasm for sharing the Gospel is contagious!

Pray for our missionaries:

Pastor David Baker: Pray for David and Rachel Baker, and their children Julia and Timothy, as they seek to disciple new Christians and train group leaders. Ask God to continue to bless their Kazakh language studies, so that they may build relationships and effectively communicate their faith and hope that is centered in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Armand Boehme: The People of God Evangelical Lutheran Seminary (POGELS) in Almaty trains men and women for ministry in Kazakhstan. Pray for the students as they continue to grow in their faith and spiritual leadership. Ask for God's blessings on the volunteer ministry of Armand Boehme as he continues to work with the deacons and church leadership in establishing criteria by which the spiritual leaders become "ordained" as pastors within ELC.

Amy Kashenov: Pray for missionary Amy Kashenov, her husband Marat and son Amanzhol as they are involved in evangelistic activities with Kazakh villagers, translating materials into Kazakh, and providing evangelism and leadership seminars in Kazakh.

Morris Olson: Pray for missionaries Morris and Jean Olson as they endeavor to work with the ELC church leadership and congregational members as the church body moves toward increased levels of becoming a healthy and independent church.

Pray that the Lord unite our mission team and the national church leadership as we individually and collectively seek to serve Him in a manner that brings glory to His name.

Ablaze! Partners, Morris and Jean Olson
Serving in Almaty, Kazakhstan
LCMS World Mission

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:
LCMS-World Missions -- 1333 S. Kirkwood Road -- St. Louis, MO 63122-7295.
Write "93331 Morris and Jean Olson - Kazakhstan" in the memo line.

