



On the Amur River



## Developments and Deployment

Cecil spent a month in Russia by himself while the rest of the family stayed in the States as Deanna healed from her bicycle accident. He returned to the States and on October 24th the whole family flew to Khabarovsk. Deanna's jaw is healing well although she needs to wear a retainer type thing in her mouth part of each day to guide the healing of the hinges. Deanna is now attending 1st grade in a Russian school; Vera and Timothy are being home schooled in English. Tonya has been reconnecting with the orphanages and begun doing outreach there. Cecil's time has been completely absorbed with the process of purchasing property for the Far East Ministry Center and attempting to get a resident permit to live in Russia.

## Far East Ministry Center

Few Churches in Khabarovsk have their own building. Even the extension center of the Moscow Theological Institute, which has been here for over a decade, has no facilities of their own (every session they have to find a classroom to rent). Our own work with graduating orphans needs a place to establish a day center. We've been working to acquire property to help meet these needs. Upon our return to Russia we met with local pastors and church leaders to evaluate the need, level of interest and possible solutions. After looking at many



Cecil discussing the project with leaders.

different properties, we have settled on buying office space in a commercial building where we can have a classroom, library, several offices (for the Institute and various churches), some storage space and a small kitchen. The Lord has provided funding for the purchase. Local church leaders are

in agreement. A sale contract has been signed. The closing is scheduled for late January. We will need renovations to bring things up to fire code, but we're excited.

## Quest for the Resident Permit

International ministry always involves dealing with passports and visas. Your passport is from the country of your citizenship, allowing you to travel internationally. Most countries require a visa to enter, and issue various kinds of visas depending on your status and length of stay. Tonya and the children have Russian passports, which allow them to enter and live in Russia. Cecil has a U.S. passport, and needs a visa to go to Russia. He has a one-year religious worker visa, which

allows him to come and go freely, but Russian visas (other than student and work visas) require you to be out of the country for 90 out of 180 days. Cecil has applied for a resident permit, which would allow him to stay in Russia without a visa. Everything has been submitted, so right now we are simply waiting for it to be approved.



## Khabarovsk,



Russia



Khabarovsk sits on the Russian side of the Amur River, across from China. It is about 200 miles from the Sea of Japan and is the hub of the Russian Far East.

**We're on the Web at**  
<http://Eshelman.info>

**Freaky Fact:** The city of Khabarovsk is built on three long geographical ridges, which gave rise to the ancient legend that the area rested on the backs of three whales.



**Preaching Opportunities** Due to the shortage of pastors and other church leaders in the Russian Far East, there always seems to be requests for a preacher. Above on the left we're speaking at a Sunday service at a local church. On the right we're speaking at the Open Heart homeless shelter for a Thanksgiving dinner service. Open Heart started in the summer of 2006 and now has grown to two centers housing a total of 120 residents.



### Ministry Center

We're looking to purchase space on the 6th floor of this downtown office building for a **ministry center**. It's facilities will be available for the Bible Institute, local churches and various ministries.

### Bible Institute Graduation



This fall a class of students graduated from the Khabarovsk extension center of the Moscow Theological Institute. They received a government recognized four year degree. Cecil was asked to join in prayer for the graduates at the ceremony.

#### Praise Reports:

- ***We're back in Russia!***
- *Reconnecting with our friends in Russia.*
- *We have located an excellent place to buy for the ministry center.*
- *For the strong support of so many wonderful folks back in the States.*

#### Prayer Requests:

- ***For Cecil's resident permit to be approved.***
- *For the purchase of the Far East Ministry Center to go smoothly.*
- *The Lord of the Harvest to send more laborers into the harvest field of Russia.*
- *Our minds to be focused and clear.*

Send financial support to: AGWM, 1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, MO 65802

Make checks payable to "AGWM" and memo "Eshelman, 292481-9"

