

Fall 2008

Loving the people of Russia

Looking Back



Leaving for our first term in Russia, three and a half years ago,

we had three main goals: 1. To get settled into Khabarovsk. 2. Cecil to learn Russian. 3. To get connected. And we really wanted to work with older orphans graduating from the orphanage system.

The work with older orphans was challenging and needs more development, but we feel the first three goals were accomplished. We were able to purchase an apartment, Speed-The-Light bought a mini-van for our ministry, we've learned our way around the city, and have managed to settle in. Cecil at-



Short term workers serving at the homeless shelter in 2007.

tended a university as a full-time student of the Russian language for three semesters and is now conversational (but not yet fluent) in Russian. By hosting pastors conferences, we've developed a network of relationships with churches. Through our work among the orphanages, we've developed contacts with various officials.

In addition we feel good about the homeless ministry, the Bible School, and the preaching ministry we did. A highlight to us was being able to host a number of short-term ministers in our home. It was also our privilege to mentor several Missionary Associates who worked alongside us.

Looking Forward

Lord willing, we will return to Khabarovsk in August of '09. Our main goal is to work with older orphans as they graduate from orphanages. We feel the Lord has given us a four pronged plan to reach and assist young adult orphans. 1. Teach life skills to teenagers in the orphanages before they leave. 2. Establish a day center where they can come to find help and friendship. 3. Develop a mentoring-discipleship network to guide them in a deeper walk with



Teen-age kids in an orphanage where we went weekly.

God. 4. Create a way that their need for long-term housing will be met.

Obviously, we can't do it all at once. So we'll be trusting the Lord to show us what part we



In the Russian Far East

CECIL, TONYA, TIMOTHY, VERA & DEANNA

The Eshelman Exploits

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If you would like to receive our
monthly email updates, just write
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We're on the Web!
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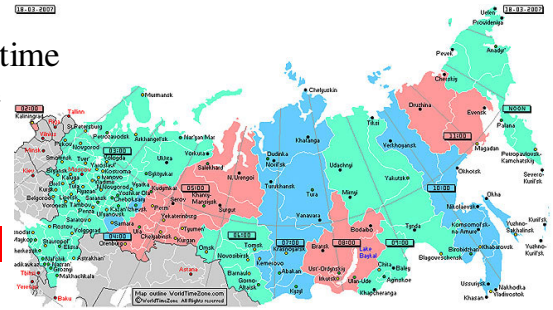
Praise Reports:

- Kids have adjusted well to life here.
- Meeting wonderful people on our travels.
- Seeing Cecil's family over Thanksgiving.
- The Russian troops pulled out of Georgia.
- Our speaking calendar has been busy.

Prayer Requests:

- The Holy Spirit to anoint our speaking.
- Someone to help with kids' schooling upon returning to Russia.
- More churches to support us financially.
- The Lord of the Harvest to send laborers to Eastern Russia.
- Jason, who is in Khabarovsk without us.

This map shows Russia's eleven time zones. Khabarovsk is seven time zones east of Moscow (and six time zones west of California).



Looking Forward (Continued from page 1)

should start with. We've already been doing presentations in orphanages. This not only gives us an opportunity to teach life skills, but allows us to share the Gospel and form friendships with the kids. However, there are about twenty orphanages in the Khabarovsk area of which over half give shelter to teenagers; so there is a need to expand even just the life skills part of the program.

AGWM has approved a project for Khabarovsk called the "Far East Ministry Center." It includes the purchase/renovation of a building to house several ministries such as a Bible School and a day center for young adults. The orphans who have graduated could find us there when they need help, friendship, or advice. We are presently raising funds for the Far East Ministry Center project.

A mentoring/discipleship network could be created among the churches of Khabarovsk that want to help young people. There are various programs and courses that could be used. All that is needed are mature people who want to share the love of Christ with youth.

Orphanage residents around sixteen years of age are graduated and sent to community colleges for a year or two where they live in dormitories. After that they often are homeless. We have been dialoguing with several area ministries about how to respond to this need. We have a concept we call "City of Refuge" under development, and hopefully we'll have more to tell you about this later.

We're also praying to form more of a team in Khabarovsk. If the Lord moves on your heart to come and serve with us, we'd be delighted to tell you how to come for short or long term.

Looking Around

We've been speaking about missions in churches, home groups, Sunday Schools and a Bible College. Since August we've averaged over a hundred miles a day on our vehicle. If you'd like us to come to speak, just let us know.



Cecil illustrating a sermon with a story from the mission field.