

Ministry Update in Siberia

"Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you." Is. 49:15

ABANDONED



Because of the overwhelming problem with drugs and alcohol in this country, many children are being raised in state institutions. Last week Brian Fornier, who adopted a little girl from Novokuznetsk three years ago, led a team from his church in MA to minister to abandoned children in



our city. What an overwhelming experience it was for the team to visit a children's hospital and see four rooms filled with newborns left by their mothers. It was most heartbreaking after holding the babies, to lay them back in their cribs and hear them cry as they left the hospital. The team also visited other institutions and experienced the joy it was to play games and share God's love with children who've also been neglected.



"Pure and undefiled religion is this...to visit orphans and widows in their trouble" James 1:27

TEEN CHALLENGE



At the same time the team from MA was ministering to children, Bonnie Martin and Michelle Zello, from VA, were ministering to staff and students in the Teen Challenge center. We witnessed the expression of joy in many staff and students as they attended the seminars on depression caused by trauma and met with Bonnie for individual counseling. The understanding,



that Christ died not only to forgive their sins but to cover their shame, brought freedom and healing to many. As Michelle taught women how to make jewelry using precious stones, they experienced a feeling of self-worth by being able to make something of great value. We are anticipating a profitable income for the Teen Challenge program through the sales of jewelry.



(Please see Michelle and Tim Zello's website at: www.jewelry4god.com)

GLOBAL ADVANCE CONFERENCE

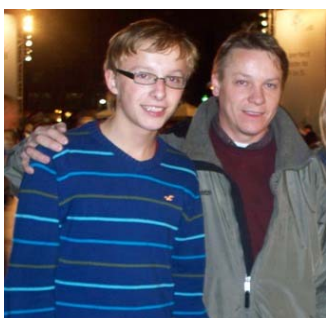


Over 400 pastors and leaders gathered together for a leadership conference. Many who felt discouraged were renewed and strengthened in the Lord through the preaching and through prayer at the altar call. The three days of the conference were filled with ministry. Many people experienced a physical healing. We thank the Lord for the ministry of Global Advance, from TX, that supported Russian pastors to lead this conference.



PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please pray that God would keep back the flood waters at the Source of Life Teen Challenge Center in Kultan. There was much snow this year, and it's melting very fast. They have just evacuated the women and children, and the roads are now blocked and flooding. Over 100 men are there at this time with no running water or electricity.
2. The property that the local government had given for free use to Teen Challenge is now unfortunately scheduled to be sold at the auction on April 29. The city government priced it at \$450,000 USD which is extremely high. In order to participate at the auction, one must pay about \$90,000 which will go toward the purchase of the facility. Please pray that no one shows interest in buying this property. If no one shows up at the auction, the price will go down as much as 50%. Please also pray that God would provide the necessary funds and allow us to purchase this property in order to continue this valuable ministry of reaching the addicted. There are currently over 200 students in the program and over 50 workers.
3. Please pray for Tim Ptashnik, from the Winnipeg, Manitoba Teen Challenge center, who will be in Novokuznetsk for 6 weeks, helping to make the training of students more effective at TC Siberia.
4. Russian Easter will be celebrated on April 19. The city administration has given us permission to have an Easter service on the city square. There will be worship, testimonies and preaching. Please pray for people who would normally not come to a church service to be saved.



This month our oldest son, Joshua, will turn 17. He will be graduating from a Christian high school in Texas in May, and he'd like to wait one year before continuing his education at a university. Please pray that God will lead Joshua to where his life will bring the most glory to God. We miss him very much!

We want to thank you for making it possible for us to live here through your prayers and financial support!

We love you and thank God for you!

Ilya and Janet