

## *Home Again*

Dear Praying Friends,

May 26, 2011

Now that Lois and I are home again, we want to thank you for your prayers. It was another remarkable trip to Russia.

It was remarkable that everything happened according to plans. That is not always the case in Russia. Since we only had an hour to switch planes, there were some concerns about making our connecting flight in Amsterdam on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Our flight into Amsterdam was actually early. No sweat! From wheels up in Minneapolis to wheels down in Moscow was just 12 ½ hours.

Throughout the entire trip the right people met us at the right times and places, taking us where we needed to go. Neither of us became ill at any time; and we couldn't have asked for better weather. We received no emergency calls regarding our aging parents, and our grandchildren stayed relatively accident free.

### ***Why should we be surprised? We asked you to pray for such results.***

Teaching was intense at times but also went according to schedule. A perfectionist always feels the need to *do it over again*. However, I managed to *let it rest*, remembering that “doing your best” and “trusting God” were practical applications of the class I was teaching.

We were very impressed by the dedication of these Russian believers as they recorded lecture after lecture. Their use of modern technology to train Christian workers in distant places where Bible colleges and seminaries will never be established merits recognition. As believers in free and closed countries download classes through the internet, numerous grateful recipients reply. The plan includes teaching the entire Bible through TVS (Theological Video Seminary). The potential encompasses thousands being equipped through phones and computers. Presenting *The Theology of Rest* through TVS was an honor; Lois and I were grateful for the Lord's presence throughout the entire process as all went well.

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This was my fourteenth trip and Lois' tenth trip to Russia. By now we have come to accept that there are anticipated opportunities for which we began preparing weeks ago. Then there are the unrehearsed opportunities for which we trusted that God began preparing us *years* ago. For instance, I was invited to preach two days prior to both Sundays while in Russia. God was God.

Lois and I got to spend quality time with Jahongir and Zilola, persecuted Christians who escaped from Uzbekistan. Lois and I joined hundreds of other believers in prayer for their escape earlier this year. God has so richly blessed us with this new relationship.

Then there was the day of ministry at the Gypsy community for which we were least prepared. Throughout their history, Gypsies have been awarded a less-than-best reputation. For several years, Evangelical Free Church Missionary Lois McNeill has continued a most challenging ministry to Gypsy families.

One might categorize their culture as a counter culture to true Christianity. Theft and the Occult are acceptable ways of providing for one's family. Illiteracy is common, as men are not motivated to work, and women are not worth educating, so they say. Stealing away a thirteen or fourteen-year-old bride is accepted. We had tea with Alisa, a young mother who had been a stolen-away bride at age thirteen or fourteen. She managed to get away from her first husband only to be stolen away again at age fifteen or sixteen. She is now twenty-seven years of age and has been married to her second husband for ten years. Together they have three children, and the money she received from the government for the three children is their primary source of income. Thanks to the outreach of the Gypsy Church, Alisa is a believer and hopes her husband and children will someday believe in Christ as well.

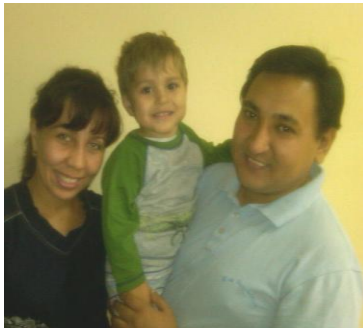
The strength of this Gypsy ministry is its youth. After many of their parents have reverted to the old ways, it is hoped that this new generation will adopt the mind of Christ and live the Christian life in the face of generations of deep-seated deception. Our capacity for intercession has been stretched again, this time by a distant people whose plight we prefer to think does not exist. One cannot travel far from home and expect to maintain prayer for a few fine folks. These Gypsies were a welcomed stretch.

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Once again we want to thank you for your prayer support and financial contributions. Please continue to pray as God's Word is carried in the air and downloaded into homes and embraced by human hearts.

May God bless you and continue to make you a blessing!

Jim and Lois Anderson



Jahongir and Zilola



Alisa and her 3<sup>rd</sup> child



Gypsy Teens