

Merry Christmas from the Chastains!!! What a beautiful time of the year! Our family has been overwhelmed with the reality of the blessings of God in our lives this Christmas season. The love our Father has for His Son is perfect. He adores Jesus. Yet in His desire for us to have Him in our hearts, He sent His precious child down to us. He watched Jesus suffer and die. He heard His child cry out to Him, "My God, why have you forsaken me?". The price Jesus paid for us was immeasurable. The price of the Father, however... to just watch and listen... The reality of that price for our salvation brings me to a place of saying this season, "Father, everything I have you can take. You deserve everything I have."

It is such an honor and joy to share each month with you a little about the things God is doing in St. Petersburg and in our own lives as we walk this journey. However, Charlie and I realize that in order for this ministry to

move forward, and for our family to move to Russia and work with these children on a full-time basis, we must have the support and commitment of others at home, both spiritually and financially. So we want to take some time this month to tell you a little about the needs of this ministry, and of opportunities for you to get involved.

I know that I could pour out onto you so many examples in scripture and in our own experience of the ways God moves in and through those who step out and sacrificially give back to him. This is not to say that giving back to God is necessarily easy, or that those who give should expect to receive back some equal or greater financial blessing as a result. As a matter of fact, in the 10th chapter of Matthew, Jesus explains several times to his disciples that in this life, serving and giving to Him will often be a difficult journey. There may be things we are required to give up, or those around us who question and don't understand when we decide to take that step in faith and give ourselves to Him. However, in Matthew 10, verses 41 and 42, Jesus promises his disciples, "Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's

In Memory of our Beautiful Sister

November was a month of both tremendous blessing as new relationships in St. Petersburg were given life, and of unexpected grief, as we learned of the passing of Tanya, a beautiful young lady we've known since she was a teenager living in the orphanage of Pavlovsk. Like many of the girls we work with there, Tanya struggled with

shame, confusion, anger, bitterness and many other fruits coming from the seed of the lies the enemy



plants in the heart of a young girl who has been abandoned by her mother and father, and who has suffered severe abuse from counselors as a child. (At one point Tanya's wounds from the abuse she received in the orphanage required medical surgery. She also needed reconstructive surgery as a result of that incident, which she never received.) Despite these struggles, however, Tanya clearly had a beautiful spirit, which shown most clearly when she laughed. I had the honor of praying the sinner's prayer with Tanya during one of our visits there. Despite some deep confusion that seemed to linger in her about God, I and others close to her know she is with Him now, and that all is clear for her. ("Yet to all who received Him...He gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." John 1:12-13. "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." 1 Cor 13:12.) Thanks be to God for allowing us the honor of a glimpse into the beauty of His precious daughter, if even for a short time.

reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

So...what we need: In order for us to be able to commit to 5 years in St. Petersburg with these kids, we are expecting to need about \$400,000 to cover everything from living expenses, health insurance, taxes and pension to travel and visas to the start-up costs of moving and language school. When we first realized how much we were going to need several months ago, I confess that I believed it was impossible. But God, in His grace, has been helping me see this number not as an impossible sum of money, but as a wonderful opportunity for His children to be used by Him.

I began to consider it this way - if we found 400 brothers and sisters who felt called to support this ministry, that would be \$1,000 a person - over 5 years! That's \$17 a month! Another way to consider this - if everyone currently receiving this email committed to give \$50 a month to this ministry for the next 5 years, we'd be over 70% funded! Imagine if there were those of you who were able to commit to more!

If you are unable to support this ministry financially, but feel called to be involved in some way, there are other opportunities for support: 1 - Consider being a member of our Home Team. We are greatly in need of individuals who are able and willing to commit a few hours each month in various functions, including meeting for prayer, administration, mailings, fund-raising, and communications. 2 - Ask your Sunday school class or the missions committee at your church if they would invite us to come and spend some time sharing about this ministry. 3 - House parties are a fun and personal way for sharing the ministry and for raising support. Consider if you might be willing to host a house party for this ministry. We would love to come spend time meeting new folks (or getting together with old friends!), sharing about the ministry in St. Petersburg, and giving others an opportunity to partner with us in prayer and financial support.

A few of you are already partnered with this ministry financially, and we appreciate your faith and obedience in so many ways. If you are receiving this and have not committed to give, please consider whether this is something to which God may be calling you. We have no desire to "guilt" anyone into giving who is not called to do so, but per Jesus's words above, neither can we risk your not receiving your reward simply because we were too afraid to ask.

We love you all so much. Let us know how you are and how we can pray for each of you!

Love and blessings In Christ Jesus,
Miki

Ways to donate to this ministry:

To make a donation by check:

- send a check to the following address, noting "Chastain/Russia 322" in the memo:

The Mission Society
6234 Crooked Creek Road
Norcross, GA 30092

To make a donation by credit card or electronic debit:

- go to our website: www.actsofadvocacy.org and click on "Give" to go to the Mission Society "donations" page.

To make a monthly pledge:

Either contact us via email or phone (770-428-7105) so that we can send you the appropriate documentation, or go to our website: www.actsofadvocacy.org and click on "Give" to go to the Mission Society "donations" page.

