

The Chastain's are on their way to Colorado for 5 weeks of missions training.



**The Mission
Society**

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you read this newsletter, Miki, Isabel and I are preparing for five weeks of training in Colorado Springs starting on the 12th. I'll be honest- Miki and I are looking at the next 5 weeks with a bit of apprehension, apathy and a lot of plain ol' exhaustion. It's not that we think that we are above the training we'll receive, or that we won't leave with a wealth of preparation for Russia. We're just tired. We've had a stretch of brokenness in the past few weeks, and I do believe it has knocked us down a notch.

We've had to put our precious daughter through a series of grueling tests to see if we could determine the cause of her "seizure-like" episodes 2 months ago. All the tests have come back normal so far, and we have a follow-up appointment with her neurologist this week. Please pray for all to be well with Isabel.

Alongside of that, my father spent time in the hospital with more complications with his heart. This has been a struggle for my family for many years now, and it never gets any easier when you get the call to come. My father is back at home and stable, and we're thankful for his recovery and praying for continued healing in body and soul.

We also closed the sale on our home in Kennesaw on April 30th. We are thankful for the quick sale, but even the most routine real estate negotiations can drive you batty!

Add all of this on top of a full-time job, 24-hour parenthood, constant travel and support-raising and you start asking why you're putting yourself through all of this.

Well wait a second, Charlie... I thought these newsletters were supposed to be about Russia? Besides, you guys are missionaries traveling the globe. Are you telling me that you can't handle these hurdles that are before you?

My unequivocal answer is that Miki and I definitely can't handle these hurdles- not alone anyways! We wouldn't have been able to make it this far without your prayers on our behalf. The more I walk down this road, the more I realize that these "hurdles" we all face are just as much a part of the mission as putting clothes on a street child. Many of you out there probably face just as many (or even more) challenges in your daily lives as we have faced during this spell. And you don't have the opportunity to put it in a newsletter to ask for prayer! You can't stop your life from happening, so you just deal with it as it comes. Clergy and Missionaries are no

different than the rest of you. I'm a broken, sarcastic sinner who's been called to help at-risk children in Russia. We are all living in the light of God's immense mercy, regardless of calling, occupation or birthright.

That being said, Miki and I consider you all our Church, and Church is where you lay your troubles down before God and your brothers and sisters there in Christ. That's what we're doing now and that's what will have to continue if we are to make it in Russia. I'm not talking about the 20th Century approximation of Church- you know, where everyone shows up looking spotless and clean to appear like we have it all together. I'm talking about CHURCH- that place where David pleaded for mercy, where Thomas doubted his Savior's resurrection, where a mustard seed's worth of faith is all you can muster. That's where I want to be. It's in the muck of life that we find community, and in His grace that we find meaning together. So all of these challenges we're facing at home really do have to do with Russia, because Russia is where He called us to be. We have really felt your prayers, and we need you to continue.

Please don't think that this is a one-sided thing: We want to pray for you and stand behind you in whatever you may be facing. Don't hesitate to call us! For that matter, don't hesitate to call on your congregations for help, too. I've spent many years of my life in church trying to avoid any assumption that I might be struggling in my walk with God. But now as we are moving to a place in which I have far less control, I don't feel I can play that game anymore. I have to tell you, there's a freedom in that! So if you're like me and you think there's more to God than "playing church," open up your heart, check your pride at the door and give it to God. It does us no good to go it solo. **Blessings to each of you, Charlie**

PRAISE REPORTS...

- We are continuing to see new partnerships for the mission through churches and individuals. God is Good.
- We are now homeless! (In most situations this would be seen as a prayer request, but we see it as one step closer to Russia)
- Planning is moving forward for a couple of short-term trips through churches in Aiken, SC, Tuscaloosa, AL and Fayetteville, TN. Let us know if you would like to join in on one of these trips.

REQUESTS...

- We still need a considerable amount of funding commitments to be made if we are to move to Russia in August. If you haven't already, would you consider partnering with this ministry?
- We need more contacts for support-raising. Do you have friends from other churches who you think might be interested in helping? What about your social clubs? Bible Studies? Sunday School Classes? If you think you can help pass on our needs, please contact us.
- Our current medical insurance policy has a high deductible on non-preventive care visits. So all of Isabel's current tests are going to add up quick.

Please pray that the Lord continues to provide the means for us to pay for everything.

- Now that the house is sold, we have a lot of stuff to get rid of before August. I'll be posting a list of the items (with photos) on our website at www.actsofadvocacy.org/stuff.html. Check it out. Anything from furniture to lawn equipment. If you want something let us know, and if you can contribute some money for it, even better.

ARE YOU PARTNERING WITH THE MISSION SOCIETY FOR THE CHASTAINS?

If you have sent a pledge card to the Mission Society and are awaiting an invoice before you send in your first pledge, please don't wait. The Mission Society does not send invoices or reminders to partners. When a gift is received, they will send a receipt and at the bottom is a portion to tear off and send with your next gift. Simply mark the check Chastain Support 322 in the note section and send it to The Mission Society, PO Box 922637, Norcross, GA 30010-2637. You may also give online by visiting our website at www.actsofadvocacy.org/Give.html.