

Acts of Advocacy

NEWSLETTER
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The Mission Society

We're on our way....

Hi, everyone! We hope this letter finds you and your family well and encouraged this spring!

Many of you know that Charlie and I have been commissioned by the Mission Society (www.themissionsociety.org) as full-time missionaries to serve in St. Petersburg, Russia, where we will work with disabled and street orphans.

The need there is so great. There are so many children living there either under the oppression of rejection by parents unable to care for them, or having never known the love of a mother or father at all. In the short-term work we have done there since 2001, we have come to know disabled orphans who've experienced neglect and abuse both at home and in the facilities in which they now reside. We've worked with pre-adolescent girls who are learning to use their bodies to earn food and shelter. We've learned from kids living at orphanages that the only time they've ever entered a church has been to attend the funeral services of another child from their facility.

I cannot fully explain how it has been for Charlie and I to come to know and love these children and our brothers and sisters in Russia, or what it has meant to be called to work with them full-time. In speaking to others who have been called to and who are serving

in full-time ministry, it is clear that like so many things in this life, it is impossible to fully understand until you've been there. We sit in awe as we watch our 9 mo. old daughter, Isabel, as she is growing and learning so much everyday, and we are overwhelmed that God has blessed us with the honor to share our days and hours and minutes with this precious child. We fully understand that Isabel has NOT been called into full-time ministry, but we are trusting God more everyday to provide not only for the ministry, but first and foremost for this family. We seek to walk more and more in His ways so that He will be glorified, and so that His promises for us and our children will be fulfilled. (*"Faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today - to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul...teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up...so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the Lord swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth."* Deut 11: 13-21)

We are writing today because we are developing our official mailing list, which we will use when we need

to contact you for encouragement/prayer support, to send out newsletters and updates about the work of the ministry, and to raise our support, both in prayer and in finances. Through encouragement from our home church, we have been commissioned through the Mission Society, but Charlie and I are responsible for raising 100% of the financial resources for this ministry.

Almost all of this will need to have been raised before we can leave for Russian language school.

Given our relationships and previous conversations with each of you, we are considering this our initial mailing list. We understand if you would like to be removed from this list. Please just respond and let us know.

Also, we have mailing addresses for most of you, but we'd love to receive confirmation of your most current address so that we can make sure you're receiving things promptly.

I confess that during the past several months, I have experienced many days of frustration and fear about going to Russia and moving our family from our home and loved ones to St. Petersburg. We recently received a note from Amanda Smith, a friend of ours who is leaving in a few weeks to serve the Lord in Kenya, which I found very encouraging and have copied a portion below:

"The most repeated imperative command in the scriptures addresses fear, in phrases like, 'do not be afraid' or 'fear not'. This is the command that I most want to rely on right now. Fears about learning the language, 'fitting in', failing, being forgotten, insufficient funds, illness, family crisis, loneliness, ineffectiveness...and those are all on the tip of my tongue. Though your fears may not be the same, they stir up the same emotions of desperation, discouragement, and even anxiety in all of us when they surface. But God meets us here, in every instance in scripture, grabs our cheeks in the palms of his hands, making us look him in the eye, and says, 'Do not be Afraid...Amanda'. And in his great mercy, honors us with 'why', 'Because I am with you. I will fight for you. I redeemed you. You are mine'."

Heavenly Father, thank You for forgiving me when I have looked to other things to give me a sense of hope, security, peace and truth, which lie only in You. Continue to break my heart, letting me pour out completely onto your altar, until all I have is You. Bless and protect us and all who receive this note. Do not let us down, Father. We love you and praise you. In Christ Jesus...

We're leaving June 5th - returning June 17th - for

Isabel's first trip to Russia! Please keep us in your prayers.

We love you,

Charlie, Miki and Isabel

Also see our website: www.actsofadvocacy.org

That sums it up pretty well. So first we need prayer. Russia is filled with spiritual oppression, and we know we cannot succeed unless we are constantly covered in Prayer. Would you consider being a prayer partner for our family? Email us and let us know you are praying. It would be a great encouragement to us! Second, we need financial support. We are in need of people that want to take part in the salvation of Russia. We have just begun our fundraising process. We have committed to 5 years of service with the Mission Society. To be sent to the field, we are required to have 100% of our ministry funds promised. We need churches and individuals to partner with us on a sustained monthly basis. To give to our ministry, visit actsofadvocacy.org to give online or print this form and send it to the Mission Society directly.

DEAR CHARLIE AND MIKI,

I will pray for you. Please send me your prayer letter.

Update me by email: _____

As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving \$ _____ per month / quarter / year for _____ years.

I would like to donate a one-time gift of \$ _____.

Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Home Church _____

TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:
The Mission Society · P.O. Box 922637 · Norcross, GA 30010-2637 · USA
Designate gifts: "Chastain Support 5/322"

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