



Your support helps us minister to the disabled orphans of Saint Petersburg, Russia.



**The Mission Society**

**Acts of Advocacy**

NEWSLETTER 10  
MAY 2008

## Grace and Peace to you in Christ Jesus.

We have just completed our fourth week here in Colorado Springs. With week 3 came a whole new set of missionaries making their stop at Missions Training International on the way to their respective fields.

After two weeks with this group, I have already heard mind-blowing stories of faith in the face of disease, disability, bitterness and pain. I think that's the reason why we use terms like "mission" and "calling." These are normal people just like you and I who feel like they have no choice but to respond in obedience to the task that God has presented to them. They see it as a responsibility- which reminds me of a verse Miki and I have been discussing recently. Normally I am not one who feels led to offer a verse from Leviticus (pondering this particular book challenges me like no other), but this one has stuck with us lately:

***If a person sins because he does not speak up when he hears a public charge to testify regarding something he has seen or learned about, he will be held responsible. (Leviticus 5:1)***

That's where Miki and I and all of our temporary neighbors at MTI are. We have seen situations in the world that prompt us to testify and respond, regardless of the challenges to that response.

One of the nearby ministries out here in Colorado Springs is Compassion International. They minister to impoverished children around the globe, so we definitely were drawn to find out more about them given our similar calling. The most interesting data that they have come across in years of mission is that "while 80% of believers receive Christ into their lives before the age of 14, only 10% of world missions effort is directed at children." They go so far as to call it "The Great Omission." I had never heard that statistic and it broke my heart.

So as I chewed on this new realization, I began to ask why this was the case. I wonder if maybe we tend to feel that there is a different level of commitment when it comes to the life of a child. I know I do. And when we consider the commitment, many of us feel it's too painful to deal with the realities for children in the world and either hesitate to answer the call or block it out all together.

With our ministry in Russia, Miki and I have definitely seen this perception, hearing responses like: "Oh, I couldn't go over there and do that, it would break my heart!" It feels a little more "close to home" when we

think about a child in need versus an adult, doesn't it? It feels like there's more risk of getting our heart broken when we decide to take part in the life of an at-risk child. It may feel that way, but my convictions tell me that this is not a valid excuse for inaction. I'm convicted because I can see how I have hesitated in the past when it came to these same children - and I'm supposed to live and work with them every day!

Or, maybe we're not sure that this type of ministry is a part of "proclaiming the gospel to the ends of the earth."

For example, if we look at the life of Jesus, we see that he served people by addressing physical needs, building relationships and sparking spiritual growth. We can see clearly how our ministry in Russia has been used to help the first two, but the last one is a little foggy.

But then I think about Tanya, the young girl I wrote about months ago who is with the Lord now. We served her through supplying her immediate needs, which led to a relationship, and through that came the opportunity to tell her about Christ. Let there be no doubt that serving at-risk children is part of the Great Commission.

I don't think I truly understood the concept of believers as "the hands and feet of Christ" until I began to fellowship with these beautiful missionaries from all over the world we've encountered during training and support-raising. They proclaim Christ through soup kitchens, advocacy, digging wells for clean water, disability programs and, yes, good old fashioned door-to-door evangelism and church planting. The task requires a broad effort: there are approximately 1.8 billion people in the world who have yet to hear of a man named Jesus. But in this effort it looks as though an important population is being lost in the shuffle.

If you are one of those who feel it would be too much risk to give to an at-risk children's ministry, please consider giving anyway. If you are one of those who feel you would crumble if you tried to visit these children, please consider coming anyway. Risk getting your heart broken, but also consider the innumerable opportunities to bless these precious children! If you have been faithfully supporting other ministries, by all means keep doing so. Just please tell others about "The Great Omission" and how they can help "balance the effort." As Leviticus 5 says, now that I have learned about this issue, it's my responsibility to testify. I hope you will do the same. **Many Blessings to you, Charlie**

[www.actsofadvocacy.org](http://www.actsofadvocacy.org)

#### PRAYER REQUESTS...

- Praise for our health and Isabel's health while out here in CO!
- Our living arrangements for the next few months!
- The team going to St. Petersburg in September.
- We still need a considerable amount of funding commitments to be made if we are to move to Russia in August.

#### Chastain's Summer Schedule (known to date!)

June 16 - June 26, Waycross, GA  
June 27 - June 30, Tuscaloosa, AL  
July 1 - July 5, Atlanta, GA  
July 6 - July 11, Fayetteville, TN  
July 12 - July 27, Brazil Training  
Aug 16 - Aug 17, Fitzgerald, GA missions conf.  
Aug 27? - Leave for St. Petersburg

#### HOW CAN I PARTNER WITH THE MISSION SOCIETY FOR THE CHASTAINS?

One-time gifts are wonderful and will help us get there sooner. Keep in mind, also, that weekly, monthly or annual commitments help keep us there!

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](http://www.actsofadvocacy.org/Give.html).