

# Acts of Advocacy

NEWSLETTER  
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Photo: Miki and Isabel saying goodbye to one of the orphan's we've watched grow up over the years. He's become a kind and gentle young man! Isabel loved him.



## Isabel Chastain makes her first trip to St. Petersburg, Russia.

### We've returned from St. Petersburg encouraged, inspired and exhausted!

Greetings to our precious brothers and sisters in Christ! With this letter it has been almost 2 weeks since our return from St. Petersburg, Russia, and with the exception of a cold Charlie hasn't quite been able to shake, we are finally feeling back into the "groove" of things.

We wanted to write and provide an update about some of the kids we were able to visit during our trip, and a little about our family's personal journey while we were there as well. What a tremendous blessing it was to be able to visit with so many kids and loved ones in St. Petersburg! We were able to get into adult facility #10 in St. Petersburg to visit with several handicapped orphans we've known since our first trips when they were living in the handicapped children's orphanage. This was an incredible time for us and the kids as we have been turned away at the door of #10 twice on prior trips, allowed then only to leave the supplies we'd brought. We were also able to visit an adult facility in the town of Peterhof, where our friend, Natasha (22 years-old), is living, with her husband and 2 children. Natasha is a girl we

know from a handicapped children's orphanage, who was moved to the adult facility about 3 years ago. Charlie last visited Natasha in February, 2006, when her first child, Susha, was about 6 mos. old. He and other members of that team said that at that time, Natasha wasn't a very nurturing mother, and that it seemed her daughter was showing symptoms of shaken baby syndrome. Natasha and her husband at that time both smoked, and the three of them were living in a room just big enough to walk around their bed, a sink, and a small dresser. Natasha told them that she felt the best thing for her daughter was that she be adopted. This past May, Natasha gave birth to their 2nd child, a son - Alexander - who was born with heart problems. I truly do not believe that it is God's will for His children to be born with heart problems. I do not believe that it was His will for Natasha to have to walk through those weeks with her newborn in the hospital and in those conditions. But I praise Him for His absolute faithfulness not only to carry us through such times, but to use them to bring us closer to Him, and in that bring us closer to a life of peace and thanksgiving. Natasha clearly has developed a very nurturing spirit towards both of her children. Her daughter was playing and laughing with her mother while we were there. Even in disciplining Susha, Natasha showed

patience and maturity and adoration, an incredible lesson for the other two new moms in the room and for all of us trying to comprehend the love and adoration our Father in heaven has for each of us.

I know that the stories of this trip and the things revealed of the nature of God and of a true relationship with Him could go on and on. I would like to continue to send these letters out in the upcoming weeks and months to tell you more about the trip (as we continue to digest it!) and to give you updates as we raise our support and prepare to move to St. Petersburg next year.

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### Russia by the numbers:

30% of St. Petersburg street children are H.I.V. positive.

I do want to say now that after all of my worrying and doubts and fears about Isabel meeting these kids, it was amazing - thrilling and humbling - to see how she fell into the arms of a couple of them during our trip. We chose not to take her to meet the street children or some of the more severely handicapped children we worked with this time. But the innocent, unbiased affection that she showed some of the other handicapped orphans was, I believe, extremely powerful and absolutely beyond anything I was expecting.

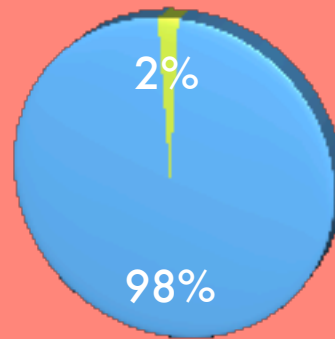
I also want to share some of the passage God gave me during this time, which meant a great deal to me during our travels. Isaiah 43:1 - 13 was the passage. "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned..." vs 1 and 2. I noticed that God doesn't say "If" you walk through fire, but "when". Our walk with Him, when we're truly seeking to give all of ourselves to Him, is going to be hard. Jesus said in the sermon on the mount, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." As God used Natasha's "brokenness" during the time of her son's hospital stay to draw her more into the woman He created her to be, I believe we are not only to expect to be broken in His presence, but to seek it. I am not there yet. I am scared of being broken, especially with the responsibility of raising Isabel and keeping her needs at the top of my list. But I will never become fully the mother, wife, or woman of God He has called me to be until I let Him get into those deep dark places - and I pray He will continue to carry me there only when His grace can carry me.

We love you all so much. Please keep in touch! We have a few speaking engagements coming up in the next couple of months around the Atlanta area and one near Spartanburg, SC in September. We'd love for you to join us or to come visit you to perhaps speak at your church or sunday school class! MIKI CHASTAIN



# S U P P O R T U P D A T E

● TO GO ● RAISED



We're just getting started! Please partner with us today!

**There are many ways to participate in The Great Commission!** Joyce Chellis, a colleague of ours in Kazakhstan, explains it like this: He never said, "For all of you who find it convenient, or exciting and adventuresome, go into the world and preach the gospel." He told us ALL to go. The job for some of us is to stay at home and pray. The job for others of us is to provide the means for others to go. And the job for the rest of us is to give it all up and go.

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](http://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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