

March 2008 newsletter

Happy Spring to everyone! The Lord has blessed us immeasurably and says still, "There is more to come!"

In preparing to write this newsletter, I realize how busy this month has been! So many things have been revealed to us this month about the ministry, our family, and relationships around us. Many of these things have brought us joy. Others have actually been more difficult and a little painful.



Two residents of disabled orphanage outside of St. Petersburg.

First, we offer our

praise and thanksgiving for His work in the ministry! We've learned that

the Lord may be preparing to use my experience in accounting in service of a partner ministry to the orphans in St. Petersburg. We've learned of a change in the directorship at one of the orphanages with which we work, which we are praying will open new doors for ministry with the staff and children there. We have also been greatly encouraged with new relationships with individuals who are feeling a call to support this ministry in prayer and finances, or who are considering whether the Lord is calling them to go to St. Petersburg on a short-term trip! Finally, we are encouraged to have received financial commitments up to about 55% of what we are expecting to need monthly while living in Russia!

On a more personal note, the Lord has really blessed us with a great deal of time to fellowship with so many of our loved ones this month! Plans regarding our living arrangements for our first few months in St. Petersburg are confirmed. We've also received encouragement from brothers and sisters who are praying and looking forward to ways they can support us personally. We are so grateful for God's provision of a "2nd family", the Sharoyko's in St. Petersburg, to help with our transition and to help with Isabel's care and Russian (thank you, Father!). Finally, we want to offer thanks for the precious lady's circle at our home church who recently decided to "adopt" our family during this ministry in the way of support during our move and care packages in Russia and in just being there to listen! Thank you guys so much!!!

A personal praise and continued prayer request: Early in March, our daughter began having "seizure-like" symptoms, and several tests have been scheduled to determine whether there is an issue in her brain, or in her heart, or even with the sugar levels in her system. We are grateful as she's gotten through the more difficult tests safely and with normal results. Also, we offer praise that the symptoms have not been severe, and that she has not had another episode in a few weeks. For mom and dad, this has really been a time of broken-ness.

But we know that the grace and peace of the Lord are upon all of us. These remaining tests will also be difficult for Isabel, so please keep us in your prayers in the next weeks.

Also, last week we were called to Nashville unexpectedly, as Charlie's father had been having chest pains, which the doctors now believe was a heart attack. This is a long history of illness for him, and so they are looking now into the extent of the damage to his heart and into any options for him surgically.

Finally, as the Lord has begun to develop new relationships, there are others in our lives from whom a separation seems to be evident. This part of ministry - even more, this part of life - is perhaps the hardest. We pray that we may offer these circumstances to the Lord continuously so that there may be only love and joy in all of us for one another as we continue in our walk in Christ Jesus.

Upcoming Schedule:

April 27 - Miki speaking to Women's group at Fayetteville UMC, Fayetteville, TN

May 14 - June 16 - Training for Chastains - Colorado Springs, CO

July 13 - July 27 - International Training for Chastains - Brazil

August - Chastains depart for St. Petersburg, Russia

We love you very much, and are praying the Lord's continued blessing and anointing in your lives. We would love to hear from you! Please let us know how you are and how we can pray for you.

Love in Christ Jesus -
Miki and Charlie

Please note that we have decided to begin to send out both a newsletter and a devotional each month, as the news we want to share with you all seems to be getting longer! Please look for the devotional in a few days.

To learn of ways to support this ministry, please visit www.actsofadvocacy.org.

