



February 2008

What Do Russia and Brazil Have In Common?

If we look to see what Russia and Brazil have in common we must look at a few facts. The first is that Russia is about 1.8 times the size of the United States, about 6,592,735 square miles and is the largest country in the world, where Brazil is smaller than the United States with only 3,286,470 square miles. The people of Russia speak Russian but the people of Brazil speak Portuguese. The per capita income for Brazil is \$8, 100 with an inflation rate of 7.6%, unemployment at 11.5% , a literacy rate of 80% and 80% of the population is Roman Catholic. Russia's per capita income is \$9,800 with an inflation rate of 11.5%, a literacy rate of 100% and the religion is Russian Orthodox or Muslim.

So what does Russia and Brazil have in common? Looking at these statistics one couldn't tell, so you would have to dig deeper and see that one thing these countries have in common is the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Through the C&MA, God has commissioned missionary families to these countries who would go and minister the gospel of Christ, reaching the lost. Each country is unique and comes with it's own challenges. But, God has been faithful to send families who can work within these challenges in different and unique ways, working with the nationals to equip them so that they can impact their communities, reaching their friends and neighbors for Christ.

Russia has 19 missionaries who work with 35 organized churches, 19 unorganized groups, 32 ordained ministers, 2,350 baptized members and 3,000 inclusive members. The mission team initiatives are to come alongside fledging church plants in four of Russia's five largest cities. These churches have the potential of reaching 20 million people of many nationalities. They also want to identify and help meet the needs of the four national church groups with which the mission is partnering, striving to be an example of the unity of the Body of Christ. The Russian Missions team members are also encouraging national church partners to adopt a churches-planting-churches approach in their efforts, believing that this will help overcome some social and economic barriers to growth. Brazil has 13 missionaries who work with 11 organized churches, 8 unorganized groups, 15 ordained ministers, 1,466 baptized members, and 1,597 inclusive members. The Brazilian Missions team initiatives are to plant churches in the Zona Norte area of São Paulo and Barra da Tijuca sector of

Rio de Janeiro that has 400,000 residents who are mostly of the professional class but who are spiritually needy. Pray for these church plants, pray for ways to connect with the spiritually hungry, protection from discouragement as our workers begin from scratch. Pray also for the conversions and solid growth in the discipleship of new converts, and the discernment in knowing the right time to rent a place of worship.

Coming February 21 and ending Sunday, February 24th is Bloomingtondale Alliance Church's Annual Missions Conference which will feature one missionary family from each of these countries. From Russia, Steve Lovell will come and be with us on Thursday and Friday, February 21st and 22nd, to share his work of providing training in church planting, evangelism, and discipleship. Mr. Lovell also helps local pastors start businesses so they can be self-supporting and teaches English clubs as a tool for contacts. From Brazil, Diane Warden will be here on Saturday and Sunday morning, February 23rd and 24th. Mrs. Warden will share with us her work in church planting, musical groups for the district, discipleship/mentoring, Marriage Encounter musicians, hosting short-term missions groups called English weekends, and mentoring pastors' wives.

Yes, Russia and Brazil do have something in common and it is the work done by missionaries of the C&MA. On the back page of this newsletter you will find more information about each missionary, their work, needs and prayer requests, or go to our church website online at www.bloomingtondalealliancechurchcma.org and follow the links. See you at the Missions Conference! ■

In This Issue

Nearly 100 Christians Injured – Page 2
Church Attacks In Russia– Page 2
China Expels Children from Christian Orphanage – Page 2
Winter Blast News– Page 3
Volunteers Needed – Page 3
Diane Warden – Page 4
Steve Lovell – Page 4

To Read more about these stories and more, use the following link:

<http://www.worthynews.com/christian-news.php>

• **Nearly 100 Christians Injured In New Attacks In India**

An uneasy calm returned to a Christian missionary camp and another area Sunday, January 20, in India's Chhattisgarh state where up to 100 Christians were injured in attacks this week carried out by suspected Hindu militants, BosNewsLife learned.

Added: Jan 21st, 2008 2:11 AM | Share your opinion!

• **Iraq: Serial Attacks on Churches Continue**

A car-bomb exploded outside a Chaldean church in northern Iraq yesterday, injuring two people, a Baghdad bishop said. The blast is the 10th reported attack on Iraqi churches in two weeks.

Added: Jan 21st, 2008 2:09 AM | Share your opinion!

• **China Releases Church Leaders From Labor Camp**

Four Chinese house church leaders spent another day in freedom Saturday, January 19, after they were unexpectedly released from a labor camp following an "unprecedented legal victory" a Christian advocacy group involved in the case said.

Added: Jan 21st, 2008 2:08 AM | Share your opinion!

• **Malaysia: Government Confiscates Christian Children's Books**

Adding to the furor over whether non-Muslims have the right to use the word "Allah" in their publications and religious practice, on January 11 online news agency Malaysiakini reported that officials confiscated English-language Christian children's books because they contained images of prophets.

Added: Jan 21st, 2008 2:06 AM | Share your opinion!

• **China Launches "Secret" Crackdown On House Churches, 'Open Doors' Says**

A leading group supporting Christians "persecuted for their faith" has launched a global prayer campaign for China where, it says, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has been waging "a secret" crackdown on unregistered house churches.

Added: Jan 18th, 2008 2:49 AM | Share your opinion!

• **Christian Leader in Xinjiang Province Arrested**

China Aid Association learned that a House Church leader in Kashi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region was secretly detained on January 12. According to an eyewitness, Mr. A Li Mu Jiang was taken away from his home by State Security Bureau agents for an accused "national security issue." His wife was also taken from her home for interrogation in the evening of the same day.

Added: Jan 17th, 2008 2:53 AM | Share your opinion!

• **China Expels Children From Christian Orphanage**

Children and their caretakers spent

another Sunday, January 13, in uncertainty after they were expelled from their Christian-run orphanage in China's Hubei Province, as part of a crackdown on Christian activities by local authorities, an official said.

Added: Jan 14th, 2008 3:41 AM | Share your opinion!

• **Honduras' Top Evangelical Accuses Criminals Of Infiltrating Ministry**

The pastor of one of Central America's largest churches and evangelical organizations says criminal groups are infiltrating his and other Christian groups in an effort to halt their operations, BosNewsLife learned Friday, January 4.

Added: Jan 7th, 2008 5:39 AM | Share your opinion!

• **China Detains Prominent House Church Leaders In Gansu Province**

At least two prominent church leaders of a main house church in China's Gansu Province remained detained Wednesday, January 9, after Chinese security forces raided a worship service, fellow Christians said.

Added: Jan 10th, 2008 3:20 AM | Share your opinion!

• **China Releases Christian Bookstore Owner And Employees**

Chinese authorities have released on bail the owner of a Christian bookstore near Beijing's Olympic Village and fellow workers, amid international pressure, after detaining them last month on charges of "illegal printing and distribution of Christian literature," BosNewsLife learned Tuesday, January 8.

Added: Jan 9th, 2008 3:31 AM | Share your opinion!

• **Pakistan Christians Losing Hope As Ballot Is Postponed After Assassination**

Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf announced Wednesday, January 2, that Britain will assist in an investigation into the assassination of opposition leader and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto who Pakistani Christians described as "the only hope" to end religious persecution.

Added: Jan 3rd, 2008 3:19 AM | Share your opinion!

• **India Hindu Militants Attack House Church**

Hindu militants have attacked a house church in the Indian state of Rajasthan, seriously injuring several worshippers, the latest in reported attacks against Christians across India, local believers told BosNewsLife Tuesday, January 8.

Added: Jan 9th, 2008 3:28 AM | Share your opinion!

• **Missionaries Concerned After Church Attacks In Russia**

Christian missionaries have expressed concerns about the situation of Protestant Christians in Russia after attacks on a Baptist and Pentecostal church outside Moscow, apparently by members of a group supporting President Vladimir Putin, BosNewsLife established Tuesday, January 8.

Added: Jan 9th, 2008 3:14 AM | Share your opinion!

• **Turkey Releases Teenager Planning "Massacre" In Church**

A Turkish teenager who vowed to kill the pastor of a Protestant church and "massacre" Christians in the Black Sea coastal city of Samsun has been released by a local court because he is "too young" Turkish media reported Tuesday, January 8.

Added: Jan 9th, 2008 3:23 AM | Share your opinion!



Retreat News

By Rev. Rick Rosati

This past retreat has been the best one I've been apart of in the last four years. Kent Julian joined us this year as our speaker and Toccoa Falls once again led us in meaningful worship. The theme this past year was "Rescue Me" and it was deliberately for those who do not know Christ or have a rather immature relationship with Christ, and God used it to speak to those specific students and leaders who are in that position and we praise Him for it.

The first night students were directed toward God's position in our lives and in creation. The second day was focused on what we were asking God to do. We looked at how Christ asked blind Bartimaeus what he could do for Him.

With that, it was especially meaningful because a blind student was there and came to know Christ. After a long afternoon of skiing, snowboarding, and fun at the *Fun Depot*, we came back to "Saturday Night with TFC [Toccoa Falls College]" which included Pizza, freebies, and fun.

Sunday morning our weekend was summed up with the story of Elijah in 2 Kings 18, where the people of Israel was faced with who to follow and who to trust. At that time over 30 students made decisions for Christ. The whole weekend was indeed a "blast" and we saw God answer prayer, meet students where they are at, and draw them closer to Himself. ■

The Evangelism and Outreach Ministry Needs Volunteers this Year for Maximum Effectiveness in Spreading the Gospel



Servant Evangelism and Outreach events focus on reaching lost people with the Gospel by a variety of ways. Events focus on children, adults or families. 98% of the time these events take place away from the church in neighborhoods, parks, strip malls, truck stops, flea markets, and the beach to name a few. Jesus preached in the temples, but most of His ministry was away from the temple where people lived, worked, shopped and relaxed. The following ministries need volunteers immediately in order to minister more effective this year.

Open Air Campaigning volunteers are needed! For more information, Introduction pamphlets to OAC are on the TRACT table in the front foyer.

- Game Paint Sketchers
- Gospel Presentation Illusionists
- Children's Action Song Leader
- Paint Board Evangelism Sketchers
- Emcee / Hawk Eye / Prize Coordinators
- One to one following up after events using special tracts or children or adults.
- OAC Project Site coordinators – locates new sites, assists in team reminder mail outs & calls..... see cross training dates below.

Seed Sowers volunteers are needed! Introduction pamphlets to *Seed Sowers* are on TRACT table in front foyer.

- Assistant Event Coordinator – assisting in setting up events – networking with other ministries when needed – assists in team reminder mail outs & calls.
- Team mates to distribute and use tracts
- Inventory and tract prepping assistants

See Pastor Joe Ortiz to sign up and more information

Valentines Banquet
Loves Seafood Restaurant
Saturday, February 9, 2008
6:30 PM
 For Reservations Contact:
Howard App 748-4198
Don Koffroth 450-3555
Ron Bosiljevac 748-0804

Diane Warden



Prayer Letter *Missionary to Brazil* Ministry Update

Dear Praying Friends,
We are coming down to the end of our 2 1/2 year term and will be returning to the US for Home Assignment to share with you in

person what God is doing and has done here in Sao Paulo.

We are so thankful for each of you that contribute to the Great Commission Fund. We could not minister here without it. Please continue to be faithful in your support so that we can continue to reach lost people for Christ.

We are gradually turning over the new church plant to our colleagues, Alex and Julie Zell as we prepare to leave. They are a breath of fresh air, as they are constantly making contacts and living Christ in their neighborhood ... As you can imagine, with our ministry here, it's difficult to think of leaving these people for 6 months. They are our family and we love each of them dearly. We are trusting that God will continue to reap the harvest here in this region of the city and this church will be established for His honor and His glory. Amen!

We are so thankful for your prayers and support of our ministry here. It means more to us than you can imagine.

*Co-laborers in Christ,
Len and Diane Warden*



Opportunities to contribute:

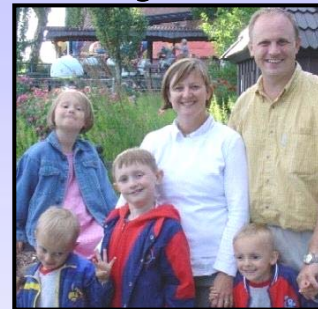
Len Warden Work of Fund
Computer supplies - paper, ink, repairs,
Retreats and ministry related travel
Literature and equipment
Len Warden Support
Our monthly allowance
Our rented house
Our documentation and medical insurance

Prayer Requests

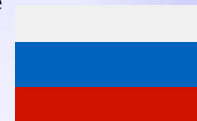
1. Pray for the national pastors and families that they will rise to the challenge of being godly examples in their homes, churches and world.
2. Pray for the new national leader of Integrity Ministries. There will be an election before we leave and Len needs wisdom as to who should assume this role.
3. Pray for peace as we leave for 6 months to share what Christ has done and is doing.
4. Pray for effective ministry on tour. We will be on separate tours in the South Atlantic District in Feb/March and in California in April.
5. Pray for health and joy to serve Christ no matter where we are

Steve and Wendy Lovell

Prayer Letter *Missionary to Russia* Ministry Update



Beginning in October, 2007, the visa laws in Russia changed yet again. This is in order to bring Russia's laws in line with the laws throughout Europe. As a result, the issues surrounding our current visa situation have become very complex. There is much study and investigations of options going on.



Please pray as the leadership of the mission, the leadership of the national church, and lawyers unite to find a workable solution. Please pray that the Lord would give them wisdom and guidance throughout this process. Currently, we are not sure if this will affect our departure. We are still hoping to go back to Russia this summer, but we will need to keep those plans very flexible. Wendy began working on a master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL). She took several courses toward her degree at Wheaton College this last summer. She has applied for a full tuition scholarship, and we are waiting to hear if she has won it. If she is awarded the scholarship, she will continue to study over the next several summers. The plan is to finish in '09.

We are hoping this degree will be useful for outreach in Russia and that Wendy can become a valuable resource for other missionaries on our field who have similar ministries.

When we left Russia last summer, we sold our van. We were able to put the money into an account as seed money for purchasing another vehicle when we return; however, we still need to raise a significant amount to make up the difference. We are using many of the honorariums and love gifts from speaking engagements toward our next van, but unfortunately, it has not been enough.

Please pray that the Lord would provide the still needed \$8000. Please also consider partnering with us in raising the needed monies by donating to our vehicle fund

Prayer Requests

For the visa situation in Russia.
For needed monies in the GCF, our vehicle and outfit funds. For Wendy to be awarded a scholarship which would enable her to continue her pursuit of a graduate degree in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) at Wheaton College.
For good spring tours for Steve in February and April & for strength for Wendy while he is away