

# The Hearron Family Newsletter

## Second Quarter 2016

### Missionaries to Russia

### *Serving Since 1993*



**2016 FURLOUGH CELL PHONE: +1 (405) 595-6252**

#### **Decision to Furlough**

In March, I held a conference call with my sending church pastor and Dr. J. B. Godfrey, Vice President and Executive Director at our mission board, BIMl. Discussed was our critical low level of support and how this would impact our future ministry in Russia. It was decided that our family would need to furlough and raise additional support.

Our current support level has fallen to 56% of what BIMl recommends. In response to this need, I began informing our supporters of our furlough plans and asked if they could help us network with pastors and churches in order to help us get meetings in new churches. My director at BIMl as well as my sending pastor and others sent letters explaining how our low support was endangering our family's ability to stay on the field. The response has been tremendous.

Not long after the letters went out, I began getting emails from various pastors. Contacting these pastors and others generated further leads. Our new church meeting schedule began coming together in a way I have never experienced before. We had two churches take us on for support without requiring us to come and present our ministry.

Because of our current immigration status in Russia (not allowed out of the country more than 180 days) we fully understand that a second furlough in two years may be necessary to get our support to its proper level. But we are very much encouraged by how things are progressing. Please pray for our family and our need to raise additional support.

#### **Preparing to Furlough**

Have you ever had to pack up and leave your home for an extended period of time? It is not easy - especially when that home is in such a harsh environment as Siberia, Russia. But that is exactly what we had to do.

Many things needed to be done. I needed to get the well in order with a backup system in place. I needed to make sure fences are secure to keep in our big guard dogs. I needed to get the septic pumped. I needed to get the yard in order as the snow finally melted and the mud dried up. I needed to have a place ready in September to receive 9 tons of coal for heating this winter. I needed to prepare Russian immigration yearly notices. Bonnie and I needed to take a Russian Language, laws and history test to obtain a certificate required by law for our next residency extension. This extension must be ready to submit just as we are returning from our furlough in November.

We are thankful to Sergey and Lena who have again agreed to stay and watch our home while we are in America. We met with them several times to show them the ropes with our home and the many critical systems (water, heat, sewage and etc) that need to be monitored and maintained. Please pray that their stay will go uneventful.

#### **We're Here!!!!**

It is amazing the emotions that came rushing in once our family landed in the USA. While driving up from Dallas to OKC the day after landing, I looked at Bonnie and she at me and we were both almost simultaneously struck with the same flood of emotions. We both wept. Having lived so long on the field, while seldom taking furloughs, lends to a reverse culture shock for many missionaries. It has for Bonnie and me.

We had not been in the states for two weeks when I learned from Sergey that our large 150 pound puppy had gotten out of the yard. He killed a small goat that was grazing along the small stream behind our back fence. The local police officer was summoned, but by then the dog was again in the yard and chained up. The officer was satisfied with Sergey's response to the issue and left. I instructed Sergey to inform the owner that on my return I will compensate her for the loss. The fence has been fixed and hopefully something of this nature will not be repeated.

We hit the ground running in America. Our first meeting with a supporting church was on our second day back. By the end of June we have had nine meetings, of which, seven are in new churches considering us for support. Praise the Lord!

#### **Pray for our People**

Leaving behind your ministry as a missionary is a difficult thing. We were able to have a going away barbecue with some of the young children that have attended our services. Not having someone to watch our ministry in our absence, we would ask that you pray for these young people to not forget the biblical principles they have learned and be eager to assemble with us again on our return.

Pray for Kosty in our absence. He knows Christ as his Lord and Savior. He will be attending the Krasnoyarsk Baptist Church while we are in the states. I have called him several times since our arrival in the USA. He remains encouraged but asks prayer for his youngest son who is not saved. The boy lives with his mother. Please pray for his salvation.

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