

The Ministry

Once in Sochi, our group worked with the local church called "Living Word" and minister primarily in hospitals but, outdoor opportunities did occur on a number of occasions.

One place where we did outdoor ministry was Lazarevskoye (pictured above), a town 60 miles west of Sochi on the Black Sea Coast, where no missions organization had ever been before. We traveled by electric train and sat on hard wooden benches for 90 minutes. Our job was to help plant a church there.

After arriving, we put on our make-up in a restaurant and ministered with our drama called "The Painter." Using dramas was the best way of ministering the Gospel to these people who spoke a different language. The first time we ministered in an open area (pictured on reverse side) by a theater two elderly ladies came forward to accept Christ.

After that we prayed and ministered to another group of people in the same area, more than 20 came forward to accept Christ. Later in the day, we ministered in a market area and about 40 people accepted Christ.

Overall, while in Sochi about 200 people accepted Christ.

"The Future"

I believe God has called me into the mission field and join staff with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). The best place for me to work with YWAM is on the College Mobile Team. The college campuses in America today is a mission field where 8 out of 10 Christians who go to college fall away, the next generation will be educated and 80% of world leaders and trained here.

Our team will serve groups like Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and Campus Crusade for Christ through dramas and lectures on improving our relationship with God and current issues from a Godly perspective. I am currently studying and preparing to give a lecture on "America's Godly Heritage."

Prayer requests:

- Keeping my focus on Christ
- Preparation for the College Mobile Team
- Bonding for the College Mobile Team
- Adjusting to long-term missions
- Financial support
- Car

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Dear Family and Friends,

One year ago I was preparing to attend Youth With A Mission's (YWAM) Discipleship Training School in Tyler, Texas, to strengthen my faith in Christ. The support needed to attend this school came in the form of my savings from jobs I had and two people, one of whom was my Grandpa Kappeler. He had sent me a large sum of money in April of 1992, because I spent a lot of time at his house with him and grandma when I was small. Grandpa sent me this money at the time the idea of going to YWAM was introduced and I believe the timing was of one God's confirmations to me.

When I first arrived at YWAM I thought I would last a month or two at best but, through His strength I made it. At the end of the classroom session of Discipleship Training School, before leaving on outreach for Bogota, Columbia, I entertained the idea of returning to Tyler, Texas, to take the School of Evangelism course in late June.

As mentioned above, support for Discipleship Training School came from two people and my savings. For School of Evangelism, I had to raise support like any other missionary which was a new experience and challenge for me. But, God proved to be faithful by raising up 34 generous people to support me.

It was during School of Evangelism that one of my toughest challenges for His sake took place. Being an only child, I did not experience the joys and challenges of having brothers and sisters. Throughout this past year God blessed me with many terrific brothers and sisters in Christ. I knew that these relationships would end soon and I wanted to have a terrific outreach with them. The choices were Columbia, India, West Coast of America or, Russia for outreach. India was interesting but, I finally decided to go to Russia.

I knew that those of us going to Russia would be working with another school. My excitement left me when I discovered that only one individual, who was in the Discipleship Training School with me, and three people from the School of Evangelism class would be going to Russia.

While on outreach I really struggled with being away from many good brothers and sisters in Christ. I got to know several believers well and I am very thankful for them today. On many occasions I was fine, on the outside. On the inside I was in anguish, emotionally torn and sometimes angry at God because of being separated from people who I had eaten, slept, struggled and had really good times with. I was so angry sometimes that I

(over)

cursed God. Yes, I could have chosen to go on another outreach but I believe God wanted to really stretch me by the sacrifice of my relationships for a time so He could do a mighty work in me.

One day while I was having a quiet time in Russia, I remembered a scripture verse that a dear friend of mine at the beginning of School of Evangelism gave me and that it was from God. It said, "...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Phil. 1:6 NIV) What He had started with me in Discipleship Training School He would finish in School of Evangelism. But what about my attitude? Well, I came across another scripture verse that read, "...if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself." (II Tim. 2:13 NIV) To me it meant that even though I was being a jerk in spirit, He was still going to use me to minister to others and accomplish His plan for me.

There were a few times while I was in my room in Sochi, Russia, and angry with God that something happened. My only explanation was that the Holy Spirit reached inside of me and took away my anger. I was left meek and at peace.

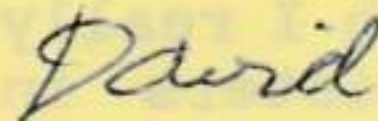
As the plane was taking off from Sochi, I could feel the Holy Spirit ministering to me, strengthening my shortcomings, giving me confidence and an intimacy I had never experienced before with Him. One of the deacons at my church said that in the process of God making us into His image and serving Him requires all of us to go through a crucible but, oh, the rewards are so great.

I believe God is calling me to be a missionary. It is because of what He has done in my life, the direction, challenges and excitement in missions that has brought me to this conclusion. For what period of time I do not know, only that He is in control and has a great plan for my life.

I will be going on staff with YWAM, joining the College Mobile Team and ministering on college campuses through dramas and lectures. Please keep me in your prayers as I make the adjustment to long-term missions.

Take care and God Bless.

Sincerely,



David Kappeler