



Dear Everybody

Welcome to Arbury Community Church. We pray that God will bless you in every way.

Most regular members of our church belong to Community Groups which meet on evenings during the week. These groups are church in the home. Please let me know if you would like to join a group. Currently they are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

With love in our Lord Jesus, John

Colin, Bron, Emily & Jonathan's News August 2008 Russia

Emily and Jonathan were very excited to spend the last week with Granny and Grandad Cleaver, and we all enjoyed having a family week together. By coincidence, they were also here to see the total eclipse of the sun which took place in Novosibirsk last Friday 1st August. We joined many other people to watch this event outside and lots of screaming and fireworks marked the two minutes of total eclipse! We also enjoyed taking a ferry trip down the river Ob, going out to the dacha for a BBQ, and taking the children ice skating for the first time.

Discipleship Centre

Since we last wrote to you, one of the students for this year's DC has dropped out, so we now have seven - 4 guys and 3 girls. We would still like to find another student before we start our course on 29th August. We are busy now preparing for our new intake of students, getting ready lectures and timetables etc, and inviting people to the official opening of the DC on Sunday 31st August.

Please pray for one more student and that God would prepare the other 7 who are coming.

Global Challenge

In our last newsletter we also wrote to you about the two teams which we organised to go on an outreach to the towns of Bagan and Kargat. Both teams got on very well despite being arrested by the police, ending up briefly in hospital and one of the leaders coming down with chicken pox! Here is what Corallie from Australia wrote about their trip to Kargat:

Here in OM, the work is endless, and the hours are long, but ministry for the Lord is fruitful. While in Russia, our team went to Kargat, which is a small town of about 8000 people, and is situated approximately 3-4 hours west of Novosibirsk. While we were there, we were challenged beyond belief as God sought to work through us to bless the people of Kargat. What we saw there I'm no doubt has changed our perspective forever. We westerners are accustomed to a certain comfortable style of living, and our team got quite a culture shock when we arrived in Kargat to see that our accommodation had no running water. From the very beginning, we knew that we were not in for a glamorous ride: bugs, mud, foreign smells, 'squat pot' toilets, no running water, mosquito bites, animal droppings, sickness (even rural hospital visits for one of our team members who fell ill), no pri-

vacy, cramped living conditions. You name it, and we were challenged by it! However, soon all was forgotten as we began our work with the children and teenagers.

All we could say when we saw the children was 'Wow!' The first day was somewhat difficult, as we had limited children, and the ones that were there were timid around foreigners. However, when we arrived to the venue on our second day of the program, we were greeted with an amazing sight! There were almost twice as many children as the day before, and as soon as they saw us, we were swamped by almost 20 children trying to hug us at the same time! From then on, they kept soaking up all the love we were giving them, and anytime our laps were free, we had kids wanting to sit on them.

By the end of our trip, people would stop us in the street and want to talk to us about God. Anytime we ran across one of the children from the program, they would run up to us and give us a huge hug! Granted, we couldn't speak their language, but they had experienced the love of Christ in a very real way. Were all the bugs, smells, uncomfortable living conditions, and pain all worth it? I would say the resounding answer from our team would have to be YES! It was worth it, just to see the change on the children's faces from suspicion on the first day, to absolute love every day afterwards. God was truly present in Kargat, and we pray that the fruit that we saw will continue to grow for many years afterwards.

Polina's wedding

This Saturday was the wedding of Polina (who was on our OM team until very recently) and Andrey (a graduate from the DC 2006 to 2007). They met and fell in love at the DC - our first match between a tutor and a student! Here are some pictures from the wedding - including all the former DC students who were there!

Please pray for them as they move to Andrey's church in the town of Yeliseysk (1 day's drive away)

Thank you for your prayers and support,

With much love,

Colin, Bron, Emily & Jonathan

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1 Tim 5:1-6:2

Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to. So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.

I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden.

All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers. Instead, they are to serve them even better, because those who benefit from their service are believers, and dear to them. These are the things you are to teach and urge on them.