

But my servant Caleb,

because he has a different spirit and has followed me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land into which he went, and his descendants will inherit it. Numbers 14:24 (NRSV)

Caleb

SUMMER 2006 REPORT

The Caleb Report is the quarterly newsletter of the SEND Ministries Department of Rosedale Mennonite Missions.

ON OUR WAY HOME

by Sue Knicley

I love Russia. I love Russian people-especially the older ones. I love (most) Russian food. I'm intrigued by the culture, even if it drives me crazy sometimes to have absolutely no idea where the end of the line is at the post office or train station. And I still chuckle when I think about a young mother I saw this winter pushing a baby carriage down the street. From my vantage point, the only visible sign of a baby was two arms sticking straight in the air from inside the carriage. That kid was bundled so well and in so many layers, he couldn't put his arms down!

The past year in Russia has been a great one, even though it hasn't always been easy. Most of ya'll reading this will understand at least a bit how strange your relationship can be with a foreign culture, especially at first. You're intrigued and frustrated, drawn and repulsed, seemingly simultaneously. It's weird...

But something happened to me over the past year that feels a bit weirder. I began to feel like one of them.

When other Americans would ask what I missed from the States, I usually didn't know what to say. I like Russian stuff. And when Russians would show surprise to find out that I'm not Russian, compliment my accent, or tell me that I look Russian, I felt like



I'd just received the biggest compliment they could give.

I occasionally dream in Russian. One morning I'm quite sure God woke me up by whispering in my ear in Russian. He has such a sense of humor, doesn't He?

But the strangest thing was coming back to my country of origin. I

call it that because I really don't know where "home" is any more. Of course I wanted to see family and friends, but I didn't want to leave Russia and everything I've known there. Life there isn't perfect, and it certainly isn't easy, but I've learned to cope and enjoy it. I don't know the "normal American life" any more, and quite honestly I don't care to re-learn it just for the few months I'll be here before I return to Russia.

So landing at D.C. Dulles about a month ago was really an odd feeling. Walking around the airport and hearing lots of English, seeing the latest fashions and realizing that Russia was a lot of miles away left me a bit frantic. My passport says that the US is my home, but it doesn't feel like home...

Then I had to remember what my roommate taught me one day last year. She is Scottish, but has worked in Russia with Campus Crusade for years. She had lived in a southern Russian city with her team for some years when the city government turned on them and ordered them out within a matter of days. Of course this was a really big shock and blow to all of them, and some began trying to scheme to come up with a way to be allowed to stay.

At this point in the story, Elaine looked at me and said, "They just didn't get it." You see, they were focusing on staying in the city instead of taking the Gospel message wherever they were sent. They were trying to hold on to what they knew and felt sure God was calling them to, and Elaine was willing to let go her grasp on the location and trust God for the next stop of this train ride that is her life. For her it was just that—a stop. Even though she enjoyed that stop, she realized that it wasn't home. The team was dispersed and relocated, and God is using them now at their current "stops."

I have to say that I sympathized with the "schemers" at that point. I want to be in Russia, it would be very difficult for me to follow orders to leave. But the point is, Russia is not my home either. Elaine's point was a good one, but it was hard for me to admit that to myself. Admitting it meant that my own white-knuckle grasp on Russia would have to loosen, and that's seriously scary to me, because right now Russia is where I feel the most "at home." But when I admit that it's not home, I am suddenly faced with the fact that nowhere on this earth is really home. And that doesn't feel very nice to an earth-dwelling human such as myself.

What I'm beginning to realize (and God is probably sighing and saying "finally!") is the reality of our pilgrim status here on Earth. Comfort and security is not something we're promised here, and I'm not even sure we're supposed to spend a lot of time



seeking it. We're here to accomplish a task that's been placed before us, and then we're guaranteed a promotion. So whether we are born, spend our lives and die in the same town, or globetrot all over the world doesn't really matter, as long as we're obedient. The reality is that we're all pilgrims; globetrotters just get in on the experience a bit sooner.

I'm becoming reconciled to the very real possibility that I will never have an easy time defining "home" during this lifetime. I suppose I will always struggle with the constant change that is inevitable to my lifestyle. But along with the struggles and pain are coming the greatest joy and peace and sense of satisfaction that I have ever known. Life here ain't meant to be easy, folks. But it certainly can be enjoyable and rewarding!

We are not vagabonds upon this earth, for vagabonds have no home
We are not aliens upon this earth, for aliens have left their homes far behind
We are pilgrims upon this earth, for we are ... On our way home

Sue recently completed a one-year missionary internship in Russia and is preparing to return as an RMM missionary working with Operation Mobilization.

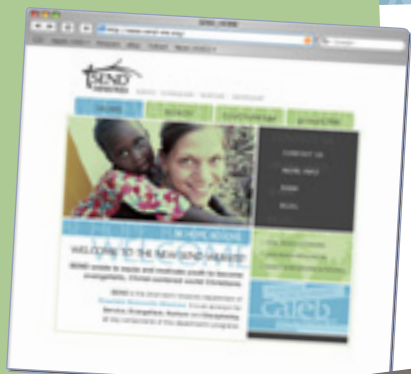
"For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come" -Heb.13:14

CHECK IT OUT!

www.send-me.org

SEND Website Gets a Makeover!

Visit the site for pictures from the current REACH teams, the new SEND House Blog, and information about upcoming programs.



Rosedale Mennonite Missions currently has ten interns around the world in places like China, Turkey, Ecuador, Uzbekistan, Russia, Costa Rica, and Belarus.

If you think you might be interested in doing an internship or would like more information, please contact: Carla Wanty, RMM Missionary Intern Facilitator, at carla@rmmoffice.org or 740-857-1366.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Praise God for...

for protection over the India team with the bombings in their city
safety over Carmal as she traveled in Asia

Pray for...

grace through all the transition in the department
more applicants for next year's REACH program
wisdom and discernment in finding new team leaders and staff
creativity in planning for the City Challenge groups this summer
God's favor on the City Challenge program; many peoples' lives would be touched
endurance and strength for the teams on outreach



Angela Maust began serving as Administrative Assistant to the SEND Department in April 2006. Angela was a member of the 2002 Israel Reach team, was on staff at the SEND house in 2003, and also led the 2004 Israel Reach team. Her responsibilities include being logistics coordinator for almost every aspect of SEND Department programs such as purchasing airline tickets, working with visas, pulling together details and packets for orientations and debriefing, etc.

Now accepting applications
for the following 2006 REACH teams!

LOCATIONS: China, Himalayas, Indonesia,
Morocco, Southern Spain, and Turkey
Find out more at www.send-me.org

NOTE: SWIM has been
canceled for this year.

ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

MARRIAGES

Carla Lozada (R '97) married Derreck Wanty on April 15, 2006.

BIRTHS

Keith & Rhoda (Showalter) (R '93) **Miller** had a baby boy, Jadon Elias, on March 6, 2006.

Kevin (R '00) & **Kristin (Kauffman)** (R '98, R '00) **Bucher** had a baby boy, Kai Matthew, on April 30, 2006.

ORDINATIONS

Jason Rissler (R '96) ordained on January

23, 2006 at New Hope Community Church in Harrisburg, PA.

MISSIONARY APPOINTMENTS

Sharon Rice (R '94) has been appointed as an intern to Thailand for 2 years.

Joe Freeman (R '03) has been appointed as an intern to Thailand for 2 years.

Ben Ryan (R '04) has been appointed as an intern to Thailand for 1 year.

Tom (R '94) & **Candice (Rhodes)** (R 94) **Mast** have been appointed to Thailand for 3 years.

BETWEEN YOU AND ME

by Davy Slabaugh, Director of the SEND Department

LIVING AS ALIENS

Traveling to another part of the world always reminds me of who I am. Every time I walk through passport control, I am confronted with my identity and the country of which I am a citizen. My passport declares it boldly for all to see. Whenever I spend time in a foreign land, I live constantly with the knowledge that I just don't quite fit in there. Even when I spent several years in another nation, I lived with a constant awareness that I was a foreigner, an outsider. I did not belong. I could learn the language, adopt local customs, and adjust to cultural differences, but that place was just not my home.

That reality is in many ways true for all of us as citizens of the Kingdom of God. When we become citizens of the Kingdom, we take on a new identity. Our allegiance is to a different kingdom—one that is not of this world. Suddenly our values and priorities change. The things we do and the way we choose to live is now defined by our new citizenship rather than that of culture and place in which we live. Like the champions of faith in Hebrews 11, we admit that we are “aliens and strangers on earth” (Heb. 11:13).

As foreigners in a strange land, we can tend to withdraw to the safety and comfort of our own community and choose to only be with people like us. Yet wherever we live, we are called to invest ourselves in the lives of others. Being aliens and strangers does not mean we withdraw from the culture in which we find ourselves, but that we allow Jesus to be displayed through our lives to the people living around us.



The SEND Ministries Department exists to equip and motivate youth to be Christ-centered, world Christians who make disciples.

www.send-me.org