



News from Paula

(June 2008)

God's love in action...

To all my dear friends and supporters,

In my last newsletter, I had a lot of sad things to share with you. This newsletter brings lots of amazing things that the Lord has done in the last few months, where I have seen dreams come true in a way that has even blown me away. Though weeping remains for the night, joy comes in the morning, and there has truly been much joy and excitement in the last few months. I want to share some things in detail for those of you who are interested. (If it is too long, then the important bits to read are the new visa law, changes in team and structure and the upcoming plans.)

God uses the new visa law to spread the fire to other countries...

The new visa law means that all foreigners are allowed to stay in Russia for any 90 days that they choose between Jan and June and again for any 90 days they choose from July to Dec. It is very strict and there are government officials everywhere counting and recounting days! It seems that the only foreigners that this law doesn't apply to are students, those who have a work permit and of course those who have managed to get residency. We are looking in to ways to get round this, but at the moment this new law applies to us as we have charity visas. We are looking in to becoming English past time teachers at Nastya's school, the local Christian school, which should mean that we won't have to keep leaving the country. Please continue to pray for the doors to stay open in Russia and for this law to be changed as soon as possible.

We decided to break up our time, by coming in and out of the country on a regular basis, so that we can stay for things that we really need to be there for (like the mission's school and the children's birthdays). We have been making trips to the Ukraine (only 7 hrs to border and about 24 hrs to Kremenchug, where we have been staying), but also this year plan on going to Turkey, Middle East and India. We have seen God moving in a level of power that I haven't seen in Russia before. It is what I had seen in visions in Mozambique and what I have been dreaming of for years. That as we just go about our daily lives, worshipping, praying and practising His presence, God sends us divine appointments, opens doors and uses us. It has been an incredible privilege to be living at such a time as this and to be serving the living God.

This started on the train coming back from Moscow in February. I couldn't sleep in the night and got up to find the conductor, a lady from Beslan, having heart problems and difficulty breathing. I prayed for her and she got healed. The next day she was testifying to others that she had been healed and when she had another problem, came rushing into our compartment to ask me to pray for her again!

Zhivaya Voda Team let loose on the Ukraine...

All that I knew we were to do on our first trip to the Ukraine was to worship and pray for a minimum of 2 hours a day and to wait for the divine appointments he was to give us. We travelled on the 2nd March the day of the elections, and we prayed for the beautiful countries of Russia and Ukraine as we travelled on the train. It was an uneventful journey. When we arrived at Kharkov where we changed transport, Natasha and I went to find where our bus was, and a man approached the group left waiting and asked them to pray for him!

We went to Kremenchug because a new team member Natasha has an empty flat there that we could use. We knew nothing at all about the church situation there. I was hoping to catch up on admin and rest as well as

spending time with the Lord. It turned out that we arrived just after Natasha's church had had a church split. The pastor had been confronted over financial sin and had refused to repent and most of the congregation (about 200 people) had left his church. They were meeting together but hadn't decided who would be the new pastor.

As a team we worshipped together daily and every day more and more people joined us. The presence of God was so strong that as we prayed for these precious people, they were set free from disappointment, healed from their pain and set on fire for the future. We were asked to lead their Wed prayer meeting, to go to the drug rehab centre and to lead the Sunday meeting. On each occasion the presence of God fell on the place as we arrived, and people were touched, healed and transformed. All in all we prayed for over 200 people. Amongst other things one lady was healed of a deep depression and has taken on the youth work, 5 people from the church did our mission's school and 4 of them have joined our team. One lady danced with joy after she was healed of cataracts and arthritis (a month later she is still completely healed). It was incredible to see mum sharing her testimony, giving words of knowledge and praying for people. She had queues of people waiting for her to lay hands on them!

The journey home was also remarkable. We had to spend the night at Kharkov train station because of lack of transport at night. I wasn't looking forward to it, but knew there would be divine appointments waiting for us. As we arrived at the station we saw an old lady who had collapsed in the doorway. There is hardly any help for homeless people in the Ukraine or Russia, and she was obviously an alcoholic living at the station. We stopped to pray for her, hold her hand and asked the security guard if he could phone for a doctor. He was quite angry, and we caused quite a scene with people coming and watching, and I got to challenge the consciences of many that she is a human being and we can't just let someone die on the cold ground without trying to help. We had a very long chat with the security guard and another guy who hung around and we prayed for them both. Eventually a very angry doctor arrived, shouting at me, "Who do you think you are calling a doctor? Are you from the moon?" I replied, "No, we're from Russia actually!" She said that they couldn't do anything for people like this, as firstly it was the woman's own fault and secondly they had no equipment or facilities anyway. They left shouting as they went! But the little lady came round, we helped her to sit up, prayed for her and then left.

After that adventure, we had just gone into the public bathroom, when I heard mum's voice, "Paula, you won't believe it but I think someone else has collapsed". I came out and sure enough there was a young girl of about 19 unconscious in the next cubicle. Alena and I got her off the floor and prayed for her. When she came back to consciousness, we could see she was a bit drunk, but she was so grateful, she started kissing us and thanking us profusely and was very pleased to be prayed for and anointed with oil!

After this, we were quite tired and looking for a warm place to sit down and have a drink, but McDonalds and the other cafes were either closed or too expensive. We were deciding what to do when another homeless lady, Sveta, came up to us and we spent ages chatting with her about Jesus. She prayed to ask Jesus into her life and even renounced alcoholism!

We finally found some seats upstairs where we could sit and wait. Apart from a few more drunk young men who came and chatted a bit with us, we were free, at 1am, to start our Bible reading marathon.



News from Paula

(June 2008)

God's love in action...

Bible Reading Marathon - Reading the whole Bible out loud in 6 days....

Our next challenge was a week of 24/7 prayer and I felt the Lord leading us to fast and to read the whole Bible out loud together in 6 days (for about 12 hours a day) to cleanse us and the centre, and to give us a love for his word.

We were still travelling the first day of 24/7 prayer and so had to begin our Bible Reading Marathon while still on the road. We started at 1am in Kharkov station and read until 5am when we got on the train, and then after sleeping a few hours carried on reading all day until we got to Armavir in the evening. It was amazing how many people were attracted and came to hear us and join us. One man from Turkmenistan, a closed Muslim country, was selling snacks on the train, and every time he came past us with his trolley, he stopped and chatted for a couple of hours. At first he was interested in marrying Connie, but eventually he was touched by the Lord and he asked Jesus into his life. He plans on coming to an Oasis. Two ladies in the next compartment spent hours talking to Alena about Jesus.

We then spent the next 5 days reading the Bible together out loud for about 12 hours a day. It was an incredible experience which I would recommend anyone doing. Some of the Old Testament books were hard going, but reading the Bible so intensely really gives you a good overall picture. And by the time you have had 4 and a half days of the Old Testament, it is such a relief to get to the New Testament and that Jesus is finally coming to set the people free from the cycle of sin and disobedience. It has given us all a new love and understanding for the Word, and has really cleansed us in a deep place.

It was also amazing how God opened doors for us while we were reading the Bible. Two people who I had lost contact with but needed to be in touch with phoned me out of the blue as we were reading. One was a hairdresser who had promised to help Anya. The night before Anya and I had prayed that God would open a door somewhere for her to do hairdressing practice. I thought about this lady, Luda, but as it was a year since I had heard from her, and I had lost all her details, I didn't even mention her to Anya. During the Bible reading, I got a phone call from Luda. She asked me if Anya still wanted to be a hairdresser, and I said yes, and she said that God had told her to come to us for 2 weeks, teach and impart to Anya everything she knows. She came at exactly the time when Anya was supposed to be on hairdressing practice. She supervised while Anya cut everyone's hair, and then she left Anya all her equipment as God has called her to lay her hairdressing down. It was such a blessing. Anya finishes college in June, and then we are hoping to send her to Germany to a Christian Centre where they will teach her more advanced skills in the area of hairdressing and beauty (manicure, pedicure etc). Please pray for the necessary finances and documentation and that Anya will quickly settle in and find some friends.

Healing Oases...

We have had a Chechen and a Beslan Oasis, both which were hard work, but people were touched. During the Chechen Oasis a local TV journalist came and filmed the work we are doing. During the Beslan Oasis 3 teenage girls gave their lives to the Lord. One 15 year old girl, after having been kidnapped (and married off) a few months ago, came to us pregnant, and with suspected Hepatitis and AIDS, but left us with a clear bill of health after being checked by doctors in Armavir. Her 8 year old sister arrived with chicken pox. The teenagers were a real handful as always and it has made me realise that we will no longer be doing Oases in the same way as in the

past. It is a new season. Please join with us in praying for wisdom as to how these new Healing Oases will look.

More miracles

The day Betsy and I were leaving to go back to the UK, the policeman who registers us showed up. We were praying and when I was told he was here to see us, I was not too thrilled! It turned out that he had come to bring Betsy's passport back which had been handed in. She later realised that it had been stolen out of her bag along with some money that morning when she had been in town, but up to that point she wasn't aware that she had lost it. It was amazing that firstly it was handed in and that secondly the policeman came personally to deliver it straight away (the day we were leaving the country), as this doesn't usually happen in the UK let alone in Russia!

Health Issues

Between March and May, we constantly had at least one team member ill: first Varya, then Nastya, my Anya, Anya the driver and then Sasha were rushed to hospital, and Lera came down with chicken pox. Connie was rushed to hospital with severe stomach pain in Ukraine, and turned out to have kidney stones. She felt God healing her while still in the hospital, and the next day when she went back for a scan, there was no longer any trace of the kidney stones, and she has had no problems since. All the others are also recovering well.

Nastya

Please pray for Nastya as she has been going through a difficult time. She has been on the phone a lot when I am not around with Muslim boys from Dagestan, who she meets up with when she goes to visit her dad there. One of them, a 24 year old, whom she had only met 3 times, asked her to marry him and she said yes. I told her she was too young and her family supported me in this. The tradition in Dagestan is to kidnap girls (around Nastya's age -18) and force them to marry, so we were worried he could come and kidnap her. Nastya was very upset about the whole thing, and cried for weeks, but seems to have got over him now. For her 18th birthday she got some roller blades, and is enjoying being a kid again for a while as she roller blades with Varya's son, Max.



Nastya, Ali and Lera



News from Paula

(June 2008)

God's love in action...

Family Trip to UK postponed again...

I was hoping to take the children with me to the UK this summer, but unfortunately the visa situation has got even more complicated and we weren't able to get visas for them. Please pray that something comes up for them, for instance helping in a children's camp or a good summer job, to keep them busy during the summer while I am gone.

Good News about Ali...

Thanks for your prayers for Ali, he is doing so much better. On March 1st his 14th birthday, we drove the 4 hours to the orphanage to visit him. He was playing outside when we arrived and when he saw us came running shouting, "I knew you'd come, I told them my mum would come on my birthday." The director let us into her office and there we had the chocolate cake mum had made for him and gave him his pressies. There was so much more of the old Ali in him, and hope had returned to him. He told me he has stopped stealing and said that when he grows up he wants to get a job as a driver; he will drive me round for free, and with his first wages he will give me back the money he stole from me. Wow! God has really been working on his heart.

Holy Given International Missions School Armavir 2

Our second Holy Given Missions School went really well. We really appreciated our good friends who we met in Mozambique who come out to help us: Susi, Katie, Kylene, Sarah and Ryan. The students were from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds: 3 Westerners- Dutch, Canadian and English- and 18 from the former Soviet Union including Russians, Ukrainians, Jews, a Tartar and an Armenian/Azerbaijani. They bonded really well together and it was amazing to watch them being visibly transformed day by day.



The presence of God was very real throughout the school. One morning in our classroom in the basement, I was leading worship on the piano with my back to the students. Katya had been blowing the shofar. I heard the sound of a choir singing and the shofar sounding, and thought that Katya was blowing it again and that some of the students had started singing a prophetic song. I looked over my shoulder to check, and to my amazement saw that everyone in the room was silent on their faces before the Lord and

no-one was left standing. What I had heard was the sounds of heaven. Most of the people in the room also heard it, as well as two teachers on the third floor, and a student on the second floor. Over the next hour and a half, God did a deep work in many of the students' lives, bringing healing, insight and revelation.

During the school many of the students received emotional healing and deliverance, and we also saw a number of physical healings. Our oldest student, a 64 year old Jewish lady who had been crippled from childhood, was healed during the worship and ran dancing around the room for the first time in her life. Another older student was healed of the nasty flu that was going round and instantly got up off his sick bed. Nina on our team bent her leg and ran for the first time since she had a metal plate put in it 3 years ago after breaking it. It wasn't just the students that were getting healed: one visitor was completely healed of Hepatitis C in the kitchen!



The graduation was amazing. As well as presenting each student with their certificates, we crowned them with a golden crown (as children of the King) and gave them a rose from Jesus (See attached picture). The glory of the Lord was really heavy in the room, as we shared communion together and commissioned our precious students to go into the world to lay down their lives for the poor. After the meeting was finished, many of the students were very late for the Graduation Banquet, because they were laid out on the floor in the Lord's presence for several hours!

Every weekend we had outreaches to various places, including Beslan, Chechnya and other Muslim towns around us, where seeds were sown and a number of people were saved and healed. The students are now on extended school outreaches, putting into practice what they have learned on the school. Many students clearly received callings to go to various nations and people groups. In fact about 75% of them are going straight onto the mission field after the school, and a number of them are staying on to join our team.

Changes in team and structure at Zhivaya Voda...

For a number of reasons, the Lord has led us to make a number of substantial changes to the team and way of running the centre. We are closing the centre for two and a half months in the summer. This is because we have to be out of the country for two months, and we are also still in the process of closing Kirill's old charity 'KROBO OTVET', and opening our own



News from Paula

(June 2008)

God's love in action...

local Russian charity, 'Zhivaya Voda' (Living Waters). In September when we start up again, I will only take on team that are called to be missionaries, with a vision and heart for the work here. All team members will have to complete our mission's school, to be full time team members. Please pray for the team as they seek the Lord as to whether or not they are called to be missionaries, and for those who are moving on to find good jobs. Some team members will go to Beslan or Chechnya during the summer; please pray for provision, protection and anointing for them as they serve the churches there in that way.

When we return, we will have a system of rotating roles and responsibilities. We hope that with rotating roles, it will free team members to make longer mission trips. I have trained up 7 supervisors to take over the daily running of the centre. They started in April while I was away in the UK, and seem to have managed fine.

We are also encouraging Russian and Ukrainian team members to raise as much support as they can from their home churches. This has never happened before now, but as of March, we already have a Ukrainian team member whose church will give her the full support she needs. Please join us in praying for the Russian/Ukrainian church to really catch the vision for giving and for mission, and for Russian/Ukrainian millionaires and businessmen to be saved and to sow into the Kingdom. We will also be running a new project to sponsor missionaries so that people in the West can give regularly to help support individuals. You will find a brochure about this attached with this newsletter.

Following in the footsteps of Alexander the Sleepless...

In March God woke me up in the night and told me to look on the internet at train travel from Turkey to Israel. I had never even considered this and didn't think it was possible. It turns out that it is not only possible but also not too expensive. A few days later the Lord told me to research the life of the fifth century monk Alexander the Sleepless, who I had read about once in a book. It turned out that the route we are taking is the very route that Alexander and his 400 monks took as they preached the Gospel and helped the poor, praying and reading the Bible out loud 24/7 in 4 languages as they went (He got the nickname 'Sleepless' because he was often up praying at night).

So on June 11th a small team from Zhivaya Voda will be making this pioneering train and bus trip. I believe that as we go we will be opening doors for others to follow in the future. God has shown us that we are to worship and pray along the way and that He will give us the divine appointments and key people as we go. Please pray for provision, protection, open heavens and divine appointments. After the trip, the others will go home (except Connie who goes to Africa) and I will stay in Israel for 6 weeks learning Old Testament Hebrew on a summer course at a kibbutz. After that I will be in UK for a few weeks and then return to Russia at the end of August.

That's all, folks!

Well, that's it for now. Thanks once again for your love and support over the last few months. May the Lord bless you and keep you, may He make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, may He lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace ☺

Love and hugs,

Paula xxx

Upcoming plans

June

7th

Centre closes until September

11th -22nd

Mission Trip to Turkey and Middle East

22nd June –1st Aug

Paula in Israel on Hebrew Course

August

UK

September

2nd – 5th

Team Training

8th – 12th

24/7 Prayer

15th – 3rd Oct

School of Prayer Ministry

October

6th – 10th

24/7 Prayer

24th -26th

24/7 Prayer

8th – 19th Nov

Trip to India/Nepal