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Paula Newsletter - June 2009

Dear Supporter

Happy Purim to you all from Israel!

We're all here in Israel at the moment; we will be here for 2 months altogether. This weekend it is Purim, the celebration of the events of the book of Esther, when God delivered the Jewish people from annihilation. The celebrations started yesterday and continue for a few days with fancy dress parties, fireworks, presents, and children dressing up as Bible characters and parading down the street. It is a fun time to be here in Israel. Winter here is mostly pleasant in the daytime, but the houses are freezing at night without proper heating. I'm glad we have our hot water bottles with us.



We have had a good time, seeking the Lord as to the future, building relationships and seeing which doors the Lord will open for us. We have had the privilege of praying for a few individuals, singing over a group of severely disabled young people and leading worship in a couple of congregations. Next week we are doing a 3 day healing seminar in a Russian speaking congregation.

We then go back to Russia for 6 weeks in April/May when we will be again doing 24/7 prayer, team training and preparing for our trip to Mozambique. We are hoping to take up to 20 people, 17 or so Russians with us. Some will be helping and some will be studying on Heidi Baker's Missions School which is based in their Children's Centre in Pemba.

The 3 months we spent in Russia in the autumn flew past. We had the privilege of conducting our first wedding at the Centre when 2 team mates got married. As you may remember we are in our 7<sup>th</sup> year as a Centre and God told us to take a sabbatical year, to lay aside our programmes and to seek him. This sabbatical year started in October with 3 months of 24/7 prayer. We had informed everyone that this was a time when we would minister to the Lord and that we weren't doing any programmes, but if people wanted to spend time with us seeking the Lord they were welcome to join us. Nastya's father, who was a Muslim, came to stay with us because he was drinking himself to death and his family thought it was a last chance for him to get help. When he arrived he could hardly walk. Within a few days he was walking up the stairs, cleaning the house and cooking meals. When we fasted and read the whole Bible out loud, he joined us. He started taking communion with us and going to church. The whole time he was with us he was sober, and after he returned home, he remained sober, continuing to read his Bible and pray. Wow! His family are amazed at the change in him.



Sergei, the 'treasure' we found in June who had been an alcoholic living on the streets, also threw himself into the prayer, joining us fasting and waiting on the Lord. The open sores on his feet healed up. We managed to get his passport and pension sorted out and get a place for him in the state old people's home. He is there now setting up a home group and sharing Jesus with the residents there. He even wants to come to Mozambique with us as a missionary!

A heroin addict was brought to us late one Saturday night while we were having a night watch. I explained that we weren't having any programmes but that if he agreed to minister to the Lord with us and come to all the 24/7 prayer events, he could stay for a week. He agreed and after a couple of days he started to weep as a spirit of repentance fell on him and he was broken over the wrong things he had done. Instead of blaming others for his problems as he had done in the past, God showed him that he himself was to blame for most of his problems, but that God still loved and forgave him. He wanted to go home and put things right, get a job and pay back his debts. At the end of the week his face was radiant and when his friends came to pick him up they were astonished at the change in him. He went home, got a job and started to sort his life out.

During the 3 months God did a deep cleansing work in us as a team dealing amongst other things with pride, religion and things of the flesh. The Lord gently showed us that many of the things we do as Christians are fleshly structures and forms that are based on tradition and fear of man; he started to deliver us from them so that we can go up to the next level with him. He is turning us into Kingdom people that can carry his manifest presence to a hurting, needy world without any hindrances. One evening while we were fasting, the Lord convicted us of pride and the whole team spend 2 hours repenting, crying on our faces before the Lord for him to cleanse us. It was an awesome time.



I was in England for almost a month after Christmas. As well as renovating my mum's flat, I visited friends, went to a wedding and spoke in various churches. I also saw the most snow I have ever

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seen in the UK. It made me feel quite at home. At the same time the weather in Russia was really mild. God showed me that we are to prepare for things to be very different than the way we expect them to be. New things are coming in 2010, things that we haven't even dreamed of. Exciting stuff, eh!

Thank you once again for your prayers and support for us; I appreciate you all so much. May the Lord bless you abundantly in 2010.

Love and hugs, Paula xxx

**Prayer requests:**

1. My daughter Anya is still living with her boyfriend, Sasha, who has a history of violence and alcohol problems. She has broken off contact with us. Please pray for them both to get radically saved and transformed.
2. My daughter Lera's real mum died suddenly in Feb, which was a real shock. Please pray for Lera's dad and brother to come to the Lord and for comfort for them all. For Lera to come to a much deeper relationship with the Lord through this. Also for a door to open for her in the summer.
3. For the ex alcoholics, drug addicts and homeless people who have been with us in our centre to remain sober and to follow the Lord.
4. For our trip to Mozambique, for passports, visas, finances, transport. For God to prepare hearts and provide all that we need. For health and safety. For transformed lives.
5. For my cousin Gina who has recovered from the brain tumour but is suffering from radiation side effects that are causing her left side to not function properly. Please keep praying with us for salvation and healing for Gina and the whole family.

