

**"REJOICE", newsletter from the Republic of Georgia, Tbilisi.  
November 2009**

Greetings to each of you in the precious and glorious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sophia and I are presently in the middle of our orphanage distribution outreach. In the process we have major problems with the diesel fuel in this country. The van is 17 yrs. but can hum like a humming bird if the fuel is good.

Praise the Lord, because though we stopped several times, He kept us from getting stranded at some far away place and each day we made it home. In many ways we realize we need a lot of help over here just to be able to do what we are doing. It keeps us more so thankful.

While visiting a village believer, Andre ( to the right) a while ago



offered to give a car load of persimmons from his back yard for orphanage

children. So about a week ago, his family Sophia and I enjoyed picking

persimmons from his trees. It had just rained and it turned into a beautiful

day as soon as we arrived. We had a joyful time. Andre is such a joyful

giver. As soon as possible we brought some 14 bags to the orphanages throughout Georgia. We saw their faces. It is great to see them happy. This was the first time as I can remember that a believer offered produce for orphan children. There are so many ways to bless the widows and the orphans as the Lord Jesus taught us. I hope it may happen more often. Later we invited Andre and Natashja to visit an orphanage with us because they considered to adopt two real orphans. 'Real' means for us: who have neither Mom nor Dad to care for them. This process has taken them some two years to prepare home and heart as we encouraged and helped in what way we could. In

Georgia, only citizens can adopt healthy orphans. We have been looking for many more believers to do like Andre and Natashja on this moment.( Picture)

In the summer Steve drove to Muslim villages and markets with outreach material. Most of our outreaches have been person to person outreach. It takes a lot of time and effort but again that is what fishing is all about. Jesus said himself, I will make you fishers of men. It brakes the ice of "the unknown" on both sides if we come with a smile and a gift. It has been very well received. (Much better than by Muslim in Holland f.e.)

One lady, who only reads Azerbaijani but spoke some Georgian, I could witness to. I said : " Did you know that Jesus ( Isa)is coming back soon? " (This is a Koran fact.) Then I told her something about preparing our hearts to meet a Jesus. She knew of Jesus' sacrifice, death and resurrection. So I asked her if she wanted to ask Jesus for forgiveness. She said "Yes, because I saw you coming in a dream". I was so surprised. But not too much to forget to pray with her. Thank God, just that day, we had a brother from Canada with us, Jeremy, who translated the prayer for forgiveness in Azerbaijani, so she could follow in her own native tongue. We left her a Russian NT, more for memory because I have not seen an Azerbaijani NT up till then, but I know they are being printed. So I was decided to do my best to get any booklet in her own (Cyrillic Azerbaijani) language.

That opportunity came when Steve and I visited Holland ( The Netherlands, if I may say more correctly). We walked through the streets of Amsterdam and Rotterdam, avoiding touristic places but looking for the needy and the poor in the sidewalks and bus- and metro stops. With some of them we were allowed to pray. Surprising to us we met many people who were willing to talk about the Lord Jesus. It is marvelous any time, but this time we found that especially youth till 25 yrs. know so little about Him. They are just "blank sheets". It is such a joy to help people in such

conversations. Also surprising for Sophia and I was, how much more Muslims than locals in the Netherlands were willing to receive our booklet . It is my wish sometime in the future to spend more time there in the streets with them. For that to happen, the Lord will have to bring things together. We sure had some heavenly appointments in the streets of the Netherlands.

What still puzzles us is, while communication means and forms are improving in leaps and bounds all over the world with satellite dishes, MP3 and huge TV screens, mobile phone and such more, that yet people with these at their finger tips are freezing up more and more inside. Their kindness, consciences are numb for simple needs. They travel with headphones on, advanced in all technology of communications not even seeing when an older lady needs a place to sit, or a friendly word, while going to the hospital. Social warmth is far to find in cities. People become so cold, insensitive, uninterested, like a bunch of mummies towards each other. Even looking in the train to an other person was sometimes felt as offensive! Sophia and I invested most of our time crashing these walls of isolationism down and "barging in" to lives with caring words of interest. Words that in many cases were directing to Jesus. Today one could be an isolationism-wall -breaker or a mummy . Life is made up of choices. Jesus made the choice to change our lives . He changed mine/ours. Will the choices you make today change anyone's life? Can you face silence and break your own walls and some of others too? We were in a shop talking to an Egyptian couple who live in Amsterdam already 15 yrs. They own a restaurant and they said: "No one ever has spoken to us about Jesus in this way". How come? We came all the way out of Georgia . Why is that? Who cares about people? Only the doctor, because he earns money with it? If you think or claim to be a believer and you do not care about simple people you are in the wrong business. Or should I say: you are in the wrong kingdom. By our love they

will know we are Christians, is not meant only for Sunday morning. Is it? In Christ all things are held together. He sustains all things by His power. This alone makes Jesus worth talking about. It is not science, it is Jesus. Not simply feelings or religion, Jesus is the truth. Jesus is beautiful in every way and nothing compares with experiences His fullness. No one should be kept from having the opportunity of getting to know Him. Come and join with us and do all that you can for people to care and reach them with the real life. This is what Jesus longs for. Can you hear Him call? It is hard to tell all we have seen and heard, but please hear Jesus' call and read Hebr.12: 28. "Therefore ( this means, read vs.1-27) since we are receiving a kingdom which can not be shaken, let us have grace by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is (also) a consuming fire. " Dear readers, the mission field is not only far away anymore.. The poor and needy came from far, all the way, to us. They came to find some answers. Can we refuse Him who is still speaking, (vs 25)? Consider Him who endured ( vs2 and 3),be without covetousness (13:5 Did Paul live in the 21 st century?). Follow Jesus all the way, going outside the camp bearing His reproach (13:13). You have a great Christmas time and New Year time just coming up. Here is your chance: Lift up Jesus!

In the run of the Dutch outreach we thought we had a rainy day. We found a very small shop in a back way alley in Harderwijk, which donated to us Chinese and sold us Azerbaijani literature! Both we needed much. They had all type of languages. The means were there at our finger tips, so we joyful loaded up for Georgia.



Upon arrival we helped out at a summer camp in East Georgia. How precious is each child!

Just recently we went towards an Azerbaijan village. There we met a 118 yrs.

lady! She looked like it. Her son had met us in the streets of his village, offering testimony materials and (Russian)NT's to many. He had many religious books and knew a lot, he said. He invited us for a tea. At home he called his uncle, the Mullah, to help him translate our words, the gospel in Russian, to his Mom. (I guess, the translation was not sublime but God provided a translator for free! )We had a 3 way language opportunity to speak to her and others and witness why we were there. We were all over 50 yrs . and neither one felt old or without purpose. We had a lively conversation and then drank tea with our host. In the next village we walked into a funeral party. One Mom who had lost her two sons in a tractor accident. (Unsafely driving is the worst danger in Georgia). She said: "Why. did I loose my sons.?" We comforted her with our sympathy and felt sad with her, but her answer welled up in me: because of sin. It is a killer! But there is hope for you. There is a life that can last forever and not be stolen from you by anything or anyone. How does sin hurt all of us! The harvest is ripe, dear friends and prayer partners, but workers are few. We pray to the Lord to send more workers into His fields! Please ,continue to pray for us, for Gods Kingdom in Georgia, as you feel led. Spend your thanksgiving meaningful, and think of many more others at Christmas. This year has been a big blessing for us and you were part of this. Beyond any amount of words, we thank you and pray for you regularly from Tbilisi. We know our Lord God showers our blessings on you too. Merry Christmas to each of you.

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