



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

## Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

February 28, 2009

Thank you for your help! We can't live without you! The lack of priests has put a drain on our finances as we struggle to support two parishes in Vladivostok, one in Nakhodka, one in Lesozovodsk, and three on Sakhalin Island! That's also a lot of extra travel expenses and wear and tear on our cars, and on us! We are grateful for your faithfulness and generosity, else we'd be really sunk.

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For example, I went to Dalnerechensk to bring Holy Communion to an elderly parishioner who was sick. It was a six hour drive. I drove together with my secretary because, since I'm an old man, if something happens like snow or a flat tire, I'd need his help. While we were arriving there something happened to the car motor, and we stopped to see a mechanic. He proposed that we shouldn't drive the car further! So we had to come home with the help of a kindly taxi driver who gave us a big discount (cheaper than taking the train). Now we have to send a truck to pick up the car because there won't be the spare parts we need in Dalnerechensk. That's what missionary work is like.

Here's a cute painting of our church which was done by little Dasha Kucharova for my birthday. I like the way she painted an angel in front of the church to welcome parishioners home!



It's a trying time at the hospice where our volunteers work. Perhaps you heard that in European Russia many elderly died in a nursing home fire where there was no fire emergency equipment and where the windows were locked. The next day there was another fire in the building next door to that one, which means that there was an arsonist at work. But the result is that the Ministry of Emergency Affairs is having a major fire department check of all nursing homes in Russia. The hospice probably does need some upgrading as far as fire safety is concerned, but where to get the finances? 21 of 32 patients there are indigent. One of our volunteers there is an American practical nurse. She says that she is impressed by the commitment of the staff and how they work with patients who really have nothing. (Actually the staff also has practically nothing because their pay is very low for working with indigent patients who can't pay for any perks or tips.) It won't surprise me if the hospice will be asking us for help with new fire safety equipment.

God bless you for all that you do for us. Have a good Lenten season.

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.