



# Mary Mother of God Mission Society

## Reviving the Catholic Church in Eastern Russia

Dear Benefactor,

July 31, 2012

Thank you so much for your donation! These are the summer months when donations are usually slow, so your help is even more valuable now. We'll be with you in prayer. Thursdays is our special day of prayer, and benefactors are always high on our list. We are grateful for you, and will continue to pray for you, and we are hoping for you and yours!

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There's good news and bad news. I thought of doing two columns—bad news on one side and good news on the other, so you could choose which to read first. But then decided I'd start with the bad news! The bad news is that we have a new computer system at our office in Modesto. It was really needed—which is good news—but every time you change a computer it is one headache after another! So I hope you have received the proper acknowledgements for your donations, but I'm not sure! We are trying, but please let us know if something isn't right. Fr Dan says that "Three moves is a fire", so changing computers is like 1/3 of a fire! What a headache!

So let's get on with the good news! First, FOCUS is here—15 young college students from America and a priest who conducted a retreat for 50 kids in Lesozavodsk. These are kids who otherwise don't get any religious instruction at all. Sister Stella and Sr Catherine were also there, mostly leading and translating. It was a great experience for the kids, who will never forget. Meanwhile the students are visiting the hospice here every day, helping to feed the dying, and also visiting the orphans at Hospital #3. It is a wonderful treat for them all—even for the FOCUS students.



*FOCUS and kids in Lesozavodsk. That is Fr Matthew Benjamin from Kansas City MO. The parish is located in this building. We'd like to buy the whole building so we have a regular place to work with the kids in the winter. Summers we can be on the street (or in the nearby Ussury River!)*

The next good news is that the roof of the church is done! It will look great for the Asian Pacific Summit which will take place here in September. Here's a photo which shows a bit. We are so grateful to all the benefactors who made it possible. I've heard reports that now it is easy to see the church from across Golden Horn Bay, as the roof looks quite bright from there!



More good news: You remember that our Lesozavodsk parishioner Vladimir needed to fly to Korea for a cancer operation—He came through the operation just fine, but now the extra good news: The two tumors were not cancerous! The doctor said that it was extremely dangerous anyway, and could be fatal if it had burst accidentally. He has returned home. And he says that for the first time in 57 years he feels normal! Most of his life he has lived with fever and high white cell blood count. He wants to write a personal letter to all those who helped him with the operation. The donations for him from America came to just over \$5000. Donations from the Russian side came to \$3500. Most of this came from the active work of the parishioners of Visitation Parish in Lesozavodsk. Congratulations everybody! Thanks be to God!

Another touching piece of good news: A lady in Lesozavodsk made a complete baptismal set for a child's baptism and sent it to us to give away to an American child who will be baptized. She said that when she really needed help with the birth of her child, an American gave her help through the Women's Support Center in Lesozavodsk, and this is her way of saying thanks to the anonymous donor! Have more kids—Have more baptisms!

More good news: The new Vladivostok Airport has officially opened. The new bridges will open any day now.

Final good news today: We have a big deal coming up: A group of American volunteers is coming in September to do some construction at two of the orphanages, and on Russian Island for the sisters' convent. It will be a busy time.

God bless you! Thanks for your help! I hope you get some good news today, too!

Yours truly,

V Rev Myron Effing, C.J.D.