

COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
ACTIVITIES IN THE RUSSIAN SPEAKING FIELD

William T Arnesen....Edgar H Heald.....Sonny O Lindvall....Leslie C Knowles
6507 Arnesen Lane SW, Olympia, WA, 98512-2802
Phone/Fax: (360) 786-6907....E-mail: HJAO@AOL.COM

Dear Friends:
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Progress continues on the Russian front. Among the challenges is the need to secure the gains that have been made. Hildegard usually is in Russia half the year, September through November and January through March. During the month of April she lectures in Europe and the rest of her time she divides between Olympia and Boston. In the Russian-speaking field, during the last 12 month she has given lectures in Riga, Latvia; Almati, Kazakhstan; Kherson and Kiev, Ukraine; Ukhta in the Komi Republic of Russia, Arseniev in the Russian Far East and in St. Petersburg.

The lectures in the Ukraine were particularly interesting. In Kiev the lecture was held in the Central Clinic and was rewritten for this audience. Most of the 52 attendees were patients from the hospital and people from the surrounding area. The 20 copies of *Science and Health* that were brought for the lecture sold quickly. In Kherson 105 people attended the lecture which required a move to a larger lecture hall. A group of four doctors attended and told Hildegard after the lecture that only recently have they begun to think of their medical practice in more "philosophical terms". About half of the 30 people attending the lecture in Almati were new to Christian Science and mostly native Kazakhstanis.

The newly recognized Christian Science Society in Almati is trying hard to get registered with the government before new restrictive measures are made into law. The Society sent a copy of *Science and Health* to the First Lady of Kazakhstan who is promoting a new and very progressive program in Kazakh schools. It is called "Self-

Knowledge" and attempts to introduce the subject of spirituality in non-religious terms into the school curricula.

Hildegard has also been conducting Manual based workshops on the Healing Practice of Christian Science and The Value of Daily Study of the Lesson Sermon. A great deal of interest continues to be generated by shortwave radio broadcasts in the Russian language. As a result many copies of *Science and Health* are being sent out to listeners.

On the home front, we have finally come to the end of the 'apartment project'. Thanks to some generous contributions from Associations in Switzerland and the US and some private donors and churches in Germany and the US, we have retired all the indebtedness we incurred during the apartment renovation. The renovation of the back hall leading to the apartment is in progress so that the Bulgarian business man living there will soon have a more 'professional' looking entrance for his clients.

The rental income from the apartment is providing for the financial needs of the Society and will soon help support some of the other groups that are forming. We have received requests from three of these groups to help them rent halls for their meetings. The government will not allow them to register unless they are meeting in public spaces which they cannot afford at this time.

The group in Moscow needs some encouragement, so Hildegard plans to divide her time between St.Petersburg and Moscow starting in October. Her last Association was held in the church space of the Society since it has outgrown her apartment. The President of The Mother Church attracted many visitors to her meeting in May. Some had come from as far away as Moscow, Ukhta, Komi Republic of Russia, and Kherson, Ukraine.

Our Committee will now focus on supporting the small groups that are forming in the Russian speaking field. The members of the St.

Petersburg Society have asked us to express their love and gratitude for all that you have done in giving them such a beautiful church home and the means to maintain it. Below is a picture of the building in which the church space is located. It was built at the turn of the last century and has the distinction of being a "monument to architecture".

Sincerely and gratefully yours,

Bill Arnesen, for the Committee