

COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE  
ACTIVITIES IN THE RUSSIAN SPEAKING FIELD

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Dear Friends:  
February 10, 2003

Olympia,

As the intensive debate over war and peace continues on every continent and prayers are offered worldwide to support a righteous outcome, the Committee in Olympia is once more dipping its quill into the electronic inkwell to bring you up to date on matters more spiritual. Since our last letter in October the Christian Science Society in Almaty, Kazakhstan, has been legally registered and has moved into new quarters for holding their Sunday services, Wednesday Meetings and Sunday School class. We are also happy to let you know that on its fifth attempt, the Christian Science Society in Riga Latvia has finally been officially registered. A lecture was given in Kherson, an industrial city on the Black Sea, and two lectures in Kiev. After the lecture at the Kiev City Center of Health, the head physician offered to help us bring a shipment of one thousand Science and Health from St. Petersburg to the Ukraine. This is the solution to a longstanding problem of bringing religious literature into that country.

Nailya Tokesh, an active member of the Almaty Society, has been appointed by TMC to contact all Mother Church members in the Russian speaking field, to share with them the welcome news about an historic first Annual Meeting, to be held in Berlin, Germany, instead of in Boston as tradition had it from its very beginning, extending a warm invitation to each one of them to attend.

Take a look at the map and you will see that Berlin as an Annual Meeting place is probably the closest our Russian students of Christian Science will ever get to such a meeting place. The opportunity presented by this occasion is unique, grand, propitious and much, much more in light of another historic meeting which The Mother Church generously convened in 1989: the Hamburg Youth Meeting for Christian youth of all denominations. Some of you may know that three young people from St.

Petersburg, Russia, made it to that meeting in Hamburg, loved what they saw and upon their return began to gather in the home of one of them to read the Christian Science Bible Lessons on Sunday mornings. This small but significant inspired act provided the nucleus for the future Christian Science Society as it stands today. Who knows what will happen when the Berlin Annual Meeting brings together students of Christian Science from inside Russia and the former Soviet Republics, if our prayers and our pocket books will support such an event. Many of them are living in remote areas and feel disconnected from church in general and TMC in particular as they are struggling to assimilate the ideas from Science and Health.

This brings us to the immediate reason for writing today. While we had thought the days for asking for more donations to support the Russian speaking field had ended, we admit we were ever so wrong. In fact some of you knew better and have continued to send in contributions from time to time. A few words from James Russell Lowell's lovely hymn: "New occasions bring new duties..", a slight variation from hymn 258, indicate how the thinking of the Committee runs these days. A preliminary poll indicates that many people in the Russian speaking field want to attend the Berlin Meeting. However, as long as they can barely feed themselves and their families, there is no way they can come up with the money needed to make this trip, some from as far away as Vladivostok and Kazakhstan. We have already begun to receive some donations and we kindly urge everyone to join the "happy throng of givers" with whatever amounts you feel you can share. The Mother Church cannot provide financial assistance to prospective attendees, but will hire professional Russian translators as they have done in the past for the German, Spanish and French speaking field, if the numbers warrant such an expense. It does, however, fully support our grass roots endeavor of requesting donations from the field. For purposes of tax deduction, checks should be made out to: The CS Association of the students of H. J. Arnesen CSB. and should be received by the end of April.

Second Church of Christ, Scientist, Berlin is currently undertaking a similar fund drive in the German speaking field as well as the organization of lodgings for our friends. As you can see, this is no small enterprise, hence everyone's loving support will be so much appreciated.

For the majority of Christian Scientists and readers of Science and

Health whom TMC is inviting, it will no doubt be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If you cannot support us financially at this time, we ask you to join us in prayer, in turning to the Great Heart of Love which so generously and lovingly "always has met and always will meet every human need." (Science and Health 494) If you are planning to come to Berlin, we are looking forward to seeing you there.

With love and gratitude,

Hildegard J. Arnesen, C.S.B.  
for the Committee