



Keeping In Contact

News from Kontaktmission USA

February 2003

News from all over

A few short news items and prayer requests translated from a few of our missionaries in several different countries.

Christian and Andrea Hartmann – Terlan, Italy (new work begun in 2002) We are starting a new evangelistic house group in our apartment, and we are praying for both spiritual and numerical growth.

Willi and Katharina Löwen – Team leader; former USSR countries The new church in Rakovka-Kremenchug, Ukraine is looking for a new meeting place. We are glad to announce the attendance has grown so rapidly that the Kindergarten auditorium they've been meeting in is overflowing.

continued on page 2



Why Aren't We Done Yet?

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself why we haven't finished evangelizing the world yet? I mean really, with all the resources of all the evangelistically-minded churches in the US (and other countries) and all of the time (almost 2000 years) we've had to do it, shouldn't we be done already? I think it's a fair question. And I believe with all my heart that we need to be working both

quickly and efficiently. What should we be doing differently?

In fact, as we mentioned in the last newsletter, God **is** doing great things in world missions at this time. Missions efforts are better organized than ever before, new peoples are being reached, and many third world nations are now more completely evangelized than most of the traditionally Christian nations we think of as already reached with the Gospel.

But obstacles to total world evangelization do exist, of course, and many of these obstacles are especially

applicable to Europe and to the sending of American missionaries

continued on page 2



Ukrainian church planting team (top) and Orenburg, Russia church planting team (bottom)



News from all over

continued from page 1

Matthias and Sabine Valenta – *Dijksmuide, Belgium*

Starting February 28th we are holding a retreat for young teenagers between the ages of 12 - 15, with about 60 expected. It is our desire and prayer request that many of these young people will decide for a life with Jesus.

And some prayer requests for women and their husbands:

Harald and Gitti Schuster – *Burriana, Spain*

Gitti is preparing to begin a women's study in the church. She is blessed with many contacts among women outside the church and requests prayer for these women, that they would come to the group and to faith.

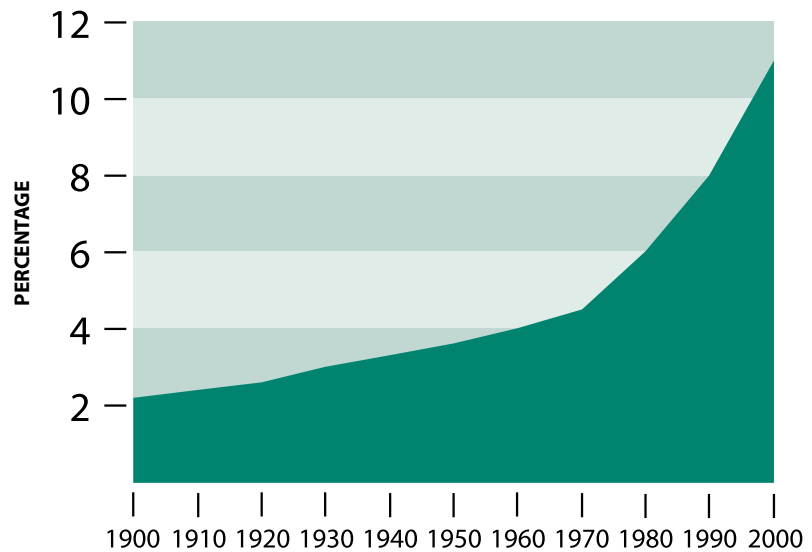
Dirk and Annette Staudinger – *Prüm, Germany*

There are five women in our church who are married to non-believing husbands. Please pray for these couples, that the women can lead a committed Christian life and that their husbands can be brought to faith by their example.

Karsten and Doris Maul – *Steinheim, Germany*

We are especially praying for eight men to find faith in Jesus. Their wives have made commitments to Jesus in the past few months.

Believers as a Percentage of Total World Population in the 20th Century



ies to Europe. It is simply difficult and complicated to send a US-born Christian to be a missionary in the highly cultured, post-Christian lands of Europe. And the complications go well beyond just learning a difficult language. The high cost of sending a US missionary to work in Europe – and all that entails – also continues to be an issue.

Introducing “Churches Planting Churches” Kontaktmission is proud to introduce an idea with amazing potential for changing this state of affairs by rapidly increasing the rate of planting new churches in the former USSR, and possibly in western Europe as well.

“Churches planting churches” means a US church can get directly behind a new church planter who is already on the field, already working and struggling to get a group going, and usually living on staggeringly little income and working with even less. He is also already working in his mother tongue and already has both biblical and practical training. The former



**Alex and Helene Friesen,
new church planters in Russia.**

USSR does not need American missionaries... it needs church planters like the man I just described.

Here's the point: Placing even a *small amount* of a US church's resources behind such a church planter gives him enough to work with, plus the encouragement to keep going and a relationship with a US congregation that his congregation can enjoy for years. In return, the US church has not only the greatly satisfying experience of a relationship with a foreign church, but also the joy of knowing they are involved in the most efficient form of missions conceivable. If the US's church leadership so chooses, they can participate fully in advising and communicating with the new church. The US congregation can swap gifts and visits with members in the new church. These things must be



Orenburg students: future church planters

done wisely and with guidance, but they are an important part of the plan.

For this method to work on a large scale, a steady supply of native-language church planters and potential locations is necessary. In short, Kontaktmission has them. Our Ukrainian and Russian congregations and Bible schools are rapidly producing young people eager to serve. But many of them, often the most gifted and promising ones, do not have even a subsistence salary or any operating budget to work with.

Won't your church consider starting a church in the former USSR? We have a number of new works already in the beginning stages and more waiting for resources to get started. ***Who will catch this vision with us and make a difference by helping to quickly and effectively plant one new church, or several? You will be surprised how little it will cost and what is possible. Please call or e-mail Rob Harris for more information.***

Just
\$30
per month
totally supports a
future Russian-speaking
missionary!

Kontaktmission is also helping to finance the Biblical and pastoral education of many of these committed young future church-planters. Please let us know if you would consider personally supporting a future Russian-speaking missionary for only *\$30 per month*. This amount – amazingly – takes care of nearly all of the student's needs. You will receive information about the student you sponsor as well as communication from them.

*Contact us if
you can help!*

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*The Harris Family
Rob & Carla with Alissa & Ryan*

Financial reports and thanks

from Rob and Carla Harris

Allow us to use this first newsletter of 2003 as an opportunity to say a heartfelt **Thank You!** to all of you who are already involved in supporting Kontaktmission USA, our European missionaries, and our family. As I like to say at the end of presentations I make to churches, *Remember, without the involvement of individual church members, world missions comes to a halt!* Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your missions commitment and for blessing us with your donations!

We are pleased to report that Kontaktmission USA (the state-side ministry of Kontaktmission) continues to grow financially, and that we are having success in making contacts with churches and individuals in the US who are inter-

ested in missions work in Europe and the countries of the former USSR. We are overwhelmed and encouraged by the sacrificial giving of many individuals and the consistency of our supporting churches. Our financial goals for this year include doubling the amount we send directly to our European church planters and reaching a giving level which will allow a full salary for our family's support.

Complete financial reports for KMUSA are available upon request, as is any other specific information you may desire concerning the ministry or our finances.

Thank you again, and may the Lord bless you richly for your interest in missions.
Thanks for praying—Rob & Carla Harris, Ryan and Alissa

Please support the work of Kontaktmission USA as we work to plant churches in Europe and the former Soviet Union. Your tax-deductible donation may be sent to the address below; you will receive a receipt.

KMUSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

**Kontaktmission USA
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