

(Please Do Not Post This Letter To Any Website, Including Church Websites. Thank You!)

Dear Friends & Family,

It's been way too long since we've written an update to you, and a lot has happened in these past several months. As a result, this newsletter will be a bit longer than usual. Thank you, that despite our not-so-good communication, you continue to pray for us and give towards our different funds.

A Whirlwind of a Fall!

This Fall was like none other for our family. Here is a brief chronological summary of what has taken place in our lives since the beginning of September:

- Sep. 2-4 – Steve spent three great days in St. Pete with our colleagues Donnie & Blythe, who are involved in CA (Central Asian) ministry in that city. He even got the chance to preach in a CA church.
- Sep. 8-16 – Short-term team from 1st Alliance Church in Erie, PA. came and spent the week ministering to CA's, women leaders in the Open Door Church and putting together "starter baskets" for the Crisis Pregnancy Center.
- Sep. 16- Oct. 1 – Steve was in the States, preaching in two churches and participating in the Western PA District Conference.
- Oct. 3-12 – Steve was in Kiev, Moscow, Krasnodar and St. Pete, traveling with colleagues for our Strategic Field Review.
- Oct. 11 – Philip sustains a serious concussion in a soccer game. **Praise God with us that he is fine now, and shows no serious effects from it!**
- Oct. 14-17 – Crick goes to England for a conference on ministry to followers of the "M" religion. Steve was also supposed to go, but decided to stay home due to Philip's concussion.
- Oct. 20 – William wakes up this Thursday morning with serious inexplicable pain in his leg, barely able to walk. He's doing better by the afternoon, and scores the first goal in his soccer team's last game of the season. (He was voted co-MVP of his team for this season.) His pain, though, will continue to increase in the next couple of weeks.
- Oct. 25 – Completely out of nowhere, during a haircut, William gets feverish and sweaty and passes out. He wakes and then has a fit of vomiting. He's grown very pale and weak.
- Oct. 27 – William is seen by a doctor in Moscow. He's given only an x-ray and diagnosed with a hip/joint problem with a possible torn muscle.
- Oct. 28-29 – Crick is the keynote speaker at a Business English Conference outside of Moscow.
- Nov. 1 – Crick and the kids fly to Kiev, Ukraine for a scheduled 4-day visa renewal trip. Steve is on a different visa cycle now, and so stayed back in Moscow.
- Nov. 2 – Crick finds out there are problems with turning in their visas, that they'll be delayed until Nov. 14, and that they'll have to fly to Madrid, Spain in order to get everything processed.
- Nov. 4 – Steve's oldest brother, Bruce, flies to Moscow for a much anticipated week together.
- Nov. 5 – William has continued to get worse. By this time his pain is terrible, his abdomen and leg are painful to the touch, he's become pale and weak, and is having shortness of breath. A Christian doctor comes to see William where they're staying and is very concerned.
- Nov. 6 – On the day that Crick and the kids are to fly to Madrid, Crick finds out that the doctor is concerned that William might have leukemia. As we scour the internet, we see that indeed all of his symptoms point to this...including other symptoms we'd seen in him over the past weeks and months. Of course, we don't tell the kids, since there is no diagnosis. He is in a lot of pain as they fly to Madrid this night, but true to form, leaves his own bag in order to help an older man try and move his luggage cart at the Kiev airport. (Meanwhile...lots of people around the world are praying for William's healing.)
- Nov. 7 – In Moscow, Steve begins packing winter clothes to take for Crick and William, in the event that they have to fly to the States straight from Madrid. Plans are made to admit him right away into the Cleveland Clinic if necessary. In Madrid, though, William miraculously wakes up feeling much better. He's still limping, and has some pain, but is feeling better than he was over the weekend.

- Nov. 8 – William wakes up feeling even better than the day before. At his doctor appt. in Madrid the doctor said he has no concerns about it being leukemia. His blood test came back normal. **PRAISE THE LORD!!!!**
- Nov. 9 – Steve flies to Madrid to join his family. At the same time as he's flying out, a team of pastors and leaders from the Western PA District is flying in to Moscow, scheduled to stay at our apartment until the 14th. Steve had worked on organizing this trip and all of the meetings for a couple of months. Thanks to Tom Becker and Steve Lovell for jumping in and taking over in Steve's absence.
- Nov. 10 – William's follow-up appointment goes well, and his second blood test comes back totally normal!!!
- Nov. 14-17 – Knowing that William is well, Crick flies from Madrid to Ulyanovsk, Russia, to join up with the Western PA team, as she had originally been scheduled to do.
- Nov. 15 – Steve and the kids fly HOME to Moscow!!
- Nov. 21 – We celebrate Steve's 44th birthday TOGETHER as a family!
- Nov. 24 – We host 23 people in our apartment for Thanksgiving...thankful in SO many ways for God's goodness to our family!

We hope that wasn't too much to have to read, but felt that in order for you to get an accurate picture of what we went through, it would have to be detailed. **Thank you to all who spent concerted time praying on behalf of William. Though we have no diagnosis to prove it, WE BELIEVE THAT GOD HEALED WILLIAM of something serious because YOU prayed! Thank you!**

Praise God With Us:

- William's "official" diagnosis was a torn groin ligament and a virus. Praise God that he's now been completely pain free for a week or more. He went to basketball practice for the first time this week, and came home feeling great. How great is our God?!
- Crick and the kids are now on a year-long work visa through our kids' school. Crick is now working there two days a week as the school counselor.
- We have two new families moving to Russia in January to work with CA's. And the great thing is, they have experience in this ministry and also speak one of the CA languages. Pray for Bryan & Vickie and their kids, who will be coming to Moscow, and Paul & Mary-Elizabeth and their kids, who will be moving to St. Pete.
- The CA house church which Steve & Wendy participate in saw two people give their lives to Christ this month. And even better, it was a husband and wife. Please pray for their growth in their knowledge and love of Christ.

Please pray:

- At the same time as Philip and William were dealing with their physical issues, Steve's headaches also came back with a vengeance, after some months in which they were less frequent and powerful. Some of it most likely has been due to stress. But we believe that when the enemy wants to attack God's people, he usually attacks the family and their health. We're involved in ministries that he doesn't want us in, which makes us even more susceptible, so PLEASE continue to pray for our family! Thank you.
- Pray for the continued development of the CA church planting projects that our workers are involved in here in Moscow and St. Pete. There's an incredible amount of potential for effective ministry, but the enemy is working overtime, trying to cause friction and lack of understanding and unity in relationships.

Our Support:

Thank you so much to you who have given towards our Outfit Fund, Work Specials Fund or to our Support in recent months. Your generosity is truly a blessing to us.

If you currently don't give to the Great Commission Fund (GCF) of The Alliance, but would like to help support our family on a monthly basis, here's what you can do: **Write out a check to: The C&MA; in the memo line write: Volstad Support – Russia. If you attend an Alliance Church you can place this check in the weekly offering. If you don't, please mail the check to: The C&MA, P.O. Box 35000, Colorado Springs, CO. 80935-3500.** Thank you for the role you are playing in pushing back the darkness!

With love,
Steve, Christy, Philip, William, and Jessica

Merry Christmas 2011 & Happy New Year 2012!



***Crick as the Keynote Speaker
at a Business English Seminar
in Moscow – Oct. '11***



***Philip suffers a serious
concussion in a soccer game
Sept '11***



Hinkson Christian Academy HS Soccer Team - 2011



***William fights for the ball
Fall 2011***

