

House Of Grace and Hope Sakhalin Island Russia

Newsletter August 2008

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Sakhalin Sumer

Hi Everyone,

I pray as always this finds you well!!!!

What a whirl wind few months we have had! We have so much news to share! Peter and I have had 2 months in Australia our first holiday in 3 years, and wish to share the highlights with you.

We have been back in Sakhalin a month now and things are going really well. We hit the ground running and time has gone so fast. We have some very exciting things to share as well!

The weather is great and we are enjoying a touch of summer as the temperature has reached 27 C. this week.

So may I encourage you to grab a cuppa and sit back and hear some of the amazing things God has been doing!

Returning To Sakhalin

Since returning to Sakhalin we have had further new additions to House of Grace and Hope, as Taya and her six month old baby Vanya have moved in with us as well. She had been living with her boyfriend and his mother, but a little while ago he decided he did not want them anymore sending them away with no place to go but home to us. This week Taya is back staying with his mother finalising



some documents and gathering the last of their things together and they will be back to stay.

Over the past month I have also been attending court with Katya as her mum's trial came to an end. She was sentenced this week to serve 7 and 1/2 years in prison. This was a really rough week for Katya and she could really do with your prayers.



John's time here

While we were away John, our friend from Orange in NSW ran the house for us. John survived honourably and he has written a little about his time here on our web page under team member's stories.

Things were fairly eventful for him!

◆ He had a visit from the landlord, and needing to do some maintenance for us.

◆ Max and Olyesa had a registration of marriage and he took them out to celebrate.

◆ Anton was in the Tuberculosis hospital coming and going and John needed to figure how that effected all in the house.

◆ Lastly and most exciting Max and Olyesa gave birth to a beautiful baby boy called Bogdan.

John's time in Sakhalin came to an end this week and he returned to Australia. He was a tremendous help to us and



we will really miss him. House and Grace and Hope has a new web page! John co-hosted us on his web site and spent many long hours creating our site and fine tuning all the glitches to perfection. The banner picture was done for us by our friend Ryan. The two teenagers on the banner is our very own Olyesa and her brother Denis. Thank you John and Ryan for your time and awesome work! We really love it! Our web address is <http://orphanshouse.org> if you would like to take a look.

John also managed a quick trip to Visit to Vaisa in Khabarovsk. John has been visiting Vaisa in the Orphanage for the last seven years and has become very close. When John arrived this trip he learned that Vaisa had been sent to the army. It was a real miracle that John was able to see Vaisa as the Russian army do not normally allow visitor's in the first six months let alone foreign visitors.





Harrison's Furlough

We really noticed some of the differences between Russia and Australia as we coming home. For example Russian's are extremely fashion conscious with as much glimmer and glam as possible. Australian's on the other hand are a lot more casual and this was really stood out to us. As we waited for our flights in Korea to come back to Australia the first hint we were nearly home was seeing an Australian man in his stubbies, singlet and thongs in the airport saying to his wife "come on love, give us a kiss" in a very Australian accent!!!

When we arrived in Sydney though it was our selves that made us laugh. As we headed to the counter to pay for the hire car we had rented to drive to Newcastle we both paused to make sure we had the language skills before proceeding, then of course realising how silly this was!



New South Wales

We started and ended our time in NSW. We arrived in Australia on the 23rd of April to begin our whirl wind trip. We stayed with Peter's parent's for most of our time there, which was great to have some quality time for Luke, Jake and Becky with their grandparents.

We started our time with a family and Friends BBQ which was a great way of catching up with everyone. Becky was blessed with and some special grandma time seeing "High School Musical on Ice", which she really loved. It was great to catch up with Peter's family church in Newcastle as well which in many way's is like coming home as this was where we were married and Peter grew up.

We then proceeded to Sydney catching up with our friends Matt & Elisa Dwyer, and continued to Orange to meet up with John and visit with his church. The people at John's church were a real encouragement for us truly blessed us in many ways including some dental work for Peter and the kids! Thank you! On the way home we were blessed with a day's rest as Blackheath where we stayed in Rachel Craig family's holiday house.

After our return from Melbourne we briefly visited the Central Coast staying with Rachel Craig's family. I really enjoyed our stay there. Rachel's family were very encouraging and I felt that spending time with them was a great time of equipping us with knowledge for continuing our work on Sakhalin.

Many people from Rachel's church and some of her friends had spent time in Russia working with Kid's Outreach international, so hopefully we encouraged them on how important and needed the work they are doing is, as much as they encouraged us.

Western Australia

In Western Australia we were give a chance to catch our breath and find our feet for a few days while staying with our close friends Mark and Marla, before heading south to our old home town Bunbury.

Our time in Bunbury gave us to catch up with some old friends, have some R & R (even swimming for the kids) but spending a lot of time with our pastor Dave Moore. We used our time to debrief and talk about the future of House of Grace and Hope and make some decisions for the future.

Grace Christian Church in Bunbury really blessed our time with providing us accommodations at the Kombanna Bay resort and later at the Grace Apostolic camp and we are truly grateful for all they have done for us.



Melbourne

Our trip to Melbourne was unbelievable! It was our first visit to Melbourne and we stayed with Rachel Chapman's family, (Rachel was one of our short term team member's in December last year) which are the most amazing family. They live about 30 minutes from the airport, on a property and blessed us with their extremely generous hospitality, including Rachel's mum Dennis giving up her bed for us, lending us their cars and showing us the sights of Melbourne.

We arrived in Melbourne at about 5am with no time to sleep as we were speaking at Beit HaMashiach Messianic Congregation at 10am. Peter and I had prepared for talking but as after flying through the night from Perth I was not sure how coherent we would sound. But after a quick prayer for help, I believe the people were touched by what we shared. It was wonderful meeting the people from Beit HaMashiach, they were a great encouragement to us and talking and hearing some Russian from the Russian congregation there made us less homesick for Sakhalin.

Max and Olyesa' Announcements

Max and Olyesa would like to announce that on the 5th of June 2008 they were married.



Then on the 14th June at 2:15am the safe arrival of their son Bogdan. Bogdan came in weighing a healthy 3.220 kg and length 52cm.

They would like to say thank you to everyone who sent gifts and babies supplies back with us. They are all being put to good use and greatly appreciated.

The first thing Olyesa said to me when we returned home and she handed Bogdan to me for my first cuddle was, did I remember what I said to her when she told me that she was pregnant with Bogdan. I remembered clearly she asked me would God curse her and her baby because she was not married. I told her that I believed babies were never a curse but a gift from God. Bogdan translates to God gave and I truly believe he is a precious gift of

God for them. I ask for your prayers that even on the hard days they will always remember this and help them grow as a family.

He is now six weeks old, growing rapidly, smiling very content and truly a delight. Olyesa is an impressive mama and we are so proud of her and Max dotting parenting skills.



Kid's Corner News from Luke

This week Luke celebrated his 14th birthday. On the day John and Peter took them to the park for some birthday fun. Luke is in the process of preparing for a two week mission trip To the Kuril Islands with another church camp. He will leave on the 12th of August for twelve days.



Kid's Corner News from Jake

At the moment Jake is away at a local church camp. He is assisting for the first time as a junior leader. Today we received a call to say that he is doing really well they are loving having him even helping with the night watches of the camp. He is swimming and playing sports enjoying the great weather we are having.



Kid's Corner News from Becky

Becky decided she did not want to go to camp again this year. She recently had a week out of the house staying with our friend Alison in the international village which she enjoyed the rest and being spoiled. She has met some new Australian girls living near by and is hoping to spend some time with them.



So what's happening in the next month.....

The next few weeks we will be kept busy as Peter needs to do some repairs the land lord has asked us to do and we are starting our next visa applications. As I was praying this week I really felt the time to do this was now before the kids return to school on the first of September, then one of our interpreters called offering to help us with this as she felt it needed to be done now too. This will take up a fair bit of time as will all need medicals and many trip in long lines to the visa passport office.

In September I (Tracy) have been blessed with some work. I was contacted by the principle at the international school, that a Spanish family needed help educating their oldest daughter who was now too old for the school. The mother is not fluent in English and the daughter will be doing an American online school program and they need someone to sit with her and help her to study each morning. The family will send a car for me and take me to the international village to start by 8am Monday to Friday and I should return home by 10:30am. The hours will be perfect as I can still keep running the house and be home to help Olyesa with the baby so she can continue university.

Harrison Happenings

House of Grace and Hope

Sakhalin Island Russia

Tracy and Peter Harrison

693023

Russia

Yuzhno – Sakhalinsk,

Ulitsa Gorkovo 84a 1

Phone: 0011 7 4242 752759

Mobile: +7 9 242 808612

E-mail: houseparents@orphanshouse.org

Contacts in Australia-

Roslyn Harrison, Newcastle NSW:

02 49615116

Check out our **NEW WEB SITE**

<http://orphanshouse.org>

Prayer and Praise Points

- ◆ *For the running of the house with our two additional babies.*
- ◆ *For Jake camping trip and serving as a camp leader for the first time*
- ◆ *For Luke's first two week mission trip to the Kurils*
- ◆ *Praise God for our holiday in Australia, for all his provision and the wonderful people who were so hospitable!*
- ◆ *Praise God for the safe arrival of Bogdan, please pray that everyday we can share God's love with him so he can grow as Jesus Grew in wisdom and strength as it says in Luke 2:52*
- ◆ *Praise God for John firstly for running the house while we were away and also for the amazing job of setting up our new web page. Thank you!*

About us

Our home is an unofficial drop-in centre and half-way house for youth who have left their orphanage. We believe our job is to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of these youth. This approach gives them confidence, a positive attitude and life skills to help them reach their full potential.

We tell the kids who come to us:

- We are not an orphanage.
- We are not a student dormitory.
- We are not a hotel.

How the house works:

Our house opens as a drop-in centre Thursday to Monday from 2-10pm. We have up to 10 youth visiting each day for various periods of time. Dinner on an average night is between 15 - 25 people.

We encourage the kids to feel at home as part of our family. We have set up

computers with limited internet access, keyboard, movies and stereo with karaoke. Our kitchen is open for coffee, toast, biscuits and evening meals. The laundry and bathroom is open for the kids to wash clothes and to shower. There are areas for



the kids to sit and talk.

We have a range of reading resources available to encourage personal development and further skills

and education.

Those living at the house are required to contribute in order to help them take ownership and generate some personal real-world life-skills. Each person goes on a roster for normal household duties. Peer pressure ensures standards of work are acceptable! At this stage there is very little financial contribution from the orphans - it is one step at a time for these guys.

All of those living in the house have now got regular employment or further training at a vocational technical level. This is a result of meeting the young peoples' needs thereby giving them the internal resources to go and conquer the world!