

September 2009



## On the Way to Russia—A New Departure Plan

Cecil’s visa was approved, our finances were ready, our tickets were purchased, we were almost on our way back to Khabarovsk. Then the plans changed. Only twelve days before departure Deanna, our youngest, had a bicycle accident. She was going downhill very fast, hit something and went over the handlebars. She landed on her chin on asphalt and broke her jaw. She lost several teeth, but thankfully only one adult tooth was lost.

Deanna’s jaw is now held shut by bands, and she won’t be

able to travel until those are removed. The doctor says they will stay in for six to eight weeks. So the new plan is for Cecil to go to Russia for four weeks while Tonya stays with the kids. After he returns to the States, the whole family will travel to Russia. While we’d rather all stay together, this looks like the best plan at the moment.

Deanna is healing quickly. She’s sleeping well at night, active

during the day, eating well (of course, it is all mush, but some mush isn’t bad, like milk shakes and smoothies). She’s even been bugging us to let her ride her bike again. Tim and Vera have been very helpful through it all.

We know that God loves us and that this did not catch Him off guard. In this world things often don’t go the way we want them to,

but the Lord has a plan and is able to carry us through it all.



Russia—  
Our Destination

### Praise Reports:

- Cecil received his Russian visa without a problem.
- Our year of deputation in the States went well.
- The Lord holds us in the palm of his hand.

### Prayer Requests:

- For Deanna to heal quickly and without complications.
- For Cecil as he ministers alone in Khabarovsk.
- For Tonya, Timothy and Vera as they home school.

### Resident Permit

While Cecil is in Khabarovsk over the next four weeks he will endeavor to submit everything needed to receive a resident permit (like the U.S. “green card”). This is a real stack of documents to go through, but a resident permit would help us in many ways.

**Freaky Fact:** *Until 1916, Transsiberian trains crossed the Amur river at Khabarovsk by ferry in summer, and by tracks laid on the ice during winter.*

We’re on the Web at  
<http://Eshelman.info>

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