

# Front Line Ministries

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## SERVING THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES OF MINISTRY

### From Bill

February 2003 will be a month filled with opportunities for our staff to impact the lives of missionaries and the national church for Christ.

February 7-17, a team of three—**Keith Boyer and Doug and Suzanne White**—will be traveling to **Moscow and Kaluga, Russia** to minister at Word of Life Church.

FLM was introduced to Word of Life Church last year as their leaders attended our annual missions conference at First Presbyterian Church in Baton Rouge, LA. Word of Life Church was co-founded by David Kozan, a member of 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, who served as a missionary in Kaluga for 2 years in the early 90's. Word of Life Church is boldly proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in Kaluga.

Their many ministries include: youth outreach, discipleship programs for men and women, widows and orphans

ministries, a medical education center, a soup kitchen for the poor, a crisis counseling hotline and a budding drug rehabilitation ministry.

As I was introduced to these godly Russians a year ago, I was intrigued by their crisis counseling hotline and their drug rehabilitation ministry. Russian pastors have often spoken of their tremendous need for biblical lay counseling skills with which to address the overwhelming needs of the Russian people.

Word of Life Church has set up a crisis counseling hotline to serve the spiritual and emotional needs of believers and non-believers alike in Kaluga and the surrounding area.

**Keith Boyer** (who joined the staff of FLM last fall) is a gifted pastor, speaker and

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### Prayer & Praise

#### Praise God with Us

- ◆ Blessings regarding details of the Russia trip: God's provision thus far of financial resources, economical air fare, travel visas, employers who have freed up Keith, Doug & Suzanne to go.
- ◆ Completion of FLM power point presentation which will help educate others regarding the work of FLM and enlist massive prayer support.
- ◆ Completion of pre-field applicant packet/ process which will be shared with other missions organizations to enhance their ability to support their missionaries.

#### Please Pray with Us

- ◆ **Trip to Russia, Feb.7-17—Keith, Doug & Suzanne:**
  - Good health.
  - Safety in travel & safety in Russia.
  - Divine opportunities to minister to those in need
  - Productive and powerful times of teaching on biblical lay counseling & addictions recovery.
  - Blessings on their families while they are away.
- ◆ For **Bill** as he ministers with **Voice of the Martyrs** (Bartlesville, OK), Feb. 19-21. He will be implementing a pre-field screening program for all new VOM missionary applicants & will be screening new VOM field staff who will minister in Thailand & China.

*From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16*

### Celebrate Recovery

*“Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins. You used to live just like the rest of the world...full of sin, obeying Satan...But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so*

*very much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead...And so God can always point to us as examples of the incredible wealth of*

*his favor and kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”*

*—Ephesians 2:1-2, 4&7*

**I**f someone had told me 13 years ago that Doug and I would be traveling to

Russia to help a church in a community struggling with addictions start a recovery ministry, I would have thought they were crazy!

As it was, our own marriage was on the rocks as a result of

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*Celebrate Recovery (Continued from page 1)*

Doug's 20+-year addiction to pornography coupled with my own enabling, co-dependent behavior.

We married in 1983, equally yoked as nonbelievers, but it wasn't until two years into the union that I discovered Doug's "secret life." He explained away the stash of pornographic magazines and tapes I stumbled upon hidden in a closet as "just what guys do," and I bought into it. I believed the lie that if I were a better wife, prettier, sexier, he wouldn't need to look at pornography. I took responsibility for his behavior, manipulating situations to either cover up the problem or to try to prevent him from looking at the magazines and tapes. I would rationalize, "At least he's not having an affair." But having no knowledge of or information about sexual addiction at the time, what I didn't realize is that pornography can be as addictive as crack, and indeed in time Doug's enslavement to it eventually spiraled into an affair.

By March 1990, our marriage was headed for divorce court when, early one morning while getting ready to go work out, Doug was watching television, and God spoke through a televangelist to convict him of his sin, prompting Doug to cry out to the Lord to save him and deliver him from his addiction. He immediately destroyed all his tapes and magazines. My salvation experience was slower and more gradual but no less real as I watched my husband literally transformed into a new creature in Christ and our relationship restored.

But even as a new Christian, Doug still continued to wrestle with triggers to indulge in old behaviors, and occasionally he'd lose the battle. Yet he was determined, armed with the power of the Holy Spirit, to defeat his sexual addiction and truly be all the man God had called him to be.

He began attending Promise Keeper conferences, getting involved in accountability partnerships, and started seeking answers through Christian counseling, all of which armed him with the neces-

sary tools to fight the battle. But it wasn't until the fall of 1999, when we were asked to lead the first 12-step, Christ-centered recovery program in Baton Rouge, **Celebrate Recovery**, did he truly learn the steps to experiencing total freedom from the addiction that had gripped him for so long. As he visited Saddleback Church's Celebrate Recovery program in California to learn how to get one going in Baton Rouge, he attended a men's group for sexual addiction that had over 75 men from a variety of age groups and backgrounds. It was an experience that radically changed his life. From that point on, he was convinced God was calling him to reach out to other men struggling with the same issue.

We give God the glory that in almost three years of ministering through the Celebrate Recovery program every Friday night at Istrouma Baptist Church, we've been able to reach out not only to men battling pornography addiction, but to their spouses, and people dealing with chemical addiction, sexual abuse, anger, and codependency.

And now we have the exciting privilege of being invited to travel to Kaluga, Russia, to work with the leaders of the Word of Life Church as well as surrounding churches in starting their own Celebrate Recovery ministry. As we represent Front Line Ministries, our desire is that through our own personal testimony and with the Word of God and translated instructional materials concerning the nuts and bolts of this wonderful recovery program, we can aid our brothers and sisters in offering their own communities a safe place for the Russian people to experience the healing power of Christ in their lives.

At Celebrate Recovery our favorite saying is "God Never Wastes A Hurt." Nothing could be more true in our situation, in that the Lord has used the pain and mistakes of our past to enable us to reach out to others with message of Christ's mercy, forgiveness, and restoration. We are trophies of God's grace.

*flm*

Suzanne White



*From Bill (Continued from page 1)*

mental health counselor. He will be leading a team of church leaders in a week-long training on evangelism and biblical lay counseling skills.

Word of Life Church has a number of new believers who are coming out of a lifestyle of addiction to drugs, alcohol and/or pornography. Their desire is to open a rehabilitation center with which to further their ministry in the name of Jesus Christ to those who suffer in these areas.

**Doug and Suzanne White**, who lead a Celebrate Recovery ministry for those dealing with addictions in Baton Rouge, have agreed to partner with FLM by helping Word of Life Church infuse energy into their addictions recovery program.

Doug and Suzanne have a powerful personal testimony of how God freed them from the grasp of addiction in their own marriage. They will lead a week-long training for church leaders in and around the Kaluga area on how to set up and operate addictions recovery programs.

**Please pray for Keith, Doug and Suzanne daily as they minister in Russia this month.** Our desire is for God to use their skills to minister to Word of Life Church. Please pray as well that God will protect, guide and minister to Keith, Doug & Suzanne and their families during this time of service.

*flm*

*Bill Wakefield*

### *Special Funding*

If you would like to make a special contribution on behalf of Keith Boyer or Doug and Suzanne White to offset the cost of their trip to Kaluga, Russia, please designate *Kaluga Trip* on your donation to Front Line Ministries. Thank you for your support and continued prayers on behalf of FLM.