

The Olsen Outlook

June 2007

2917 N 52nd St, Lincoln, NE 68504

(402) 261-3938

(402) 440-2104

olsenfam5@gmail.com

SUMMER GREETINGS!

Last Tuesday, Kurt and Emily drove to the airport in Kansas City to pick up "Zaydi" and her family. *We are so excited that God worked out this visit for them.* There have been plenty of opportunities for them to improve their English. We even have private lessons set up for him and "Heidi" with an ESL professor from Southeast Community College, starting today. Matt usually takes a short-term trip during this 3-week break, but was still waiting on the Lord about what to do when we called with our request. He jumped at the opportunity to be used by God right here in Lincoln this summer. He will meet this family's felt need and pray for opportunities to influence them for Christ in the process.

Matt established the English Language Learners' (ELL) program at his church and consulted with and trained the ELL director at our church to set up a similar program. Matt also holds training sessions at our church for members interested in getting involved in teaching ELL classes and reaching out to international neighbors. With so many refugees in Lincoln, there is a great need for these kinds of programs. Our church's program kicked off last summer in conjunction with Vacation Bible School, and a handful of Vietnamese children have come to faith in Jesus and plugged in to our church as a result. Their mothers continue to meet at the church weekly for ELL. *Our ELL director, Alice, agreed to arrange the second annual intensive ELL week during Oscar and his family's visit from Turkey. They will meet at the church June 25-29 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.*

It is a busy, but very enjoyable time while our Turkish friends are visiting! We planned some sight-seeing and other fun and interesting activities for their time, including celebrating Emily's birthday. Another girl from church had her birthday last week, too, and her family (the Thompsons) invited us all to join them for a day at the zoo.

The Thompson family recently met a local Turkish family and introduced us by telephone. Nanette called and told them about our friends coming to visit. She wondered if there was some small thing our friends could bring them from Turkey. They didn't think so, but he called back about five minutes later. "Do you think your friends could help my mother-in-law get to Lincoln? She is moving here, but she is terrified about the trip. She is 65 years

old and doesn't know any English. Could you ask your friends' permission for her to travel with them?" *Wow! What a great opportunity to show Christ's love by connecting these two families across the ocean.* Oscar and the family agreed to help, but in the end, the flights didn't work out. This week we will try to all meet face to face.

We continue to have to divide our time between seeking new ministry partners and direct ministry, but as we put ourselves into situations where we can meet international students, scholars and community members, God is faithful. As members of the Friends of Foreign Students (FFS), we received information recently about a group of Japanese nursing students coming to Nebraska Wesleyan University in July for a 3-week program. They need host families. We live only 2 blocks from the campus and would love to host a couple of them, but will be out of town during that time. We will make an appeal to our church families to take in these students as an opportunity to proclaim the gospel with their lives and words.

We want to sign up as many willing families from church as possible in FFS so they can learn about opportunities like this directly. International students at the universities want to be befriended by someone in the community and there are always more students signed up than families. *Promoting FFS in the body of Christ is one way we can link internationals with people able to clearly explain who Jesus is and why he died on the cross for us all.* It's also very life-enriching for the people who take the time to befriend someone from another country. We hope to help FFS become more ready for the influx of new students arriving for studies in the US this fall.ß



Home from MN