

December, 2006

Welcome to our Electronic Communication

Welcome to the first email version of *News From The Frontier*. This is being sent to friends and acquaintances I have met along my journey as Associate Director of Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship. I thank God for the ways in which our lives have been drawn together in the common cause of advancing the Good News of Christ to all the people groups of the world. Many of you will continue to receive the paper copy of my newsletter but I also want to give you access to the newsletter electronically. You will receive *News From The Frontier* periodically during the year as well as monthly updates on my reflections and observations as a mission mobilizer for PFF. If you no longer choose to receive this newsletter you may use the link at the bottom of any email to unsubscribe. As you read my reports, you will see that you can forward them to a friend as well as let me know what you think. I would love to hear from you. Meanwhile, my wife, Sharon and I and our family want to wish you and yours a blessed Christmas and grace-filled New Year!"

Hungary and Ukraine **Discovering the Love of God and Helping the Roma**

This October, I helped lead a team of eight people to Hungary and Ukraine in order to further develop our partnership with the Reformed Churches of Hungary and Ukraine in their outreach efforts to the Roma or Gypsy people. For the past eight years, I have been involved in Roma ministries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The Roma have a complicated history, and it is wonderful and miraculous when they come to Christ. During this last trip, I was reminded what one pastor of the Reformed Church of Hungary said to me long ago. He said, "Some of us Hungarian Christians want very much to extend the love of Christ to these highly discriminated against people, the Roma, but if the truth be known we in the Reformed Church were so beaten-up, beleaguered and pushed down under communism that we are barely psychologically whole ourselves."



Dan with Tom and Jeanette Eilers of the Winnetka Presbyterian Church visiting their Roma friends in Szurte, Ukraine.

Dan as Teacher, Preacher, and Consultant

When I am not traveling overseas to help nurture or develop a frontier mission project, I am on the road across the North American landscape visiting local Presbyterian congregations helping them develop a frontier mission vision. In the 10 years of visiting these congregations as a PFF staff person, I have often heard the same cry from mission leaders and pastors; they are in earnest pursuit of methods and avenues to help their members get involved in cross-cultural mission and evangelism. Wise pastors and lay leaders know how easy it is for a local church to become self absorbed, more preoccupied with maintaining than giving away their blessings from God.



Dan preaching in Kisdobrony, Ukraine

News From the Family

Throughout the years, I was privileged to know a lot about my dad's Irish heritage. On more than one occasion, my family and I were able to visit County Clare, Ireland where the McNerneys had originated.

My mother, on the other hand, is more Scottish than Irish. Her grandmother came from Glasgow, Scotland and her grandfather from Belfast, Northern Ireland. We had never really probed these roots before. This fall, for my mom's 80th birthday, my siblings and I took her to Scotland and Northern Ireland to discover exactly from where she came. It was a wonderful trip, truly a blessing from the Lord. Though my mom is impaired by the increasing affects of Alzheimer's, her spirit and emotions soared during the trip. We danced and sang our way through the Celtic lands.

[Read more News from the Family](#)



The kids with Margaret in Duxbury, MA this Summer.



PFF

ADMINISTRATIVE HELP: As the demands of my ministry continue to expand, so do my needs for increased administrative help.

My longtime assistant and trusted family friend, Ingrid Wicklund, agreed recently to double her hours which has been



a huge blessing. My family and I absolutely adore Ingrid. In addition, I have included a second person in my office, an intern from Northwestern University, Zach Dillon. Zach has a high interest in entering full-time ministry in the future. He loves learning about what I do as a mission mobilizer, in addition to serving my office's administrative needs.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS: In September, I invited three new people to join my board of advisors. Lock Swift: An active member of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean, VA. I knew Lock and his wife, Carol, from when they were members of the Winnetka Presbyterian Church. Lock has been recently to Peru to visit one of our outreach efforts to the Lacandon people group. Bill McDowell: An elder and lay leader in the Village Presbyterian Church, Northbrook, IL. Bill has recently been an active member of the Islam study group here in the northern suburbs of Chicago. Denis Naylor: An elder and lay leader of the First Presbyterian Church, Wilmette, IL. Denis has spent most of his life in advertising and persuasive writing assignments. He has already begun to help me in communicating my ministry and engaging people in opportunities to join frontier mission work.

