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Dear Friends,

I had this month's letter all written and ready to go. I was proofreading it when the phone rang. It was the manager of the facility where we are storing most of our belongings until we move to Florida. She informed me that the lock was missing from our unit and that I should come right over. I did, and found that our unit (and five others) had been broken into. As I was driving over I was thinking what my response would be if it were all gone. I realized that the only things that had any sentimental value were the 1940's glass master recordings from WJR that Lisa's grandfather had made and salvaged when he was an engineer there. These are both historical and part of the family. Fortunately, they were untouched in the new case that I just had made for moving them. We took inventory and discovered that they had taken our bed and linens, a freezer, tools, rakes and shovels, and a few other things. We're still trying to remember what was there so we can figure out what's gone. But they even took our vacuum cleaner and a Swiffer, of all things! Even thieves have to clean house, I guess.

I almost wish more had been taken as then we wouldn't have as much to move! And because we are insured, this whole thing ends up being nothing more than a short distraction that tries to keep me from the task at hand. It also serves as a reminder of what Jesus said:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matt 6:19-21

I am waiting to receive the six month prayer cards that the JESUS film puts out. They will have specific and timely things to pray about for the film. I'll post these to our web site as soon as I get them, and include some in next month's letter. In the mean time please pray that the film will continue to reach those who have yet to hear the greatest news of the gospel of Christ. On the other side of this letter you will see how one Siberian city was impacted just last month.

I think most missionaries raising support would say that they wish the process were faster, and I count myself among them! However, we are enjoying this time and know that God has lessons for us to learn before we go. It is a very social thing getting to meet with so many people. This part of the process has been great. It's fun to tell others about the film and Campus Crusade, and to speak out for world missions in general.

Please feel free to email or call us and be sure to visit the web site (www.cockingfamily.com). You can read all of our past newsletters and see pictures as well.

In Christ,





“Historical Film ‘JESUS’...Admission Free”

In October, thousands of citizens of Tomsk, Siberia, united for one event—to watch the “JESUS” film in their own language. Several weeks prior to the 10-day film showing campaign, the citizens had seen commercials on TV, observed banners and posters in the streets, and received personal invitations to watch the film that had everyone talking. At the cinema in the center of town, a big banner announced “Historical Film ‘JESUS’...Admission Free.”

Even an hour before most of the screenings, those who wanted to see the film formed huge lines. Many could not get in even though the “JESUS” film showed in many different theaters simultaneously. Cinema halls were overcrowded; workers used all the chairs they could possibly find in the building. Lots of people were standing; others were sitting on the floor or on the steps. At one location, 350 people were lucky enough to find a seat while 155 stood throughout the two-hour showing after standing in line for an hour.

A local pastor in charge of one of the film showings said, “[The crowds] are primarily people who couldn’t see the film yesterday. They came an hour earlier today to be first in the line. Many can get to see it only after the third or fourth attempt, after they try all other cinema halls and find themselves in the same long lines.”

Besides all the cinemas that were showing the “JESUS” film there were also four prayer houses screening the film. The “JESUS” film teams arranged buses to transport people to other showings when one venue filled up. As the waiting crowd became anxious, a pastor who helped organize the film showings tried to calm them down. Making a megaphone out of his hands he shouted, “Don’t worry, all of you will see the film! We are waiting for the bus that will take you to another hall.” But the bus was delayed, so people decided to walk to one of the prayer houses for a screening. About 150 people walked farther than one mile in the freezing cold to watch “JESUS” that night.

So what really brought these crowds to wait an hour or more in line to see the “JESUS” film in Tomsk? Here are some of their comments:

“I’ve always wanted to see this film. I want to know more about Jesus Christ and who He is.”

“I’m tired of thrillers. I want something that will talk to my heart. It’s time to believe in God.”

“This is something that we all need. It’s especially good for young people who are choosing the direction in their life.”

“I have a higher education. It’s a shame, but I know almost nothing about the beginnings of Christianity. I want to fill in the gap.”

“I’ve seen Passions of Christ[sic] and have been really amazed. Now I want to see something about His life.”

Many people remained after the film showings to share their impressions about “JESUS” and to ask questions. An old woman with tears in her eyes shared that she heard a lot about Baptists and wanted to find their church—but for some reason she never did. When she received an invitation to watch the “JESUS” film she came to the cinema, but there were no seats left for her. So she went to another place, and when she could not get in there either, she boarded the bus that brought her to a prayer house. She became ecstatic when she realized that this was a Baptist prayer house. She dreamt of finding this place. She said she would definitely start coming to the church now. That Sunday she and several others who had watched the “JESUS” film in the prayer house attended church for the first time in their lives.

In Tomsk, during those 10 days in October, thousands of people viewed “JESUS”—almost half of them prayed the prayer to accept Jesus at the end of the film. About 2,000 people came to the meetings after the film showings to learn more about God and the gospel. The Christian church leaders in Tomsk who helped organize the citywide campaign believe that the number of evangelical churches in the city will increase as a direct result of these “JESUS” film showings.

After one of the Tomsk “JESUS” film showings, one audience member commented, “After you see it you start thinking about your faith, your life and your actions.”