

Recent Missionary stories from Earnest's family

Bradley Borden:



On October 17, 1998 our son Bradley Borden was serving in the city of Ufa he had been out about 8 months. His mission, the Russia Yekaterinburg Mission, covered hundreds of miles and Ufa was about a 12 hour train ride from the mission headquarters. That evening Brad and his companion Elder Jose Macintosh went to the apartment of an inactive member. No one was home. As they were going down the stairwell they encountered a couple of men. One was very drunk and pulled a knife on them.

They pushed him aside and ran down the stairs. Outside they were slowed up by a group of people which allowed the men to catch up with them. The man with the knife stabbed Brad in the stomach and Elder Macintosh in the chest. They continued to try to get away, but Elder Macintosh collapsed and Brad held him as he died. It was a very traumatic experience, but through it all there were many, many little miracles that President Monson related to us, as well as the mission president and Brad.

- 1) A woman who witnessed the attack was a member of the Church. She recognized the Elders and was able to call an ambulance – there aren't many members in Ufa.. The ambulance was close by and was there very quickly – very unusual.
- 2) The member lady had also gotten hold of the other elders. As they were on their way they saw the ambulance and saw Brad sitting in it, so were able to follow it to the Doyma Hospital and be there with him.
- 3) The only LDS doctor worked at the hospital where he was taken, he was a very respected doctor and was able to obtain the needed supplies for Brad – their hospitals don't automatically have needed surgical supplies and antibiotics etc. Brad said later the hospital was like something out of a WWII movie. The doctor was also able to be in the operation room with Brad.
- 4) The Elders has been doing community service in the hospital so the staff recognized the elders and seemed to go the extra mile as far as Brad was concerned.
- 5) There was only one phone in the hospital, in a staff room. Another miracle – some how the Zone Leader Elder Madsen was able to get Brad to that phone after surgery



- so we were able to talk to him for a few minutes. The staff room was not even on the way to his room.
- 6) Brad's wound was to his liver which regenerates itself. So other than a huge ugly scar down his chest and stomach he has had no physical problem from his wound.
 - 7) The Church sent their doctor down to Ufa. The US Embassy doctor from Moscow also went down. They both felt Brad had had excellent care.
 - 8) After recuperating in Germany for about 3 weeks, Brad was able to return to the Yekaterinburg Mission. This was the final miracle, because the okay to return to his mission after this experience had to be okayed from the First Presidency.