



THE BENGE BULLETIN Fall 2010

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.... Phil. 1:4-5

Ukraine Area Conference:

Our update begins with our SEND Ukraine team conference which met in August in Odessa at a Christian camp near the Black Sea. We enjoyed three days with our 50 + fellow team members (and their families) from all over Ukraine—sharing fellowship, hearing testimonies and Bible teaching, and reviewing ministry objectives. Kellie and I also had the privilege of coordinating and leading the daily prayer sessions.



Jerry leading prayer time.



SEND Ukraine Team Family Conference



The Black Sea provided an awesome backdrop for our conference!

Back To School!

Since September, we have been immersed (again) in our Russian studies. We had heard that it takes about 10 times longer to learn Russian than English—and we are starting to believe it. Just the words themselves can be a challenge. For example, the word for counseling (as in biblical counseling) has seven syllables and sounds like “doo-shee-po-pye-chee-telst-va” (whew!) And the grammar and sentence structure is often quite different from our syntax. For example, in Russian, instead of saying, “I have a dog” you say: “Of me there is a dog.” You don’t laugh “at” someone, you laugh “above” them. If you want to request something, you ask “about” it, rather than “for” it. Needless to say, there is much to memorize!



Jerry with his teacher, Galena, and class mate, Gabe.



Kellie has class in the morning with Maryana.

Ministry Opportunities:

In October, we traveled to Ternopil (Western Ukraine) to visit Pastor Volodia and his wife, Oksana, and their son, Zechariah. Volodia is a faithful, godly pastor with whom we want to network in ministry in the future. He and his wife have had unusual opportunities for witness as they deal with the challenges of a severely handicapped child. We thank God for the power of His grace in their lives! Please remember them in your prayers.

In November, Jerry will be traveling to Poltava (Eastern Ukraine) with Kyiv Seminary professor, Andy Rist, to do a weekend family conference with several churches there.

Meanwhile, Kellie is using hospitality as a bridge to building relationships with Ukrainian families (while practicing her Russian) She is also teaching English (along with the Gospel) to Katya, a young Ukrainian girl.



Pastor Volodymyr Kostyshyn with Oksana, and Zechariah



Kellie practicing Russian with Aigerim, a missions major that we are hosting from Khazakstan.

Praises:

1. Continued good health and strength.
2. Dedicated language teachers who love God and help us to succeed in language acquisition.
3. The wonder and joy of being used by God to accomplish His great purposes (we hope you can say this, too!).
4. The privilege of hosting a Kyiv Theological Seminary student for the next month. She is a missions student from Kazakhstan. We should get some good practice in Russian!

Prayer requests:

1. For our ongoing progress in language study. We complete our training in June 2011.
2. For Jerry as he meets with pastors and church leaders in order to build partnerships for future ministry. Pray also for his upcoming Family Conference in Poltava on November 13-14.
3. For both of us as we develop personal relationships with Ukrainians—both believers and non-believers. Pray that the Lord will open Katya's heart (and her mother's heart) to the Gospel.
4. For our son, Joel, as he will be giving a commencement speech at his graduation ceremony at Wayne State University on December 11. He will be talking about ***perseverance in difficult times***--a great opportunity to point people toward the hope that is in Christ alone.

Finally, we want to thank you for your concern for the advancement of the Gospel in Ukraine—and especially for your prayers and financial support!

Your partners in ministry,

Jerry and Kellie



Jerry preaching at our home church

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