



*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*

## Our God Reigns!

### Praise Reports:

- The safe birth of a healthy grandson, Maddox Jeremiah, on Oct. 16.
- Two encouraging Mission Conferences in Oct.
- Karissa's growth in leadership as co-captain of her volleyball team.

### Prayer Requests:

- Wisdom as we help Joel adjust to living away from home, future educational and ministry plans.
- God's provision of the balance of our support.
- Wisdom in education/ministry plans for Karissa's future.
- Wisdom to make the most of the time we have to minister while still here.

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By the time you receive this newsletter, Election 2008 will have become history. But the problems and concerns that have fueled so much of the election rhetoric these last few months will linger on. To say we are living in unsettling times is an understatement. But the problems are not just here at home. They are being felt around the globe—including Ukraine. While America struggles to head off a looming economic tsunami, the government of Ukraine is trying to defend their national currency which has plunged over 20% in recent months. Even as Americans have just decided who will lead their government over the next four years, Ukrainians will be deciding in December whether to continue moving toward the West or trying to strengthen ties with Russia. Nothing right now *seems* certain. In fact, humanly speaking, we could not have chosen a more difficult time to become missionaries!

But what seems uncertain to us is no mystery to God. It is all part of His plan to re-establish His kingdom. Any *shake up* that is going on in the world (political, financial or otherwise) is only serving to advance God's kingdom purposes. This is the way God has always worked. For example, God installed a pagan king in Persia named

Cyrus to implement a plan of repatriating former captives to their homelands. (2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-8). This plan included sending the Jews back to Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity and assisting them in the reconstruction of the Temple. What Cyrus did most likely for political advantage, God used to fulfill His promises to His people which ultimately paved the way for the biggest fulfillment of all—the coming of Immanuel.



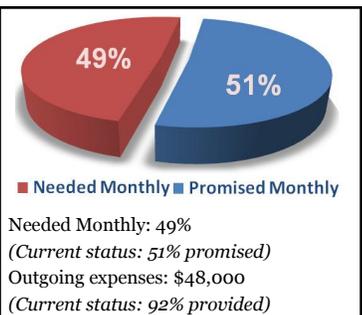
*Jerry with students at Kiev Theological Seminary. (Akif is on the far right.)*

Centuries later, God used the atheistic Soviet Union to prepare the way for the Gospel in the Russian-speaking world. He raised up what Ronald Reagan once described as “the Evil Empire” to connect hundreds of disparate ethnic groups into a common culture with a common language. He used the “legalism” of a corrupt, hypocritical system to prepare peoples’ hearts for their need of a Savior. He prepared the Ukrainian people to become effective church planters and missionaries to the former USSR. And he has prepared Ukraine to be a safe-haven for training people from other Russian-speaking countries whose governments will not allow such training within their own borders. I had the privilege of teach-

ing such a student, named Akif, last spring at Kiev Theological Seminary. Akif is from Azerbaijan and hopes one day to return to central Asia to plant churches in places where Westerners like us cannot go. Finally, He has prepared missionaries like Kellie and me to have a passion for training present and future church leaders in the Russian-speaking world.

So regardless of how things may seem, we who proclaim the Gospel to a dark world must also speak that same Gospel to ourselves in unsettling times. Our unshakable God is shaking up the nations as He prepares to give them back to His Son (Psalm 2:8). So we rejoice in these times of uncertainty and echo the words of the prophet Isaiah: *How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”*

### Monthly Funding Update



**Note:** Contributions are solicited with the understanding that the donee organization has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds.

### Church Itinerary

- Nov. 8-10 — Plainfield Bible Church Mission Conference in Plainfield, IN.