



THE BENGEE BULLETIN Summer 2011

*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*

So ...what now?



Has the summer flown by for you? It sure has for us! We want to share with you all of the blessings that God bestowed on us this past summer. We started out with a celebration of the end of our formal language training. The students each paid a tribute to their teacher in Russian, and we finished the morning by having an all-American picnic complete with hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, and apple pie.



After 3 months, Kellie re-connected with her Ukrainian friend, Luda, and was invited to her dacha or summer home. A dacha is very important to a Ukrainian because there on a small plot of land outside the city, they grow what they need for each winter. It is also considered an important place to maintain good health away from the pollution and busyness of the city. We spent two days and one night together, and it was a big step forward in cultural adaptation. Most Ukrainians are busy making ends meet, so a dacha is not what we would call a place of rest—but a change of pace.



The following weekend we rode an overnight train so that we could attend the wedding of Kellie's teacher. The ceremony was much like an American one, but the reception was very different. As in most places in this country, rooms are used for more than one purpose. After the ceremony, the sanctuary was quickly transformed into a banquet hall complete with decorations on each table. It lasted for a long time with plenty of good Ukrainian food to eat. What made it interesting was that each friend of the bride or groom put on a skit, sang, or read a poem as a gift to the new couple.

We got back early Sunday morning, Jerry preached at our church, and we began packing to go to Brake Bible College close to Dortmund, Germany for our Eurasia Conference with our SEND team June 8-14. We left on Wednesday and were enchanted by the beautiful fairytale-like sights all around us. We enjoyed wonderful worship, prayer, teaching from God's Word and fellowship times. We were refreshed as we walked around the beautiful, clean, neat village with narrow streets and flowers in every yard. We even got to see a castle!

We flew home on June 14, then repacked to leave for the US on June 16. We had a wonderful week in Detroit at Cornerstone and seeing dear friends and supporters. After packing up the last of Jerry's books to ship to Ukraine and helping Joel get ready to move to Louisville, we were off to Indianapolis to visit Jerry's family. We drove on to Louisville for a quick stop to see the newest member of our family, Lilly, and her brother, Maddox, (Jeremy and Michelle, too!) and then on to North Carolina to spend some time with Kellie's family. We rested, swam together at a beautiful pool, talked about God's Word together, celebrated her dad's 80th birthday and had a special time catching up in person.





So. . .what now? God has given us a joyous summer of renewal, and we are ready to tackle what is ahead as we look to the Lord for strength and wisdom.

Jerry is diligently and eagerly preparing for several upcoming teaching opportunities. On September 5-10 he will be in Siberia teaching Biblical Counseling under the ministry umbrella of an organization called Overseas Instruction in Counseling. Upon returning to Kiev, he will teach a 2-week intensive 40-hour module, Pastoral Ministry (from September 12-23). Later on, from October 24 through November 4, he will be teaching in the new Master's level program in Biblical Counseling. The course title is Dynamics of Biblical Change. Please pray for wisdom and sensitivity to the cultural nuances in this part of the world as he prepares for and teaches these three courses. He also regularly preaches at our local church (Fair Haven Church) and is currently working with our pastor on ways to more intentionally train and disciple the congregation.

We are just in the beginning stages of working out Kellie's ministry in our church. We met with our pastor and his wife at the beginning of August to find out how we could be a help, and she will be teaching English using a Bible study in the book of Mark to the ladies of our church. We are also hoping to make it an outreach by asking each lady to invite an unsaved friend. This is her passion, but she needs much wisdom to work out the details.

This fall, our Kazakh "daughter", Aigerim, comes back to stay with us for this school year while she attends Kiev Theological Seminary majoring in Missions. Please pray that the Lord will enable her to find a job to help support her education expenses.



Sweet, happy Lilly



All of the Benges at our first meal

Kellie's relationships with Luda and Nella (mother of Katya) continue to grow. Of course, the goal is to share the good news of the gospel. Please pray for a hunger and thirst for these two women as well as Katya. Also, as Jerry trains students, we desire to build strong relationships through hospitality and traveling to their churches to encourage them. We want to impress upon them the great need for discipleship not only in Ukraine, but all over the Russian-speaking world.

Finally, we thank you for your interest in the Gospel to the Russian-speaking world, your prayers, and your financial support.

Хвали Богу и Молитвенные Просьбы

(Praises and Prayer Requests)

Praises:

- Safe travels and time with family.
- Our children are walking with Christ.
- We have joy and contentment serving Christ here.

Prayer requests:

- Jerry's class preparation and teaching.
- Kellie's outreach opportunities.
- Continued development in Russian.

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