



# THE BENGEE BULLETIN

Summer/Fall 2012

*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*

## Reflections on our summer

The month of June was a wrap up of the school year, involving many hours of grading, graduation ceremonies—and still more opportunities to preach in the churches of our students. This not only strengthens our relationship with the students and their churches, it improves our understanding of the culture, the people, and the needs that pastors face as they care for their flocks.



*Our family*

On June 12, we departed for Burlington, NC to spend a week with Kellie's parents and other family members from both sides of our family. The visit with her Dad was especially timely since he has experienced a significant loss of mobility and speech. Nonetheless, God gave us some sweet times of fellowship, mutual encouragement in the hope of the Gospel, and the opportunity for us to help them with some practical projects around the house.



*KTS Graduation, June, 2012*

On June 21 we flew to Louisville to see our children and grandchildren and to be introduced to some new family members. It was such a blessing to finally wrap our arms around our newest granddaughter, Addison, born to Jeremy and Michelle on May 24. We were blessed to meet Joel's girlfriend (now fiancé as of September 6) and we look forward to her becoming part of our family in July, 2013. Our brief sojourn in Louisville provided some precious "slices of life" with our kids and grandkids: a trip to the local zoo, water pistol battles, watching fireworks, eating ice cream, watching church softball games, and reading Bible stories together. During this time, Jerry and our 3 kids also made a brief trip Detroit to Cornerstone Baptist Church to visit their

former youth pastor, who has ALS and for Jerry to preach at the church where he served for 14 years. It was a blessing for them to spend 2 hours with Patrick and Dena McGoldrick and share how their ministry has impacted each of the kids' lives.

After some difficult goodbyes, but with an awesome sense of peace and contentment in the ministry that God has given us, we arrived back in Ukraine on July 11. Being home was a huge blessing, and we were reminded of how much all of your support for us means. We can be here with a joyful sense of anticipation because of your partnership with us financially and in prayer. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Our summer was different in the sense that we did not do much serving outside of our SEND International Ukraine team. Kellie filled in for our team treasurer from the end of May until September working about 15 hours per week. It was good for her to see the importance of those in supporting roles. Without their faithful, behind-the-scenes ministry, the rest of the work could not happen. It was a good time to get to know fellow teammates and Ukrainian partners better.

During the latter part of July and early August, we spent our time preparing for our Ukraine Area conference. Four of our missionaries (including Jerry) presented relevant and challenging teaching from Romans 8. The four and a half days were spent in special times of prayer for each other, learning about and praying more for specific ministries, worshiping together and talking about our goals as a team. We also had time to relax and re-connect with our teammates from other parts of Ukraine.



*Jerry preaching at our conference*

## **Here is what is coming up for the rest of 2012**

**Kiev Theological Seminary:** A main focus in Jerry's teaching is promoting the concept of biblically healthy churches. His first module, *Pastoral Ministry*, began on September 10<sup>th</sup> and went through the 20<sup>th</sup>. His goal was to stimulate a vision for biblical shepherding, which involves knowing, feeding, leading, and protecting the flock. Their response was very enthusiastic. Several students caught the vision and shared how they plan to implement growth and change in their ministries—for which we praise the Lord!



*Jerry's Pastoral Ministry class*

Next, Jerry will be co-teaching the course, Introduction to Pastoral Leadership on October 8-18. He also will teach some classes in the Introduction to Biblical Counseling module at the end of October, and then co-teach a class in Homiletics from November 5-16. At the same time Jerry is teaching, Kellie enjoys the opportunity to get involved with hosting the students for meals along with another faculty wife. These occasions deepen our relationships with the students while giving them the enjoyment of fellowship around a home-cooked meal during an otherwise intense time of study. Finally, Jerry (along with the rest of the Pastoral Ministry team) will be traveling to the churches of present students to spend time with them in the context of their families and ministries.

## **Update on Kellie's Contacts**

Katya will be 13 on October 20. She still wants to come over and work on English which I think is amazing. God has provided an opportunity to connect her with a missionary family who has a daughter, Abigail, the same age. Please pray for her at this critical point in her life that this relationship will grow and that God will protect her as she navigates the rough waters of the teenage years. Our neighbor, Laura, has expressed a desire for companionship. She is a widow, and has recently been in the hospital. Please pray for an open door to share the gospel with her. There are many people whom we see and talk to on a regular basis and we'd like to make our interactions with them more intentional. It takes time and purpose to do that—pray for determination for us in that area. Kellie has lost track of Luda again, but the last time we met as we talked about the Lord, she said that she didn't want to talk about it anymore. Pray for wisdom and direction with Luda.

### ***Praises:***

- ◆ The addition of another “daughter” to our family coming in July.
- ◆ Steady increase in applicants for the Pastoral Ministry Program at KTS.
- ◆ Ukrainian team's vision for outreach through English at our church.

### ***Prayer Requests:***

- ◆ For wisdom and commitment as our son and his future wife prepare for a godly marriage.
- ◆ Desire from students to understand and implement what they learn into their lives and churches.
- ◆ Wisdom, insight and unity as we work together as a team to build relationships in our English club that will lead to thirst for God.

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