



# THE BENGEE BULLETIN Winter 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*

## С Новым годом! (Happy New Year !)

**Holiday Highlights:** The holidays were very special in that God (through a generous and unexpected gift) allowed us the privilege of taking a short trip (December 8-15) to the states to attend the graduation of our son, Joel, at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. We praise the Lord for the opportunity He gave to Joel to give a commencement speech to his fellow graduates. In the message, he spoke about how

Jesus Christ, through His life, death, and resurrection has given him a purpose that makes life worth living!



*Our entire family was able to be together for Joel's graduation at Wayne State University on December 11.*



*Jerry giving a missions update at Cornerstone.*

Some approached Joel afterwards and thanked him for his remarks even as they expressed surprise that such things were able to be expressed in a graduation ceremony on a secular campus. It was a great reminder (and encouragement) to us of God's quiet but powerful providences. While home, we also had the opportunity to speak at our home church (Cornerstone Baptist in Roseville, MI) and visit family and as many friends as we possibly could in a short time. It was a wonderful visit—but we are glad to be back in Ukraine as we finish our formal language training between now and June.



*Back to Kiev in time for Christmas. The downtown is beautifully decorated for the holidays!*



*We were thankful for the opportunities to spend with our grandson, Maddox.*

**What/How Are We Doing?** While Russian language acquisition is still front and center, we are beginning to have increasing ministry opportunities. Jerry participated in a Family Conference in Poltova in November and will be co-teaching a class on Body Life at Kiev Theological Seminary beginning in the latter part of January. He also will be participating in a biblical counseling symposium on March 21 that is designed to promote the new Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling program at KTS (which begins this coming Fall). Jerry and Kellie have also received a request to do a family conference in June in southwestern Ukraine. Kellie is getting more involved with the ladies at our church which is a great opportunity to develop friendships while improving language skills. She continues to tutor Katya (an 11 year old Ukrainian girl) in English.



*Jerry preached on Forgiveness in the Sunday AM service at Grace Church. Churches like this need to understand the practical outworking of the Gospel to be able to impact post-Soviet Ukraine.*



*Jerry taught a seminar on **Bible Basics for Marriage** at the Grace Church of Poltava.*

As we look back over the last 17 months, we can see a lot of progress in our language skills. We are able to carry on conversations about our daily lives, purchase food and home goods, and even get the right part for a home repair job from the local hardware store (something Jerry could not always easily do in America!) We can pray, give our testimony, and give a short devotional in Russian. While that might not sound impressive, we are realizing why it takes 10 times longer to acquire Russian than it does for a non-English speaker to acquire English. We realize that the mastery of Russian will be an ongoing pursuit as long as God allows us to serve in the Russian-speaking world.

## **Хвали Богу и Молитвенные Просьбы**

*(Praises and Prayer Requests)*

### **Praises:**

1. Good health and strength.
2. New relationships developing with people at church.
3. New connections for future ministry with pastors throughout Ukraine.
4. Our faithful partners in the Gospel who make it possible for us to be here through your prayers and support.

### **Prayer requests:**

1. Perseverance in the priority of language acquisition – it's our last semester!
2. March biblical counseling symposium: Interest from pastors throughout Ukraine to help introduce the new program at Kiev Theological Seminary.
3. Our children - Changes in all of their lives:
  - Jeremy and Michelle – Lillian Noel due March 16, 2011
  - Joel – full-time work for next 6 months to prepare to move and attend Southern Seminary next Fall.
  - Karissa – new major in Elementary Education at Boyce College in Louisville, KY.

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