



*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*

Praise Reports:

- God's blessing on the recent trip to Moscow and Krasnoyarsk where Dr. Wayne Vanderwier and I had the privilege of training nearly 100 Christian leaders and workers in biblical counseling (See our Moscow class picture in the center column). We rejoice at the evident commitment of several key people!
- A great start to Karissa's senior year (We are working on Russian together!)
- The privilege of being able to complete some ministry goals at our home church (Cornerstone Baptist Church of Roseville, MI) before we leave for Ukraine.

Prayer Requests:

- God's provision of the balance of our support.
- Our complete submission and joy in God's timing for our departure to Ukraine.
- Wisdom in education and ministry plans for Karissa's future.
- God's watch-care in the arrival of our first grandchild at the end of October (in Louisville, KY).

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It has been seven months since our appointment by SEND International and we have nearly reached the half-way point of our Support Discovery leading to our deployment in Ukraine. So it is a good time to reflect on the "praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done." (Psalm 78:4) When we determined that God had called us to minister His Word in the Russian-speaking world, little did we realize we were embarking on a journey that would teach us so much about our Savior, His ways, and how much we had been shaped by the values of Western culture.

We knew, or thought we knew, what Jesus meant when he told us: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to **save** his life will **lose** it, but

Dying To Live

whoever **loses** his life for me will **save** it." (Luke 9:23-24). On the surface, these words sound demanding and austere. And as we thought about selling our home and scaling back our possessions, we began to feel a

much about losing our "possessions" as much as it was the means to pursue our "new life" in Ukraine.

In one sense, it is easy for those of us who live in relatively wealthy cultures to get attached to things. We begin to live by the credo: "Whoever dies with the most toys wins." In the end though, it ends up in someone else's garage—or sitting on a shelf at a Goodwill store. Jesus calls that "living to die."

God has been graciously using our Support Discovery time to loosen our grip on *things* in order to tighten His grip on our hearts for the Russian-speaking world. And in the process we are making an incredibly joyful discovery. Something Jesus calls "dying to live."



Biblical Counseling Class at Moscow Theological Seminary

sense of hesitation and sadness. *Can we really be satisfied without things that we had worked so hard and paid so much to acquire?*

But an interesting thing happened in May. Because my mother had gone home to be with the Lord and my Dad could no longer live in their condo due to debilitating cancer, I and my brothers (along with our wives) had to go through their belongings and dispose of them. We kept a few things. Sold some other things. Gave away several things and threw away the rest. What struck me through it all was the thought: "Is this what it all comes to?" And then Jesus' words hit me like a ton of bricks. Our "scaling back" was not so

Church Itinerary

- October 18-24—Berean Baptist Church Mission Conference in Livonia, MI
- October 25-26—First Baptist Church Mission Conference in Downer's Grove, IL
- November 8-10—Plainfield Bible Church Mission Conference in Plainfield, IN

Monthly Funding Update

■ Needed Funds ■ Promised Funds

Needed monthly: 51%
(Current status: 49% promised)

Outgoing expenses: \$48,000
(Current status: 83% provided!)

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