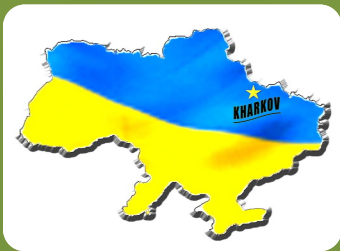




Maximus Craig

**DUE DATE:
FEBRUARY 9th**



Prayers

- ✓ Thanksgiving for surviving January!
- ✓ Thanksgiving for settling into our apartment.
- ✓ Thanksgiving for finding a good hospital for Max's delivery.
- ✓ For the friends and relationships we are building, especially with those who are lost.
- ✓ For our continued language studies!

McDougle Family News

February 2009

A Month of Survival

If I were to sum up this past month in one word, I think it would be *survival*. There are certain times in our lives where circumstances just permit us to survive and get through. We don't excel in anything, nor do we even "maintain" certain aspects of life; we simply survive, get through, and look forward to more productive and "normal" times ahead. In no way was life terrible or bad for us, it was just a time of life we had to get through! As we wrap up January and look forward to February and the rest of the year, we are excited about what God is planning for us and what we hope He will do through us!

LIFE ON THE UPSWING

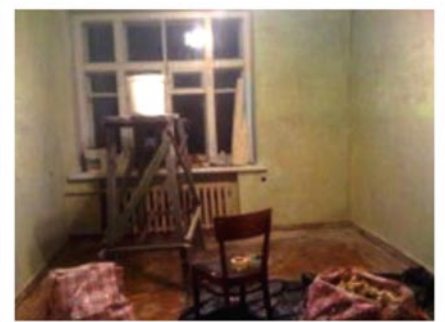
At the beginning of January, we made our third move in the past three months. Though we thought for a while that we would have to move again (due to some various apartment challenges), we are now settling in with the hopes of staying here for a long time! Though we've had a hard month getting settled into our new place and getting ready for Max's arrival, we've learned a lot and have got a lot accomplished. Here are some of the big things:

- *We are no longer having any electrical problems!
- *Though we have had and still continue with a few plumbing difficulties, we are figuring out what we need to get those things in working order for us.
- * We finally have a working washing machine, which is a

huge blessing!

*We have beds for all of us, including a crib awaiting Max's arrival.

*We are in the process of getting some wallpapering done, which is transforming the apartment from a cave-like dinge into a homey and brighter place to dwell.



Remodeling Canaan's Room

**OUR NEW ADDRESS
Mike and Lucy McDougle
61002**

**Kharkov Oblast, Ukraine
Chernishevskova 69 Kv. 6**

COMING SOON: MAXIMUS CRAIG

We look forward to a good month in February, though we know it will be a period of adjustment as Max enters the world. This makes us parents of two boys and makes Canaan a big brother. We've been trying to prepare Canaan for this change in his life, to as much extent as he is able to understand. We've recently started reading to him some books about new babies and being a big brother; he sits attentively and thoughtfully while we read them, sensing that this is a big change that is about to happen to him. At the same time, he knows we talk about Max as the baby in Mommy's tummy. And since he has recently started praying, he often says, *"Thank you God for Daddy, Mommy, Canaan (himself), and Max,"* which is very precious.

ALSO COMING SOON:

We also look forward to the arrival of Lucy's mom, Nancy, for this big event. Nancy is going to be able to stay and help out for the month of February. In addition to the help, she is bringing over many gifts from many of you! Through the encouragement and organization of our friend and supporter Beth Elmore, the Sunset congregation in Lubbock was thoughtful enough to give us a baby shower. We want to say **thank you** in advance to those who are sending gifts for Max's arrival; it means so much to us here!



HOSPITALS AND DOCTORS

In addition to the apartment issues, we've been so blessed to find a doctor and hospital to deliver. We've been very pleased with Lucy's pre-natal doctor, but here in Ukraine, they have separate doctors and hospitals for delivery. We were recommended a certain small hospital on the edge of town that had good equipment and care. It is a smaller place that only handles deliveries and babies right now, but the doctors and personnel all seem very capable and friendly. The doctor who will deliver Max is actually the head doctor of the hospital and she speaks English, which means we won't have to have a translator "on call and standing by" during labor and delivery. That is a great blessing in our eyes! In addition, payment for the delivery is being handled by our purchasing a couch! The director is actually going to put up a sign saying that missionaries helped furnish the room where the couch will be. In addition, our team has also decided to donate some extra furniture (beyond our payment) for the new wing of the hospital. The new wing will be the **first invitro-fertilization clinic in**

Kharkov. We feel this is a great opportunity to do a little something for our community.

LOOSED TONGUES

Through everything in January, we were still able to maintain some of our language learning. We are really blessed with our teachers, Vladimir and Elena, who have been excellent in finding out what we need to learn and helping both Lucy and I from where we are at in our learning. Every day we learn more vocabulary and grammar, getting steps closer to the time when we will both be able to communicate more easily. We pray constantly for loosened tongues so that we may be able to soon reach out with God's message of salvation to those here in Kharkov. Please continue to pray for those we have met and are building relationships with, as well as those whom God is preparing for us to meet.