

McDouglles in Moscow

JULY '08



Seeking and Serving

The month of June can be characterized in two ways: seeking and serving. In regards to seeking: we spent numerous hours on the internet researching potential field options, since we are going to have to move from Russia. In addition, Dougle was also able to go on a survey trip to Ukraine, to check out these cities in person. In regards to serving: we've been trying to do our best to serve God in the time He's given us here in Moscow. We don't know exactly what all that entails, but we've tried to keep open eyes and available spirits. Part of this service also includes

Let's Start Talking- LST

Our Let's Start Talking (LST) group was here for almost a month. They did a great job and left with a few good contacts for the church here. As part of the follow-up for LST, we've started a Tuesday evening English study session. At these sessions, we read a passage from John in English. We then go through vocabulary and some

language learning. There are times we want to give up in this process, because it is a difficult and challenging process. However, we are reminded of our end task: being able to effectively and fully communicate God's love and plan to the people in Moscow and Ukraine! So, we plod ahead in this act of temporary training, as we reach forward to the goals ahead!

Of course, this doesn't mean we haven't been able to be involved in other small ways. Please continue to pray for us as we learn this language, are involved with the church here, and shine our lights to those around us!

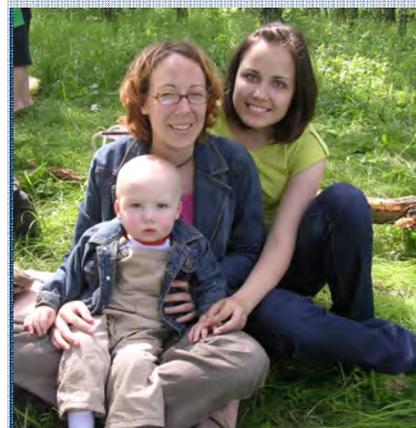
grammar. We discuss its meaning and finally we discuss its importance to our lives. Sasha, a young lady from the church, is helping us with this. She speaks excellent English and is able to help translate when needed. In addition, she knows a few of the people who come and is a great connection between these English lessons and the church.

Prayer Request

- Our decision about where to move next
- Thanks for David and Olivia's new supporting congregation: Legacy CoC in Dallas
- The LST Follow-up
- Our language and culture learning

"Your decrees are the theme of my song wherever I lodge."

Psalm 119:54



Lucy, Canaan and Sasha



Lucy's language school friends at a dinner party in our home!

Future Plans and Timeline

First of all, we want to thank all of you who have expressed your support and encouragement during this time of uncertainty for us! While we do not know exactly where, how and why God is leading, we want to do our best to follow His guidance.

Since we last reported, we have focused our intentions on the Eastern part of Ukraine. There, they speak Russian, and have been heavily influenced by Russian culture. Dougle was able to take a survey trip there

during June. The trip was a success, enabling our team to narrow our possible, future locations to 4 cities. Right now, each family is in the process of discussing our options with our sponsoring congregations. We hope to have a decision made by mid-July. After that, our family will remain in Moscow until October, when we will arrive in a city in Ukraine together with our team. While we wish we could remain in Moscow, we look forward to serving in Ukraine. Please keep this in your prayers!

Survey Trip to Ukraine

As was mentioned earlier, I (Mike) was given the opportunity to visit four cities in Ukraine: Kharkov, Odessa, Simferopol, and Sevastopol. Also on this trip were teammates Rob Hindman and David and Olivia Nelson, along with our advisor/mentor Phil Jackson.

Our goals for each city were primarily to meet with local Christian leaders, see the spiritual needs present, and see if these were cities we could raise our families in while having a fruitful ministry. All along the way God blessed us with very helpful and hospitable people, Christians and non-Christians alike. We even had a non-Christian real estate agent giving us advice as to where she thought a new church plant should take place in the city.

It was such a blessing to develop relationships with fellow Christians who have been serving the Lord for many years in this great country. In each place we visited (except for Sevastopol where we could not meet with church leaders), we enjoyed great times of fellowship and conversation with our brothers and sisters.



In Simferopol: The Group with Yevgeny and Julia



Our translated Menu

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(Call our Lubbock number and we will answer in Russia!)



On the Playground

Trip, continued

Another eye opener was to hear of the great need in each of the cities. Kharkov has about 250,000 University students with no Christian group reaching out to them. Odessa is a city known all across Ukraine for its sin problem. In Crimea (where Simferopol and Sevastopol are located), with a population of 1.5 million, there are only three churches of Christ. In each of these locations there are just not enough Kingdom workers.

It was great being on this trip with our team. For all of us, it was a first time in Ukraine, and Olivia's first time in Europe. Since nobody else has much of knowledge of Russian, I had the opportunity (sometimes the burden) of attempting to translate for the team. If I could not understand what was being said or what was written, I would jokingly say that it must be in Ukrainian. That trick didn't work for too long!



Europe: Ukraine is YELLOW

We ask that you all continue to pray for us and our decision. In addition we ask you all to be praying for the church in each of these cities. Our team will only be able to move to one city, and there is a great need in each location. Pray that God will raise up many workers from and for the harvest fields of Ukraine.

Thank you again for your love, support, encouragement, and prayers.

