

Following the Francises

Issue 48

December 2017

Praise Items

> *Jay's teaching OT 1 in Chernivtsi went well in November.*

> *Resurrection Church has started a Bible School for adults. Jay is currently teaching a survey of the Old Testament.*

> *New ministry opportunities this fall*
Jay – English teaching at Grace & Truth Seminary - Joined Church Ministry Institute
Judy – helping with English at New Life School, a new Christian Middle School

> *Many participants at our church's English club*

> *Good health*

> *Faithful prayer and financial supporters*

Seasons

This fall was different than previous ones. The weather was cool, gray and rainy, but the leaves were brighter than usual. Ministry opportunities also changed. Jay had only one class to teach, Judy stopped serving on the Sunday School team, and Cru decided to not host a 2-week English Club outreach that we have helped at in previous years.

Fabulous fall colors - brighter this year than usual



Thanksgiving Dinner with friends



As so often happens, when circumstances change, they change dramatically! Our winter and spring calendar is filling up fast! Jay is already scheduled to teach 4 classes and Judy is excited about a new ministry opportunity. We will also continue serving at our church's weekly English club, with our church's small group and teaching English.

As we sought new opportunities for ministry, the Lord gave us new contacts. Jay began leading a weekly English class at a seminary located on the other side of Kyiv. This gave him the opportunity to meet the director of that seminary. Perhaps in the future he will have a chance to teach Bible survey courses there. Judy began helping a few hours each week with English classes at a newly formed Christian middle school (grades 5-8). We enjoy hosting a small group in our home. And our church began a Bible School for adults, many are new believers.



Prayer Items

- > Please pray for the development of an Inter-national Student ministry**
- > Jan. 6 - Please pray for Resurrection Church's evangelism Christmas outreach. (Orthodox Christmas is Jan. 7th)**
- > Jan. 15 – New semester starts at SEND's language school.**
- > Jan. 20 – Jay will be teaching the 3rd of 4 sessions of OT survey at our church's Bible school..**
- > Jan. 22-26 – Jay will be teaching OT 2 at Chernivtsi Bible College.**
- > Jan. 27 – SEND Ukraine Team Meeting for prayer and to discuss vision statement and future direction.**
- > Jan. 29-Feb. 2 – Jay will be team-teaching Intro to Missions at Chernivtsi Bible College.**
- > Feb. 10 - Jay will be teaching the 4th of 4 sessions of OT survey at our church's Bible school..**

New Ministry

A few years ago, we started noticing internationals in our area. Faces in various shades of brown tend to stand out since Ukrainians are mostly white. Many of these internationals are students attending a small medical university a few blocks from our home. Please pray for Judy as she seeks to build a team of Ukrainians and western missionaries to reach out to these internationals.

Life in Ukraine

If you follow the news closely, you will know that the conflict in eastern Ukraine continues. Sometimes there are protests downtown, none of which have affected us. There have been some bomb threats to metro stations and shopping malls, but to this point they have been only threats. (This has reminded Judy of bomb threats called into her high school back in the 70's, when students were sent out of the building while it was checked.) The most notable consequence of Ukraine's political unrest has been the rise in prices and the fall in the value of Ukrainian currency. Since we are paid in dollars, this has little effect on us, but for our Ukrainian friends and neighbors they can buy less. Please pray for peace and for the removal of corruption from government, but most importantly, for spiritual revival and regeneration which only comes through Jesus Christ.

Ukraine desires to draw closer to Europe politically, and so decided to adopt December 25th as an official holiday, since this is when Europe celebrates Christmas. Traditionally Ukrainians give and receive gifts on New Year's Eve and celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday according to the Orthodox calendar January 7th. Our church hosted a special service on December 25th with many neighborhood families attending due to the promise of gifts (boxes from Samaritan's Purse) for the children. Although any time is a good time to share the Gospel, as a student of culture I must admit I am a bit sad to see Ukraine conforming to western culture by celebrating Christmas December 25th and as a follower of Jesus, I am also sad that the celebration of His birth is often over-shadowed in our culture by the materialism of exchanging gifts. My prayer for Ukrainians, for you and for myself comes from Romans 12:2; that we will not be conformed to this world, but transformed by God through Jesus, Whose birth we celebrate during this season.

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