

Our December 2015 Prayer Letter

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are appreciative of what the Lord has done this year and all the things we have gone through. This year there has been a lot of change, from church services in the war zone to carnival rides in the states, and back to the villages of Ukraine. It has been interesting to say the least, but we're anxious for things to settle down and looking to stabilize more in the coming year. Thank you for praying about our visa situation; we are still dealing with that and we should know something in the next couple of weeks. We have a contact in the capital who is trying to make it were we don't have to leave, and can stay on a religious visa. We are also working with the group here in the village and their church has offered to help us get a religious visa, but we'd have to leave and then come back after three months. Thus, we have two possible leads right now, and are waiting to hear something. This would be the first time we've had a religious visa—we came in on a different visa earlier. When all the turmoil happened in Donetsk, some people went down the list of non-orthodox churches, took them over, and interrogated members for money while threatening to harm them if they didn't leave. We were on a student visa at that time and outside of the city. A lot of the "protestant churches" still have not returned to Donetsk, according to our teacher who lives in Donetsk (and with whom I Skyped with a couple of weeks ago). The main "christian", baptist university's dormitory in Donetsk is occupied with "rebel" soldiers instead of students now. Please continue to pray for our current situation and for Ukraine.

Andre was encouraged and thankful after I forgave him the debt for the totaled van. He had started taking anti-depressants from the stress that he was under after the accident. He recently started going to Nikolayev with Yuri, to witness in the hospital, and led a man to the Lord who cried when he prayed for salvation. Andre and his brother, Vova Bogno, also led their old neighbour to the Lord, who is dying of aids and liver cancer.

Last week we moved to where we will (Lord-willing) be working, and said goodbye to our landlord. His name is Victor. Vova Banderchuk (not Andre's brother) and I got to witness to him and he listened to what we had to say. I was very thankful to God that we got that chance to talk to him...I honestly didn't think I would get a good opportunity. At the end he said that he understands what he needs to do. I hope he'll make the right choice before it's too late.

We've officially lived here for about two weeks in the village of CHEE-zhuh-vye, two hours north east of Odessa city. I participated in a Christmas play for children at the village school and a small children's daycare (what they have in place of kindergarten) in a neighbouring village. I played the role of one of the wise men once, and King Herod for the other one. We gave gifts and a Bible study booklet that talks about salvation and discipleship. They're government schools, so it's a blessing that we were able to get into them. One of the neighbours bought one of the government buildings here and plans to turn half of it into a sport hall and use the other half for a church. He's finishing the documents with it now. We're praying that it comes to fruition.

Thanks for Your Prayers,

The Wiles Family