

Our December 2016 Prayer Letter

Dear Brethren,

Earlier this month, a brother in our church led a homeless man to the Lord at the metro train station on his way to church. Someone had left a New Testament at the poor man's side while he slept. The brother in our church (Alek-sei') saw him and stopped to talk with him, and the man, Peter, prayed for salvation with Aleksei. He had been living without a home for some time, moving from spot to spot. After church, we took him to the rehabilitation center where we have preached and they welcomed him in. We all noticed that he had a cough and the rehabilitation workers thought it best to have him looked at, so they asked if I could take him in the following day. We took him to the first hospital where he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. I read about this disease before coming to Ukraine and knew about its frequency among the population...especially the poor. So, I was a little surprised that it took this long to come into close contact with it. The lines at the hospitals, post offices, and banks can take half a day sometimes, so it was a blessing that we were able to get him to who he needed to see and get the tests he needed in one day. We drove him to the tuberculosis center where he will get the care he needs and be out of the weather, as well as quarantined. He threw his cigarettes away and said he hasn't smoked in three days and doesn't want to anymore. We prayed Peter will get better—Paul's been praying for him daily—and grow in the Lord while he spends several months to a year recovering from his sickness. He will be in contact with the rehabilitation center and may go back there, or to another one, after he finishes the course of treatment.

We had our last church service of the year yesterday, praying for different needs. There is a brother named Anatoli who recently married and is having some trouble with his new wife taking things a little hard. Her name is Ok-sa'-na. They both were raised in church with Bible teaching, and should not count trials a strange thing, but sometimes we Christians can get tripped up with the unexpected at times. We are praying for wisdom for Anatoli, and spiritual strength for Oksana. Brother Ed believes Anatoli would make a good pastor, and I think the same. Please pray with us for this couple.

We are praying for the next year and what God has in store for us here. We will be needing to make a move in a few months, after our lease is up. We are praying that God will lead us to a place not too far from church—perhaps closer to the boys' Russian tutor. They should be finishing their schooling before February's end, when we plan for them to pick up their Russian again.

We had a special speaker come and gave his testimony of how he came to the Lord in prison during the USSR rule. It was very interesting to hear how he dealt with communists and how the Lord opened doors for him. He is a prison chaplain and deals with church involvement in the prison. He said that it will be possible for us to work in the prisons after New Year, and after the proper paperwork is done.

Thank you for your prayers and support,

The Wiles Family