



Translating the Bible into Ukrainian

The Popchenko Family

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17

Dear Friends and Family in Christ Jesus,

May/June 2007 Prayer Letter

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Greetings to all from Moscow... for the last time! Yes, Lord willing, our next letter will be coming to you from Ukraine. By God's grace, I passed all of my exams with top marks. What a relief to have these years of study behind me! It is still hard to believe that there will be no more classes, no more homework, no more exams and that I am finally free to give myself to the work of translation. I do still have my thesis which is due by the end of the calendar year, so I will be returning to Moscow later to present it and receive my diploma.

Looking back over the past three years, we are amazed at how perfectly God orchestrated everything. The level and quality of education here exceeded my expectations and I believe it has prepared me well for translating the Old Testament. I had the privilege of studying under one of the world's leading authorities in Semitic languages. Professor Kogan was very pleased with my achievements, even going as far as to say that I had attained great academic success. All the glory goes to God for anything I was able to accomplish. Another of my professors, who is also the head of the translation department of the Russian Bible Society, is excited about my translation plans and has offered to lend me reference literature from their library as needed. In addition to providing a place to study, God also gave the necessary finances for living in Moscow. Life here ended up being much more expensive than we had anticipated, plus there were several unexpected needs that came up, specifically the boys' health problems, and yet the need was always supplied. The biggest blessing has been our apartment. To start with, we were able to rent it for significantly less than it was worth and for three years our rent has stayed the same even though standard rental prices have more than doubled. In May, our landlord called to say that he wanted to rent out this apartment at market value, however he agreed to let us stay until the end of our rental agreement, July 30, since we were planning to move anyway. The amazing thing is that he could have done this a year or two ago but never did. If he had raised the rent on us, it would have, in effect, forced us to return to Ukraine. Also the Lord directed us to a good church where we have been able to worship and fellowship. One Russian family in particular really helped us to feel more at home here. At this church we also met a retired American couple and their grown daughter which have been a great blessing to us. The Ross family basically adopted us, treated us like their own children and grandchildren. We praise God for the opportunity to live and study in Moscow and thank all of the churches and individuals who have so faithfully supported us through these long years of study.

As we write this letter, we are surrounded by boxes and packing materials, which brings us to our prayer requests. In early July, I (Yura) will be leaving for Kyiv to find us an apartment to rent. As we mentioned in our last letter, prices on rent have been going up drastically in Ukraine just like here in Russia. Please pray for me to quickly find a decent, affordable apartment with a long-term rental option and a reasonable landlord. Also, please be in prayer for safety as I travel and for Wendy and

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the boys while they are here without me. Other prayer needs include: renting a reliable moving truck and getting through customs (i.e. no bribe pressures). A non-smoking driver would also be a huge blessing.

In May, we had an appointment with our orthopedic specialist for evaluation of Sashko and Yurko's progress. The boys seem to be improving and Yurko's legs are significantly straighter than they were two years ago. We found a substitute for one of the medications that the geneticist recommended, so we will finally be able to start those treatments. Sashko's stomach problems are much better, only very rarely causing him any pain. Both boys were able to have a series of massages recently and Yurko is currently going in for daily electro-stimulation. Thank you for your prayers for our children. Your concern means so much to us.

Your fellow-laborers in our Lord,
Yura, Wendy, Sashko and Yurko Popchenko