



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,

January/February 2007 Prayer Letter

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Greetings from to all from the Popchenko Family! By God's grace, I passed all of my exams fine and am in my LAST semester. In Hebrew we will continue to translate the book of Proverbs, 1st Samuel, Song of Solomon, and 2nd Kings. Aramaic, Syriac, Semitic Inscriptions and Comparative Semitics will continue, with one new subject: History of Ancient Egypt. In our Comparative Semitics class, we will be studying a few new languages, focusing on Ethiopic. This ancient language has been the language of the Ethiopic church for almost two thousand years and is still used today. Our first text in Ethiopic will be Matthew 28. The professor allowed us to choose which passage in Matthew we wanted to work on and I spoke up first, requesting this chapter on the resurrection. We are praying that the power of God's Word would touch the unbelieving hearts of my classmates and professor as we read about Jesus' resurrection.

Thank you all for praying for Wendy's trip to Kyiv. Everything went fine at the border crossings. When she got back to Moscow and I called about registering her, we were pleasantly surprised to find that the process had been simplified. Instead of needing a letter of permission from our landlord, certified by the local authorities, all we had to do was give the registration department our address and the landlord's name and passport information. Further, Wendy's physical passport was not required for processing. Scanned copies of the main pages were emailed to them and all I had to do was go pick up the registration certificate. What a huge blessing! The paperwork over here can really get out of hand sometimes.

In January we took the boys to the geneticist for a consultation. The doctor examined all four of us and confirmed our orthopedist's suspicion that Sashko and Yurko's conditions are inherited. This means that the boys' problems can only be corrected up to a certain point. However, the doctor comforted us by saying that their cases are among the mildest that he has ever seen. They will be able to lead perfectly normal lives, with some possible slight limitations (i.e. tiring sooner at physical and/or academic work, not being inclined toward sports, etc.). He encouraged us to continue the various forms of physical therapy that we have been doing and prescribed three courses of medicine and vitamin supplements to help build up their systems (he also recommended these for Wendy and I). These should be taken on a yearly rotation indefinitely. We have not yet been able to start because one of the medications we need for the first course has been out of stock in all Moscow pharmacies for over a month. Please pray that they show up soon because we really have no other way to get them (medicines cannot be legally mailed here from abroad). Yurko recently finished another series of massages and Sashko has completed an exercise class and a course of electro-stimulation. We had just started swimming classes for Sashko when, one by one, all four of us came down with the flu. It was a bad one that took a few weeks to get over. Sashko has gotten the 'ok' from the doctor, so he will resume the swimming classes next week and be starting a massage course soon. Thank you for continuing to pray for our sons' health.

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Not long ago, I got into a conversation with a Christian neighbor of ours about Bible versions. Roma knows some German and has a parallel German/Russian New Testament. The problem is that the German New Testament is based on the corrupt Greek text while the Russian is based on the correct text. Needless to say, he came across many discrepancies which really puzzled him. He could not understand why God allowed such contradictions. Adding to his confusion, Roma read "How the Bible Came to Be", a book which praises Westcott and Hort and their text and 'reveals the fallacies' of the Textus Receptus. Unfortunately, this is the only book in Russian on this subject. To resolve his confusion, he came to a rather pious conclusion: God allowed those contradictions to test our faith in His word. I explained to Roma that heretics, not God, are responsible for the contradictions. Also, God is not testing our faith with these corrupt versions; rather Satan is undermining it with them. To his relief, Roma found out that God DID preserve His word, in spite of the enemy's attempts to pervert it. It is such a pity that I had nothing to offer him in the way of further reading in Russian on the issue of Biblical preservation. Someday I would like to translate or write something on this important subject.

God bless each of you in your field of service.
Your Fellow servants for Jesus' Sake,
Yura, Wendy, Sashko and Yurko