



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 2008 Prayer Letter

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Greetings to all from Ukraine! The past two months have really been packed! To start with, we got to spend three weeks with our parents from America when they visited us in May. They saw first-hand how much their grandsons have grown and we spent some special time as a family for the first time in two years.

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In June, we had our second annual missions' conference at our church. Although sending out and supporting missionaries is a long-standing practice among Baptists in America, here in Ukraine it is extremely rare. The reason behind this is that most Ukrainian Christians still consider their country to be the mission field. Our pastor is one of the few church leaders in our country that has a vision for world missions. At the conference, I preached on the Great Commission, emphasizing the fact that it goes beyond local evangelism and is essentially a missionary commission. In addition to preaching, Pastor Stahursky asked me to present my translation ministry. In my presentation, I pointed out that Bible translation is also a part of the Great Commission and that historically missionaries have always taken it that way, engaging themselves in translation of the scriptures. I further explained the need for a new Ukrainian Bible, giving a brief analysis of the most common Ukrainian version. Although most people were already aware of the language issues with this version, the real eye-opener was the discussion of textual problems. (There is almost no awareness of textual issues among Ukrainian believers.) And lastly, I gave my testimony of how God called me into this ministry. For the conference, I prepared a handout with selected chapters from both the Old and New Testaments. I included passages from John, Philippians and Ephesians, and in order to provide material from the Old Testament, I took a break from my work in the New Testament and translated Proverbs 1, Psalm 90, one and a half chapters of Amos and the entire book of Ruth. I am excited about my first formal presentation in a Ukrainian church and, Lord willing, it will not be the last.

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We finally got all of the boys' genetic tests done. Their urine and blood tests confirmed the metabolic problems in the connective tissue (which is the core of Ehler-Danlos' Syndrome). Kidney malfunction can occur with this syndrome, but, thankfully, at this point their kidneys are still working well and absorbing amino acids. Their heart ultrasounds showed a slight prolapse in the valve. At the moment, this is not a threatening problem, but if left unattended, it can develop into one. Although this syndrome is incurable, the effect can be reduced by timely treatment. According to the doctor, three to four years of supplemental treatment has been proven effective in renewing the structure of the connective tissue. Wendy was also advised to take some of these supplements to assist in the baby's prenatal development. The doctor said we need to start with a minimum 3-month supply. Praise the Lord, the \$270.00 per month for the boys and Wendy to get started have already been supplied by the generous giving of God's people who heard about the need through our blog or by personal contact. Also, the end of May, we got back to the gastroenterologist for the final diag-

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nosis on Sashko and Yurko's condition. The doctor said they have a serious bacteria imbalance in their digestive tracts and they both have severe parasites. This course of treatment will take the rest of the summer to complete. Again, we praise God for the provision of \$300 to cover these expenses. We sincerely thank all of you for your prayers and extra financial support during this time. Please pray that these multiple treatments will heal and strengthen our children. God bless you for bearing our burdens with us.

With our baby due the end of August, we are eager to find where and with whom we can deliver. Since Wendy has had two previous c-sections, it is very difficult to find a doctor that is willing to work with us to have a natural birth. Apparently the health department has some rules that prohibit doctors from attending such births. We heard of a birth center in the city of Zhytomyr (about 90 miles from Kyiv) where they have experience with successful natural births after two c-sections. In July, we plan to go there for a consultation. Please pray for the Lord to guide us and, most of all, for the safe arrival of our child.

Well, our landlord finally told us how much he wants to raise our rent: \$400, bringing our total rent up to \$1000 per month!! When we tried to bargain with him, he agreed to \$900, but not a penny less. When we attempted further negotiations, he got upset and said that he does not want us in his apartment at all once our current rental agreement expires (July 31st). We waited another two weeks before approaching him again, hoping he would calm down, but he only reiterated what he had already stated. So, in addition to everything else, we need to pack up our belongings and find another place to live. Please pray that God would direct us to a place for a reasonable price, with a reasonable landlord, where we could stay for more than a year.

Thank you again for all of your prayers and support. We love and appreciate you very much. For more frequent updates, check our blog at www.bibleua.com

Your fellow-servants for Jesus' sake,
Yura, Wendy, Sashko and Yurko Popchenko