



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,

July/August 2008 Prayer Letter

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Praise the Lord, we don't have to move! When our landlord insisted that we needed to leave at the expiration of our rental agreement, we started looking for another, less expensive place to live. Everything we saw was way too small, in need of major repairs, and not much cheaper. A Christian brother abroad who had heard of our dilemma contacted us, offering to make up the difference in rent until next summer so that we would not have to move so close to the birth of our baby and to give us more time to try to resolve our living situation. So I decided to call our landlord one more time and.... he agreed to let us stay for another year at \$900 per month! We are VERY thankful to not have to move right now and will be looking and praying for how to get out of this 'rent trap' by next summer. Many thanks to all of you who prayed. God answered... just not in the way we expected!

The books of Ephesians and Ruth are currently in the hands of the people who assist me in evaluation. With one of those people I have already discussed the book of Ruth. God laid on my heart to teach through this touching book that has so much practical application for the child of God. The pastor asked me to do it in the form of a Bible study on Sunday nights. So far, responses have been really positive, with people commenting on how much they enjoy this type of deep Bible study. To keep my Hebrew fresh, the next book I decided to translate after Ephesians is 1 Samuel. Please keep me in your prayers for wisdom and strong health as I strive to get the word of God into my native language.

Our July trip to the birth center in Zhytomyr proved fruitless. Although the head doctor had led us to believe over the telephone that natural birth after two c-sections was a possibility with them, in actuality it was not. Since Zhytomyr is almost halfway to L'viv, we thought we would take a few days to visit friends and churches in western Ukraine. One of our friends in the L'viv region wanted to distribute my translation of the gospel of John in his hometown of Skole and we were pleased to bring him 2,000+ Johns. This summer, he and his four friends delivered 1,998 gospels, one to each home in Skole. We know that God's word does not return void and we ask you to pray for the inhabitants of Skole to come to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Continuing on our journey we were able to be in a few churches and discuss the ministry of Bible translation. People were excited to learn about the project and encouraged me to keep on to completion.

I had a very bad case of tonsillitis with a high fever in mid-August. Both boys had a sore throat and mild fever several days prior to that, but nothing that severe. Wendy was taking care of the three of us around the clock and, as could be expected, ended up getting sick herself. The local doctor did not want to prescribe any antibiotics while she was pregnant, but when Wendy went into labor the anesthesiologist said that she had severe bronchitis and she ended up having to take some pretty

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heavy-duty antibiotics to get rid of it. Praise the Lord, at the time of this writing, her cough is all but a thing of the past.

We are pleased to announce the arrival of Andriy Yuriovich Popchenko. He arrived via c-section on August 26th, weighing in at 3 kilograms 550 grams (7 lbs. 13 oz.) and measuring 52 centimeters (20 1/2 in.) long (our smallest baby yet). Wendy was shown the baby and I warmed him on my chest while the doctor stitched her up, then she got to hold our son. Although the delivery did not go as we had planned, we are thankful to have a healthy baby, plus the birth had several major improvements over our other births:

1. labor started spontaneously, prior to the surgery,
2. spinal anesthesia was used, rather than general, and
3. Wendy was able to see, hold and nurse the baby soon after delivery, instead of having to wait a full 30 hours as she had with Sashko and Yurko.

God is good, all the time, and we thank Him for watching over Wendy and little Andriy, especially in light of her sickness. Big brothers, Sashko and Yurko, are delighted with their new brother (Mama and Daddy are pretty pleased, as well). Thank you all so very much for your prayers for Wendy and the baby. Now our prayer is for Andriy's health and for wisdom to train this little one for the Lord: that he might grow up to love, trust and serve our great God.

Don't forget to check our blog [www.bibleua.com](http://www.bibleua.com) for more frequent updates and photos. Our prayer letters are posted there as well, with accompanying pictures. Log on to see the newest member of our family.

God bless you for your care of us.

Your Fellow-laborers for Jesus' Sake,

Yura, Wendy, Sashko, Yurko and Andriy Popchenko