



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-March 2009 Prayer Letter

U

Greetings to all from... New England! Praise the Lord, we have safely arrived in America and it is a blessing that we are able to spend a few weeks with my widowed sister and her children in New Jersey holding local meetings before heading north. We are planning to spend the next two months on the east coast.

K

We have already been in a few churches in New Jersey and New York, both American and Ukrainian. The response to the ministry has been very encouraging and people are catching the vision for the Ukrainian Bible. It was particularly exciting to be in Ukrainian churches for the first time here in America since Ukrainians can more readily relate to my explanation of the need for this work. This past Sunday we were in three different churches in Vineland, New Jersey, and one of these pastors invited me over to his home for fellowship where we spent several hours discussing my work. It was a blessing to see how supportive he is of the ministry. The following day I was invited to a young families' Bible study where I explained the textual problems of the current Ukrainian translation and people became even more anxious to have a faithful Ukrainian Bible.

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It is a great encouragement to see that my translation work is becoming more widely known and recognized. Back in February, the leaders of some evangelical denominations in Ukraine asked me to meet with them, having learned of my work. They were excited to finally read a translation in standard Ukrainian. I also had an opportunity to speak about the textual corruptions of the current Ukrainian translations. This was quite an eye-opener for all who were assembled. In recognition of the value of this project, the president of one of the Baptist fellowships gave me a letter of recommendation to show in Ukrainian churches in America.

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Before leaving Ukraine, we decided to move out of our apartment and store our belongings at my other sister's house so that we would not have to pay rent while in the states. Packing was a huge job, as usual, especially my library. As is typical in Ukraine, our landlord gave us a hard time before we moved out. He got so threatening that we were forced to call the police. Thankfully, that really calmed him down and we were not only able to stay as long as we needed but we also got our deposit back and peacefully left. This may sound strange but in Ukraine landlords often "pick on" their tenants right before they move out to justify not returning their deposits.

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On our way to America we arranged for a several-day layover in England to visit some dear friends of ours. It was a pleasant time of refreshment after all the stress of moving and preparing for our extended trip. Not only was the peaceful, lovely countryside a delightful change for us, but the warm Christian fellowship was particularly encouraging to our entire family. It was also quite interesting to be in their Baptist church service which was so unique in contrast to Ukrainian or American Baptist church services we have been in.

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The biggest challenge of this journey so far has been sickness. I got sick back in Kyiv before we moved and it took three weeks for me to completely recover. Among other things, I had laryngitis which made preaching very difficult. While in England, Sashko had some stomach problems that made him pretty miserable for a couple of days. Then here in New Jersey, Baby Andriy caught his first cold. And finally, Yurko and Wendy got sick a few days ago with some kind of a stomach virus. Regretfully, not everybody is back to normal. Sashko and Yurko cannot get over their nighttime coughing.

Prayer requests:

1. Health for the whole family.
2. Safety in our travels, car reliability, etc.
3. God's leading in scheduling meetings. If you or someone you know would like us to present the ministry at your church, please let us know and we will try to work it into our schedule.
4. Bible translation on the road (to be able to find time and a quiet corner to work). The next book of the Bible I am planning to translate is Mark.
5. Sashko and Yurko's school work (this is a challenge with our constant travel).
6. Protection from opposition. As usual, when God starts to work, the devil is right on hand to oppose, using his evildoers. "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries" (1 Cor. 16:9).

Thank you so much for your prayers and faithful support.

Your missionaries for Jesus' sake,
Yura, Wendy, Sashko, Yurko and Andriy Popchenko