



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,

October–December 2009 Prayer letter

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Greetings in our Lord's precious Name from Ukraine! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Popchenko Family! May the Lord renew your strength for His service in this coming year. We trust that this holiday season has been a fruitful time of ministry for each one of you.

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The last two months of our trip in America proved to be the most productive. We were blessed to stay for most of that time at a prophet's chamber in Nokesville, Virginia, making short trips to churches in the area. It was nice to unload our minivan and settle down again – at least for several weeks. On October 4th, I had an opportunity to present the ministry in Toms River, New Jersey. Then we drove to Holland, New York, for a mission's conference where I spoke twice. I have special memories of that town because it was there that I played golf for the first time in my life. After the conference, we returned to Virginia and, on October 14th, I was able to preach in Colonial Beach. On Sunday, October 18th, I presented the ministry in Buena Vista and Raphine, Virginia. The following Sunday I spoke in Smithfield and Suffolk, Virginia.

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On October 26th – 28th I had the privilege of attending a mission's conference in Dover, Delaware. There I met Walter Peretiatio, son of the late missionary to western Ukraine, one of the pioneer Baptist ministers in the area. Vasyl, his father, was born in western Ukraine and around the beginning of the 20th century he went to America to find a job. There he 'happened' to visit a Baptist church and later he was saved. Desiring to serve God, he went to seminary and in the late 1920s he returned to Ukraine as a missionary. Stomach cancer shortened his ministry significantly, but he accomplished a lot in nine years. One of the things he did was establish a Ukrainian Baptist periodical that is still in existence. It was a tremendous blessing to spend some time with Bro. Peretiatio and hear some great stories.

A

On Sunday, November 1st, I preached in Woodbridge and Spotsylvania, Virginia. On Wednesday, November 4th, I spoke in Yorktown. The next day we had an opportunity to visit some famous American historic places: Yorktown battlefield and downtown Williamsburg. The following Sunday I preached in Nokesville and Hampton, Virginia, and on Wednesday, November 11th, I had the privilege of presenting the ministry in Baltimore, Maryland. For our last four meetings, I drove to Georgia by myself, leaving Wendy in Virginia with our sick boys. On November 14th and 15th I was in a mission's conference in Covington. The next Wednesday I spoke in Jefferson and on Sunday, November 22nd, I had opportunities to present the ministry in Acworth and Griffin. The next day I headed back to Virginia, where I picked up my family and we went on to New Jersey. Two days later, we were on a plane flying back to Ukraine.

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The Lord blessed our trip and we are safely home again. As some of you know, we were considering delaying our scheduled return, due to the swine flu. However, after much prayer and talking to my relatives in Kyiv, we decided to return to Ukraine as originally planned. Apparently, the situation with the

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flu was blown out of proportion by politicians and in reality the death rate was not higher than that of the seasonal flu in previous years. The Lord answered every prayer about our trip and even more than we asked: most of us were able to get some sleep on the plane, our first flight arrived in London earlier than scheduled – giving us enough time to catch our next flight, they let us check in two of our carry-on bags without any additional charges, our luggage arrived with us, and we got through customs quickly without any problems. Thank you all for your prayers.

As soon as we returned, I was included in our church preaching schedule and have already preached three times. In spite of living with 12 people in a 4-bedroom house that is practically without doors (the house is not finished), I have still been able to do some translation work. I passed the gospel of Mark over to the new member of our translation team and started working on the book of Romans. At the time of this writing we are almost out of the last printing of the gospel of John and we are looking forward to printing John and Romans together next time. Please pray for me as I translate the book of Romans.

Right after our arrival, I began the search for a car, which turned out to be a much more difficult task than I had anticipated. Many of the car ads on the internet were false, many cars were already sold, yet their ads were still on the internet. Those that were available were ridiculously expensive, plus one never knows if the mileage was accurate since some people tamper with it. Further, you never know if the title is 'clean'. People here simply cannot be trusted. Finally, after 3 weeks of searching, the Lord provided us with a good used car. I was ready to buy another car, but the morning that I was supposed to sign the papers, I got a bad case of food poisoning that kept me home for a few days. During that time I saw an ad for another, slightly older and significantly cheaper, car for sale. It was the same model that we had been planning to purchase and, since it passed our mechanic's inspection, we went ahead and bought this one. Once again we saw that 'all things work together for good'. We are so thankful to have a car of our own.

The search for a house has been even more challenging than that of a car. In many cases people rent only a portion of their house, with the landlords living in the other part of the house or on the same property. Some houses don't have in-door toilets, some landlords don't want renters with kids, some houses are only for rent for 6 months or a year because they are up for sale, and some are ridiculously expensive. At the time of this writing, we are still looking for a place for us to live. So far we have been enjoying the hospitality of my sister and brother-in-law but we hope that soon we will be able to settle down and resume our life here. Please pray that we can find a house very soon.

We have a very important prayer request. Our dear friend in America, who is doing a lot for the cause of Christ in Ukraine, is in need of fervent prayer. Some time ago, William was diagnosed with cancer. He has had surgery and has gone through one course of chemotherapy. Even though his tests are fine now, he is still as weak as he was before the surgery and, since finishing the chemotherapy course, he has been having numbness in his hands and feet. The doctors are not sure why this is happening and are doing more tests. We would appreciate you adding this brother to your church prayer list. Please pray for William's complete healing.

Thank you all for your faithful prayers and financial support. May God bless your families, churches and ministries in 2010 as we each labor in our corner of the harvest field.

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