



The Wiles Family

Missionaries to...



UKRAINE

and

RUSSIA

Январь 2010

Greetings from Позняки, Kiev, Ukraine!

Позняки is the district where we live. February 7th is the date that starts the secondary and last part of the Ukrainian presidential elections. The two finalists are said to be more Russian-friendly than the previous president of Ukraine. My prayer is that whoever gets elected would not curtail civil and religious freedoms at the expense of supposed “stability”. Please pray with me on this matter.

On January first a boy came to the door. Joanna and I thought he was selling chocolates. Joanna went and grabbed some “динги” and a tract. The boy said what sounded like, “mowsenya” and gesturing as if he could come inside. I let him in and he reached into his bag and started throwing some stuff on the ground. I first thought, “This smart-aleck is throwing coarse salt onto our floor.” I found out later that we got a traditional Ukrainian “blessing” with some kind of seeds. We gave him 3.50 in change and a gospel tract. After he left, I vacuumed up the “blessing” with a smile! I said to Joanna, “Well...that was different!” We have had a few misunderstandings that we’ve just had to laugh at because the situations have been very different from what one can expect in the USA.

We are continuing to plod along with the language studies (русский язык). We have a private tutor coming twice a week, two hours each day. Every day, Joanna and I study together while the boys take their nap and when they lay down for bed in the evening. My wife was second-in-line to being the valedictorian of her H.S. class with a near 4.0., so I think she will be a great asset in learning the language and I’d rather study with her than without her. The way we have tried to schedule things out, we will be spending about 3-4 hours a day together, studying Russian. We are also making flashcards so we can study throughout the day. Please pray for our success in learning Russian.

I’ve been going to the regular “fishing hole” with Perry and been seeing souls make professions in Christ! The latest person that got saved was an older Ukrainian man. He was Russian Orthodox, but not enough “orthodox” to keep him from bowing his head and asking Jesus Christ to save his soul!! Also, the people have been taking tracts really well, and several people have stopped to talk.

Generally speaking, there are two things more expensive in Ukraine than in America; these are cars and houses. We’ve been getting to church using the bus and then walking from the bus stop to the church. It is a little difficult, especially when it’s very cold out. Winter is about another month or so longer, so it’d be nice if we were able to get a vehicle. The prices at the “autobazaar” are grossly inflated! We might be able to talk the person down \$1-2,000, but they still make out like a bandit, and we take our chances with the vehicle. Vehicles are much sought-after, therefore the prices are higher than in the states. For a 4-door later model vehicle that will be dependable, we will need \$12,000 U.S. dollars. Perry has told me that he has seen some missionaries spend half their time trying to get their vehicle to work right! I don’t want to be in that situation. There are some cars that are priced at four and five thousand dollars, that I wouldn’t pay a \$1,000 dollars for in the States; it’s ridiculous! <http://auto.ria.ua> is a website written in Russian, but you can still figure out the prices and vehicle information, maybe this will help clarify what I’m talking about and keep things honest. Rick Warren raised a million dollars in 48 hours—the Lord will supply our needs according to *His* timing! Thank you for your prayers and support! -The Wiles Family (1 Cor. 3:7, Rev. 4:11)

PS. A special thanks to those who have written letters and increased their support!

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*“Sympathy is no
substitute for action.”*