

Our March 2011 Newsletter

A couple of days ago, Perry, Sasha, and I went down to Donetsk, Ukraine. Andre, who was living here in Kiev, is now living there. We were taking a short survey trip to acquire some facts and figures of the area. Donetsk is a large city with over a million people, and we saw some of the city, including the main train station. The train station is under construction, and we heard that it will be bigger than the one in Kiev, where we presently evangelize on Saturdays. While preaching at the Donetsk train station we met some boys from Moldova who played in a basketball championship. I talked with them for a little bit, in English, and they took a tract called "The Biggest Question". It's a good tract for anyone, but I think especially for youth. In Donetsk, Russian is almost always spoken, as opposed to Ukrainian, and it's one of the few large cities in eastern Ukraine. We expected warmer temperatures (being east *and* south of Kiev), but it snowed like it was winter. I remember telling folks on deputation that we would like to head to Luganske after a stay in Kiev and I'm not saying that's out of the picture, but God may have us head to Donetsk, which is about two hours west of Luganske. We will continue to pray and seek his will about it. My school semester will finish in late May, a couple of weeks after our apartment contract is finished.

Joanna has had the help of a Christian lady named Galina. Joanna has been feeling better but sometimes has periods of weakness where it's hard for her to do anything because she doesn't feel good. I'm just not able to do it all, so we've hired this older lady to help with stuff around the home. Galina speaks only Russian, so this will be good interaction for the boys and Joanna in their language progress.

On the train down to Donetsk, Sasha said that some of the kids in the village we evangelized last year wanted us to come back again. Sasha has made the step to live with those people in that village and has been assembling weekly after our evangelism last summer. He is regularly out on the street witnessing, in the market places, buses, and in the city and villages. We would like to evangelize around that village again, or nearby. Please pray about some of the things I've mentioned in this letter. Thanks and may the Lord bless you.

In Christ,

Rick, Joanna, Silas and Paul