

# From Kiev to L'viv



December, 2006

## May you have a joyful season celebrating our Savior's birth!

This Christmas we have some reason to mourn and an additional reason to rejoice....

### A reason to mourn...



On November 12, the second Presbyterian church in Kiev -- which we helped to plant -- held its last worship service. Pastor Artyom and the other church leaders had determined that it was time to close the church's doors: The church plant had been losing steam for a while, several people had moved out of the area, and pastor Artyom and his family were exhausted from the many struggles and overload of responsibilities, and ready to move back to their home town of Donetsk. We mourn the closing of this church after all the years of time, countless prayers, and significant amounts of money that had been invested in it. It is always sad when a congregation of Jesus Christ closes its doors, but it is especially sad to *all of us* who had invested to various extents in the formation and health of this church. We are thankful that there are two other churches in Kiev that can take in the few remaining members; and we trust in our Father's promise that His Word never goes out in vain, but always accomplishes His purposes -- even though they are often difficult for us to understand.

### ... and a reason to rejoice!



After 45 church visits, 72 unique beds, 4 different "homes," and 30,000+ miles over 16 months, we are very grateful -- and quite elated -- to announce that our Father has provided all of the financial support that we currently need to return to Ukraine! We are also very thankful for the many warm receptions we have received, for new friends, and for strengthened bonds with old friends. *Thank you very much* for your prayers and all kinds of help along the way in getting us the one-time and monthly support that we need to return to Ukraine and begin a Reformed church-planting work in the city of L'viv! We are deeply grateful for your participation in this ministry, and we do pray that your prayers, finances, encouragement, and other help will be an investment that will bear ample fruit both in this life and in the life to come. In many ways, you will go with us as we return to Ukraine on January 4!

May you enjoy a blessed, thankful Christmas!  
*Heero, Anya, & Juliette*

Please mark financial contributions for account # **013121**, payable to Mission to the World, PO Box 116284, Atlanta GA, 30368-6284

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## Please remember some of the following Prayer Requests:

- **Thank our Father** with us for a blessed 16 months in the US (so far), for thousands of miles of trouble-free travels, for His constant **provision** in so many ways, and for providing our financial support!
- Please pray for everyone dealing with the closing of the **church in Kiev**, in particular that the Lord will replace discouragement with trust and provide a good church home for those who were a part of this congregation. Also ask our Father to have us learn from the mistakes that we made along the way.
- Continue to petition our Lord to build up the **church in Nikolaev** and to strengthen its pastor, Alexei, and its elder, Andrei. We pray that they will grow in faithfulness, fervor, and fellow members!
- We are very thankful for **Doug and Masha Shepherd** -- our future **L'viv** teammates -- and for the birth of their second child, named Nika. We plan on first joining them in Kiev for a few months of (Ukrainian) language study before moving out to L'viv together in the spring.
- In addition to the Shepherds, one other man has been approved to join **our team in L'viv**. Please pray that our Father will send other servant-hearted team members who will have a desire to help plant a strong Reformed church in L'viv -- if that be His will.
- Ask our Lord to prepare the hearts of those people who will become our neighbors, acquaintances, and friends in L'viv, and for the right **strategy in reaching more people in L'viv** and western Ukraine with the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Please also pray that He will provide the new church with the right pastor in His time.
- We want to **grow in our faith** and devotion to our Lord, and want to serve Him with all our hearts for *His* glory. Please ask Him to do the work in our hearts and lives that is necessary to make us exemplary servants, that through us as individuals and as a family people will be drawn to Christ.
- Please pray for healthy **goodbyes** here in the US, for **travel** mercies on January 4 & 5 (both for us and our luggage!), and for a smooth **transition** as we readjust to Ukraine.
- For updated requests, *please visit the "news + prayer" page on our website*, [web.mac.com/hacquebord.h](http://web.mac.com/hacquebord.h).

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