



# the HOLMES FAMILY

taking the GOSPEL to Russian speaking peoples of the former USSR

Dear prayer partners,

August Update

Brrr... it's starting to get cold here, as I am sure is the case in the states as well. School started here the first of this month and people have all returned from their vacations; life here has returned to "normal" for people here. This is good for us because now people are less distracted than they usually are. We have heard the past three months, "after the summer, when things return to normal, we will get with you..." So we are hoping that people will be less distracted and more open to Bible studies now. The kids started school today. Haileigh is in 3rd grade, Luca in 1st, and Benaiah is in kindergarten. Because of this, my wife has a very full plate with all of the home-schooling, her personal Russian studies, household duties and ministry responsibilities. Please keep her in your prayers!

Just being blunt, we ask for prayer for our Russia group. We have seen in the last couple of months a dwindling in zeal in our believers, unfortunately I think it is connected to the fact that they are not meeting with believers and have no church. Of late they, are finding excuses to not join in on our "Skype service". Right after we left Russia, our group of believers were scattered. Yulia and Ivan, with their children moved north because of his work. They are near the arctic circle right now. They will probably be there for a while, they have already been there for about two years. Mila has spent a lot of time in Kyrgyzstan since we left, she just recently returned back to Ekaterinburg. Because of this, when we Skype, there is one group in Northern arctic Russia, one group in Ekaterinburg (Yura, Alena and their children), there was Mila in Kyrgyzstan, and Tanya in Moscow, and I am leading the group from Kiev, Ukraine. We are literally in 5 different places, scattered over a broad swath of land!

The topics of the preaching have been really good. It has been a blessing to me preparing each week to teach them God's Word. We spent a couple of months tackling the issue of salvation and assurance of salvation. I recorded all of those messages and people that I am working with in Kiev are listening to those messages, and I am also working on putting those messages in book form. There is such a confusion here on the issue of salvation and very little defense of Biblical salvation. This needs to be done. I am currently tackling the issue of the "charismatic gifts of the spirit". The other big problem here is that almost all "Christians" here are charismatics, even the "Baptists". I have recorded all of these messages as well, and plan on putting the information into a much needed book for use here.

We started the Bible study in the Troeshina region of Kiev this month. So far, only Vasya and his wife have "come" (to the Bible study in *their* apartment), but we have had a great time in God's Word and Vasya is growing. I believe that Elena is not saved, but very "religious". Tonight will be our 4th Bible study and Vasya informs me that there should be several visitors. If we have visitors, he is prepared to deliver the Bible study, we have gone over it, and he does very well, better than me, in delivering the message.

Vasya is the man that I met just over a month ago, while I was in the bazar evangelizing. We have meet many times since then and I have been very encouraged by his spiritual growth during this time, he devours any information that I give him, and has a very "Berean" mindset in his study of the Scripture. He has been a great encouragement. He has a great zeal for the lost, especially those who are addicts. He is a former addict in his early 40s. Four years ago God saved him from that mess and now God has freed him from drinking and smoking. He has lived in Kiev the past 3 years. As a former addict, he is always striving to reach addicts with the Gospel, and in his region they are everywhere. It is not uncommon to see people drunk and high on drugs in his neighborhood during the daytime.

Because of his desire to reach his friends and family with the Gospel, last week we took a trip to visit some villages that he used to live in, and where he has acquaintances. In total, we visited 5 villages and talked with many people, all of whom knew Vasya. A lot of seeds were sown that day and we are praying for fruit. Now that we have a vehicle, it is very easy for us to get to these villages to evangelize, praise the Lord!

Because of Vasya's hard life he now has many health problems. He has had 2 heart attacks in the past 3 years and may have had another one recently. Currently he is undergoing many tests, they are trying to pin-point the problem in order to find a solution. We are praying for healing if it be God's will. Thank you for your faithful support that allows us to have the privilege of ministering in this very needy area! *Until next month!*

By His Grace and for His Glory!  
*Daniel Holmes*  
 I Cor 15:58

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Prayer Requests:

- Finding Those Ready for the Gospel
  - Bible Studies
- Weekly Skype Service Meetings
  - Language Study

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