



the HOLMES FAMILY

taking the GOSPEL to Russian speaking peoples of the former USSR

Dear prayer partners,

February/March Update

Oh... so much to say, *so little space!* I am writing this Ministry Update on March 14th. Three weeks from today we will be in Kiev, Ukraine. As you can imagine, we are very excited, and very busy taking care of final preparations for the move. Much is left to be done before we leave on April 3rd. Considering that will be leaving for at least several years, we have a lot on our plate for the next 3 weeks. The list is made, and we are rejoicing that we can, with each day, check more things off of our "to do list" before we leave for Ukraine. Also, our families and church are planning special times to get everyone together to say goodbye to us before we leave. Knowing that everything is now ready for our arrival in Kiev makes us just that more anxious to get there and get started!

Let me first mention that **we have now finished our furlough.** Our last furlough meeting was on the 21st of February. Just before we left on our last trip, my wife and the two youngest boys became sick. Because of this, my two oldest and I went on the trip without them. I had a great time with them and they did a pretty good job being absent from mom for the longest stent of their lives. We updated 5 churches in February, two of those were mission's conferences. As I have said before, the churches we visited were a great blessing to us and took very good care of us, for that we are grateful.

On March 1st, my father and I left for Kiev on a week long trip to set things up for the arrival of my family (see email for pictures). What a blessed time this was for both of us! We have not been able to spend that much time together the past few years, and we praise the Lord for this opportunity. Our goal was threefold (in order of importance): (1) to start the process of registering an international organization in Kiev; (2) to find my family an apartment and get it ready for their arrival; (3) to take 6+ suitcases of our things to Kiev.

Everything regarding the set up of the charity went great! I was very impressed with the professionalism of the team of lawyers that are working with me to get everything done. They are "on the ball" which is not always the case for even professionals in that part of the world. Their job is to open up an international organization for us, to get my wife and I the invitations from that organization, and their job is not over until every member of my family has permanent residency (I am greatly simplifying the process). They gave themselves the timeline of 3 months and if they do not complete everything in 3 months they will refund me my money, plus 5%. All of this for less than \$ 4,000! By comparison, to get visas to Russia, that was around \$500 a person, then to *attempt* to get *temporary* residence permits was around \$1,500 (we never got it), plus, to get permanent residency would cost even more than that (and 5 years of time). Now, Lord willing, within 2 months of arriving in Ukraine my family and I will have permanent residency and an organization that we can now use to invite anyone we want to, so that they could live in Ukraine!

Within a couple of days we were able to find an apartment that would be comfortable for my family (a large family by Ukrainian standards), in a safe neighborhood, and in an area that is convenient for people to come to (we will be "entertaining" a lot to develop relationships with people). Praise the Lord! To top everything off, the real estate agent that I chose before we arrived in Ukraine is a professing believer who wants to study the Bible with me when we get to Ukraine!

What a blessing it was to be able to take most of our "stuff" over to Ukraine on this trip and put our things in our apartment! What a blessing that all of our footlockers made it to Kiev! My dad was with me, that means I had extra muscle with me, bringing everything at one time would have been a great burden, because my family will be traveling alone to Kiev. When it came time to move these 6 heavy containers to our new apartment, my father and I were staying on the 10th floor in another apartment building. Both of the elevators broke and we had to manually carry each footlocker down (and walk back up) those 10 flights of stairs (I am glad I had help!)

I could go on and on about how the Lord blessed this trip, but I am out of space. We made some great future ministry contacts while in Kiev, and even "our" Russian believers remarked about how it was amazing it was that God had made this trip so successful! **We permanently leave for Kiev as a family on April the 3rd.** We appreciate your prayer for our trip, it won't be easy with 4 small children. I plan to send the next update the 2nd week of April, after we arrive and are settled into Kiev. *Until next time!*

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

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Prayer Requests:

- Our Group in Russia
- Weekly Skype Service Meetings
 - Traveling Mercies
 - ~~Furlough~~
- Preparations for leaving for Ukraine

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