

Pray for Open Doors



From the left: Ivan, Marian, and Taras, three of our most faithful attendees at English Club.

Every Tuesday night at 7:00, our team hosts an English Club for Ukrainians here in Lviv. It's a great way for us to meet new people and communicate the Gospel to them. In addition to practicing English, we incorporate regular Bible teaching and Christian-oriented discussion in an attempt to point our hearers to Christ.

Sadly, English Club is one of the many ministries here in Ukraine that is right now under the threat of termination due to the government's ever-increasing restrictions on foreigners, missionaries in particular. Last August, Ukraine's parliament passed

new legislation which introduces a completely different set of immigration standards. In short, it has become far more difficult to obtain visas and minister long-term in Ukraine. Some missionaries have already left because of these new laws.

Now, in order to get a permit for long-term religious work in Ukraine, missionaries like us have to jump through a dizzying set of hoops and pay steep fees. For example, a visa which once cost \$165 will now cost \$379! That's per visa, per person. Once you add in travel costs (we have to go out of Ukraine to get visas) and the costs of local registration in our

city (~\$125 per person) the bottom line gets pricey in a hurry.

But money is not the only complication. The list of various documents and forms we have to present for approval is staggering. Some of the forms demanded by immigration officials do not even exist yet! Add to this mess a healthy dose of corruption at every level of government, and you'll start to see how daunting this whole process really is.

Our existing religious visas will expire in March, and the time has come for us to begin the visa application process under the new system. While we are fortunate to have a good attorney, there are still many hurdles. We'll keep you updated in the weeks ahead, but for now we ask you to please pray earnestly for our presence in Ukraine. Pray that God would bless every step of this process, that we would find favor with government officials, and ultimately that Ukraine's door would remain open to the Gospel.

For more frequent updates, be sure to follow Joshua on Twitter – www.twitter.com/joshukraine

Health Update

The past few months have been without doubt our family's toughest-ever battle with sickness. Our kids came down with Whooping Cough in October, and since then we have faced week after week of coughs, colds, and now flu. While Whooping Cough itself only lasts about six weeks, it can take as long as six months to fully recover from the effects. This means that now, if someone just gets a cold, they're up at night coughing and struggling to breathe. It looks like there may finally be some light at the end of the tunnel, but we would still appreciate your prayers for our health. With all that's going on in the immigration arena, poor health is the last

thing we need. Lord willing, we'll be able to offer a more positive report in our next issue!

Bible First!

Speaking of light at the end of the tunnel, we have good news to report on *Bible First!* Lesson 5, the last lesson which needed revision prior to launch, is complete. We are working now with our printer in the US to arrange a series of proof prints, and soon after that, *Bible First!* will finally be available! In the meantime, be sure to watch our online training video series –

<http://vimeo.com/euroteamoutreach>

The Ukrainian version of the course which we use here continues to flourish, with new students being added every month. We are currently waiting to receive our newest lesson (#18) back from our translator. Once we review the translation and check for errors, the lesson will be sent out to our growing list of waiting students.

Carpathian Mountain Outreach

CMO is our most proactive, front-line ministry. After taking 2011 off to focus on *Bible First*, we're excited to get back to the mountains! Several young men are signed up to come for the project, and we're looking forward to a great summer of ministry. Please pray specifically for the young men coming as they buy gear, raise funds, and prep travel documents. Learn more at www.euroteamoutreach.org/cmo.



How You Can Pray

Please pray with us about the following requests:

- Visa renewals. Deadline is mid-March.
- Complete healing for our family
- The salvation and growth of our Bible students
- Carpathian Mountain Outreach 2012

To God be the Glory

