



Joshua & Kelsie Steele

May 2012

## Registered!



*On April 13th, just two weeks before our class D visas were set to expire, each member of our team received long-term residency cards like the one pictured above.*

Nine months ago, we couldn't say with any certainty that we would be able to stay in Ukraine as missionaries. The new laws introduced last August initially caused much confusion amongst the American community along with the uneasy feeling that someone was trying to get rid of us. Other countries, notably Russia, have enacted changes to their immigration policies which have effectively barred religious workers from obtaining any kind of long-term access. Happily, it now appears that Ukraine has not chosen that path.

Today, we are excited to inform you that *we are registered*. To put in another way, we have been issued official long-term residency cards which represent more certainty about our presence here than we've had for quite some time. For my family, the Beals, and Denise Hutchison, there are no more steps, no more elusive documents to hunt down, no more stamps needed from reluctant officials. We're done.

Because Nathan and Katelin Day are currently in the U.S., they were



not able to complete this process with us. However, they are returning to Ukraine in about a month, and their documents are already in process. The things our team has learned along the way are helping to ensure that the Days' registration process will be even quicker and smoother than ours was. Nonetheless, it's not over 'til the fat lady sings, and we'd appreciate your continued prayers for the Day family. Right now, they are waiting to receive their class D visas from the Ukrainian consulate in San Francisco. They need these visas in their passports before they fly back to Ukraine on June 5.

## Bible First! Update

The process of registering our team was a big undertaking which, unfortunately, also meant yet another delay for the *Bible First!* project. But the wheels have never stopped turning, and today I'm pleased to announce that the first proof print of

Volume 2 has been ordered. Volume 2 was the only remaining portion of the course that needed to be revised before we could launch *Bible First*. Due to international shipping times, it will take another ten days or so before we actually have Volume 2 in our hands for review. Based on previous proof prints, we do not expect any

major changes beyond this point. And once Volume 2 is ready, *Bible First!* will launch. Again, thank you for your patience and prayers. Stay tuned...

## Skole Outreach

This month we held our second English Club meeting in Skole with the students from School #2. We also took the whole group to a nearby park for a picnic. While still in the early stages, it appears that God is blessing our efforts and we are steadily building important relationships.

Our next step is a showing of *Courageous* on May 19. The movie will be shown in English with



*Aprils 21st English Club in Skole*

Ukrainian subtitles. We are praying that this event will also help us expand our influence to those who don't necessarily have any interest in learning English.

As you pray for this ministry, please also pray specifically for Sergiy. He was born and raised in Skole, but currently his work is in another city, meaning that he is only able to be in Skole on weekends. He would like to find work in Skole so that he can be more involved in the ministry there.



## How You Can Pray

- Praise the Lord for our successful registration!
- Pray for the Day family as they await their class D visas. Pray that there would be no complications with their paperwork.
- Pray for God's continued blessing on the work in Skole. Pray against potential opposition from government and/or religious leaders there.
- Pray for Kelsie and the kids as they fly back to America on May 15 to prepare for the birth. I will remain here in Ukraine for a few more months to continue the ministry.

*To God be the Glory*

