

The Christian Family

Church Planters in Belarus



April 2020

Dear Pastor and Congregation,

I trust this letter finds you doing well during this most unusual and difficult time. As you might expect, our furlough schedule has been interrupted by the stay at home orders in multiple states. We are safe, healthy and watching for God's leading and purpose through this.

We are trying to be proactive rather than reactive to the disruptions caused by coronavirus. With that in mind we are trying to implement austerity measures to use the Lord's money wisely. We will start sending our prayer letter out every other month for the time being and reevaluate this as things normalize. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Challenges and changes in Belarus

Belarus has seen 790 cases of the virus and 13 people have died. There is not a nationwide stay at home order in place like here in the US and other countries around the world. Life continues mostly as usual except for one major city that is quarantined. Many believe the situation is more serious than they are being told. The president recommends drinking vodka, playing hockey, and going to the sauna to prevent getting ill from coronavirus.

Last month I told you about some potential problems with renewing our visas due to changes in the immigration laws. Those changes made it impossible to do charity work on a business visa. The government wants to see everyone in Belarus (including foreigners) contributing to the economy by paying taxes. This would be the end of our free English program and our ability to live in Belarus on a full-time basis.

The Belarussian man who runs the English program was able to talk to the head of immigration and explain what our organization does and how it benefits the Belarussian people. After hearing about what we do, he was very impressed and appreciative of our work. He promised to make a way for us to continue as things were. More importantly, the Belarussian people will continue to have the opportunity to hear the Gospel.

There are now rules in place to allow us to continue our work teaching free English and he also gave our organization a letter to show immigration services when renewing our work permits and visas. We thank God for his faithfulness to the missionaries working in Belarus. We also thank you for lifting us up in prayer. Without your prayers we couldn't continue to minister to the Belarussian people,

For Souls in Belarus,

The Jeff Christian Family

Received in March _____

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