

# *The Christian Family*

## *Church Planters in Belarus*



August 2020

Dear Pastor and Congregation,

Greetings from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Yes, we are still in the States. Our flights were canceled twice, and we finally opted for a refund for the flight. Americans are banned from traveling to Europe, although connecting flights are allowed. There are few travelers from Europe to Belarus, so many flights are canceled due to too few passengers. This all has made travel very unpredictable. We also would not have been able to get back into Belarus before our visas and residency expired. The Fall English semester is also in limbo due to corona virus. After counseling with our Pastor, we determined it would be best to wait until the new year to make plans to return.

So, while we are here, we are traveling and giving updates to our supporting churches and presenting our work in new churches. I will also be serving in and teaching in our home church's Bible institute while we wait to return to Belarus.

### **Unrest in Belarus**

On Sunday, August 9, presidential elections took place in Belarus. Generally, the results of past elections have always been controversial. This election was and is different. There was a ground swell of opposition to the president and for the first time in a long time, he was vulnerable. There were many candidates in the race. Just weeks before the elections the leading candidates were arrested on corruption charges. This set off protests and one candidate's wife ran in her husband's place. The results of the election showed the President received 80% of the vote. The election process showed something entirely different. There was widespread voter fraud including voter suppression and ballot stuffing.

This has resulted in widespread protests demanding the President step down. These were truly peaceful protests until the military was sent in to disperse the protesters. The military, the police and special forces have been violently beating and arresting anyone who refused to go home. The people of Belarus are fighting hard to free themselves of 25 years of tyranny. It is difficult to get accurate information because the internet and cell phones have been down since Sunday. Landline phones are blocked as well. Please pray for the people of Belarus and for true freedom in Belarus.

For Souls in Belarus,

The Jeff Christian Family

Received in June and July 300.00

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