



Greetings from St. Petersburg!

October 2016

The last you heard from us, we were leaving hot and sunny Oklahoma in August boarding a plane for Russia. By God's grace, we made it through a September to remember! Our first month back in the city was filled with many blessings as Tanya and the kids started school (Tanya is volunteering there), Jon and his colleagues hosted three back-to-back conferences, we purchased an apartment(!), and we enjoyed a visit from a group of wonderful friends from Tulsa. One complicating factor was when Jon suffered a ruptured Achilles tendon while playing basketball. He had surgery Sep 28th and is in recovery. Thanks to all who have been praying for this procedure and healing!

Below is a photo of those from all over Eurasia (former Soviet Union) who participated in one of the conferences held at the School of Leadership. This consultation was part of the study our department has been involved in on the issue of leadership across Eurasia. It was particularly encouraging to visit and consult with those who are working in difficult conditions in Central Asian countries. It was also encouraging to hear about the robust mission of the church in Ukraine, which enjoys much more religious freedom. Participants were encouraged by each others' faith, as they shared best practices and insights into leadership formation and missions initiatives.

Participants in the conference we hosted:
"Faith & Work: Christian Mission and Leadership in the Workplace"



Jon presented a paper at the first conference - Faith & Work: Christian Mission and Leadership in the Workplace - and enjoyed many stimulating conversations. The goal was to help believers in this part of the world to push beyond the walls of the church and understand what it means to participate in the mission of God in the broader world, particularly through everyday professional activity.

Thank you to all who have prayed for our housing situation! For more than a year, we have prayed, asking God to provide a place that we can call home, one that is bigger than our current one-bedroom apartment and will provide us with more room for life and ministry. In this new apartment, the walls are bare, the floor is concrete, and there are no toilets, sinks or kitchen cabinets, so we are busy trying to finish it out. Our prayer is that we'll be able to move in and have Christmas there. We'll have much more space, so please let us know if you would like to come for a visit! (Below is a picture of the kids when we surprised them with the apartment)

Lastly, just yesterday our church finally had a breakthrough, which we are hoping and praying will lead to a fruitful season of peace and growth after a long, long season of internal struggles. The Baptist bishop of our region of Russia has been a great help in this process, and the pastor has decided to step aside for at least a year. We are praying for his restoration and for his family's overall health. The church will be elder-led until the Lord provides a full-time pastor. Please pray for wisdom for us, as we reassess our particular involvement and leadership responsibilities in the church.

JOIN US IN PRAYER

- For unity and fruitfulness within our church as we move forward into a new season.
- For full and proper healing for Jon's ankle following surgery.
- For the work on the new apartment to go smoothly and efficiently, so that we can move in December.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you so much for standing with us in prayer. We believe that God is at work here among us, and we are seeing new and encouraging signs of life!

Jon, Tanya, Anna & Mark Coody



Anna and Mark holding the keys under the welcome sign that Tanya made as we surprised them with the new apartment!