

# Happy Thanksgiving



It's been a while since we updated you on what's been happening with our family here in Ukraine, mostly because I was stateside for the month of October with Katya and Isabella. Hopefully, we were able to see most of you during our time there.

I'll start off by saying thank you to all our family and friends that hosted us during our time in the States. For making our days full

of fun, love, adventure and laughter! We would not have been able to make such a trip without all of your prayers, support and love. We are forever grateful!



Katya had a trip that I know she will always treasure and never forget. She was quiet at times, but I think she was soaking it all in and

enjoying not doing anything. It was quite a change for us both! Katya is my helper with the kids and the house. She's such a hard worker and wonderful sister and daughter to us all. She definitely deserved a little pampering and fun! Thanks to our friend Lynn for introducing her to a store, Rue 21, she will have dreams of that store all her days, and I will have a heart full of joy all my days just from seeing the smile on her face as she tried on clothes and held up things and said "mom, look!" I wouldn't trade that moment for anything!!!!

We landed in New York and had to overnight and so we stayed in a hotel near JFK airport. As we woke in the morning, Katya in her wonderful humor opened the

window curtains and sighs and says "New York" and tells me that's what she has seen in movies. We had a great laugh that morning, along with breakfast and a quick taxi ride to the airport to catch our flight to Nashville! We stayed in Nashville for a few days and with the blessings of some dear friends, The Sheumakers, who loaned us their vehicle, we were able to drive to Pennsylvania for a quick trip. We had some great times with friends who were giving beyond our imagination and also made some new great friends along the way! On the way back from Pennsylvania we took a very quick detour to Washington, DC. I was able to show the girls the White House, The Capitol, Washinton Monument, The National Mall, The Smithosians and the next morning we got up and were able to see inside the Air and Space Museum. Very cool and now Isabella wants to be an astronaut and fly on a rocket!



We headed back to Nashville after DC and began some wedding fun!!! My cousin was married in Nashville and the entire family came in for the wedding. It was the first time all my siblings had been together in a long while



and the first time since I had seen some of my cousins in years. It was definitely a time that I will treasure. The girls experienced an Indian

wedding this week, complete with a mendhi (henna) bridal shower and Indian ceremony. It was gorgeous and my cousin was stunning in her beautiful sari!





Our girls were able to experience another fun wedding the next week in Cookeville. Auntie Lindsey and Uncle Vik (as Isabella called him) were married and had a wonderful ceremony and reception. My family in Cookeville holds such a sweet place in my heart and I'm so happy that I was able to be a part of such a special day. We love you both!

The girls and I returned to Ukraine greeted by the entire family at the airport! Definitely a welcomed homecoming by all three of us! To say the least I didn't even have time for jetlag, I hit the ground running! But, the Lord gave me strength as I don't really remember having much jet lag at all. We've been home three weeks and we are all enjoying having our whole family back together again!



The last week we were able to take a trip to Alabama and as always had a wonderful time there and look forward to more fun times with The Segars. We also had a special treat of seeing our friends that are missionaries here in Ukraine, the Flemings that are home on furlough for a few months. Big hugs to you all! Our lives would not be the same without both of these families! We love you.



Ruslan did a fabulous job while I was away! The Lord gave him the strength and help while we were away. He was able to juggle working, the family, helping others, church and

The day before we left we spent the day with some wonderful friends that we will have the joy of seeing again this January! They have been so giving to us beyond words with love, support and prayers and we are so grateful to the Lord for them. You are blessings to so many here in Ukraine and the Lord uses you abundantly to share His love. Thank you for letting us be a part of ministering



extracurricular activities amazingly! We praise God for keeping everyone healthy and for our friend, Raegan, who is a help to us beyond measure with getting the kids to school and back, to dance and some wonderful house cleaning surprises when I'm away! Also, to Sasha, our oldest for being such a great big brother and to Ruslan's mom who is always a big help to our family. She is a blessing in every way!

with you. May you be richly blessed for you love to us.



It's almost the end of November and today is the first day of true winter weather that we have experienced this year! Just last week we went to the village and I wore shorts!

Our trip to the States this year was full of blessings, love and encouragement. We were in 8 different states and

were able to enjoy the gorgeous fall, something I definitely miss here in Ukraine! Again, thank you to all of you for making our trip one that will always be engrained in our hearts. We are thankful to our Lord for the provision, safety and care He provided for us during our time in the States. We are SO thankful!

We are not complaining though, as we are taking advantage of the warm weather and working on some outdoor projects! We were able to replace the



windows on the first floor and the apartment above the garage to European plastic windows, which are much more cost efficient by keeping the heat inside the house and not escaping through the old wooden windows. Due to a blessing from some dear friends, we are finishing the apartment of the garage and so with the warm weather, we are able to do the necessary dry wall and stucco needed before the winter. All the outside work of preparations for the winter months, the tilling, plowing, digging up flowers and weeding have all been accomplished. We even managed to plant garlic and onions, so that when the first signs of Spring come our way we should have garlic and onions early! So, thank you Lord for the wonderful weather!





# Prayer Requests

- Against sicknesses as winter is finally arriving, some of the kids have some coughs and congestion.
- We are in need of furniture for the kids rooms (dressers, closets and shelves).
- Sasha is studying for his entrance exams to enter the university in Vinnytsa. He will be taking a practice exam in March, but until then we have hired a tutor for him to help boost him in his Ukrainian and History. We are praying he has patience and can retain all he is learning and will score beautifully on his tests.
- In the busyness of our kids, ministry and others, we sometimes forget about making time for each other. So, we ask you to be in prayer for us as we are scheduling time on Mondays for an “off” day for just Ruslan and me. Pray we make this happen and the Lord helps us to make sure we do this for each other and for Him.
- Pray for Isabella. The Lord has given her such a gift of accepting each of her brothers and sisters. She is so great about having to share her mom and dad, but as she is getting older, she is needing more of us. Since we have taken new children this year and they have lacked so much in love and affection, we are constantly giving to them and because she is so great about accepting we tend to forget that she needs that as well. So, we ask for wisdom and understanding, that we would give her the time she needs.
- We are working on building a room at the Arts Center in our city, where our church meets. The Center gave us some room in the building that we can use and so Ruslan and Igor (pastor of our church) along with some other men, have been working on this room. It will be used to hold humanitarian aid, food and any other items that can be given away to anyone who is need. What a huge blessing this is, as we have people sending us boxes of things to give out and having a central place that we, along with the people from our congregation, can organize the things we have for this purpose will be wonderful.
- A van for Archie, as the kids are getting older, involved in dance and in the near future music and sports. It has become a necessity for Archie to have a vehicle. So, we are praying for the funds to purchase a vehicle, we need around \$10,000.

- Praise God for his provision!!! We only have \$5,316 left to pay to the former owner of our house! Wow, we look at the way the Lord has provided and are in awe. He is faithful beyond our imagination!!!! We give Him all the praise and glory He deserves, He is Good!

*May you each have a  
wonderful  
Thanksgiving full of  
love and blessings!*

*We love you and miss you all!*

*With much gratefulness and  
thanksgiving,  
The Tkachuk family*

