



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ben and Kristy Williams "Rejoicing in 2005 Blessings and Preparing for an Exciting 2006"

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A Call to the Ukraine

Merry Christmas! It is so exciting to write to you again for the second installment of our newsletter, as well as to celebrate all that God has done and blessed us with in 2005. In August, we wrote that we felt God was leading us to be full-time missionaries in the Czech Republic. Only weeks after that letter, we had a few telephone calls with some of the leaders of our mission organization, Josiah Venture (JV) to discuss our next steps. They had been praying for many months, asking God for another couple who would be able to "plant" the JV model in the UKRAINE. It would be their 10th Eastern European country in which JV would partner with a local, non-for-profit Christian organization that is committed to training and equipping national youth leaders to reach young people and introduce them to Jesus. We began to pray about this possibility, and we also increased our knowledge about the Ukraine. We feel that God was opening up a door for us and challenging us to follow Him in complete faith. When you become a Christian, you are handing over your entire life to the Lord. We want to follow His plan for our lives, because His plan is so much better than any we could ever devise or try to control on our own. So we said yes! You may be wondering how we were able to



Lviv, Ukraine

quickly make the switch from CZ to UKR. We realize that our love for the Czech Republic ultimately stems from the great relationships we have made with students, church leaders, and American missionaries; we are also quite comfortable in CZ, after serving there for 3 months in 2002 and 3 other short term trips.

We always joke that we know more people in CZ than we do in NJ! But this challenge to consider the Ukraine made us realize that we serve the ALMIGHTY God. Our God is great enough to give us just as many blessings and meet all of our needs in this unknown country. Since our decision, we spent a weekend in Philadelphia with Jay & Cameron Hughes, the couple with whom we will serve in Lviv, a city of approximately 800,000 people, located in western Ukraine, very near Poland. The primary language is Ukrainian, similar to Russian. The country isn't as westernized as the European Union, but there is a lot of positive change happening. The best part is that students are eager to learn about the God who loves them and offers hope and peace of eternal life. We are excited for this!

The Next Steps for 2006

The biggest question we heard after our first newsletter was "When Are You Leaving?!" Our tentative timeline includes some major milestones we must achieve before making the final departure. #1 The Application Process, through our mission organization, Josiah Venture. #2 Once we are accepted, we will begin to raise our financial support. The finances work similarly to that of a pastor in the US—people give financially to the work of the church, and those funds are disbursed to pay for ministry and living expenses. Many people believe in the purpose of mission work and get involved as financial partners. We will talk more about this in our next letter. #3 After enough people have committed to financially support our work, we have to complete 6 weeks of culture and language acquisition training. #4 Then we have to tackle the liquidation process—selling our condos, quitting our jobs, and packing up what is left to move. WE ARE REMINDED THAT IT IS GOD'S TIMING AND NOT OUR OWN! But ideally, we would like to be moved in by the fall of 2006. PLEASE PRAY for us!



Key Bible Verse 2005:
In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.
Proverbs 16:9

Other 2005 Highlights

- The completion of Ben's Masters Degree in Systems Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania
- Leading our second youth group trip to the Czech Republic for three weeks this summer
- Our first nephew born — Braedan Josiah Cox
- Lots of travel, including NYC, Niagara Falls, and the Bahamas



What Will You Do As Missionaries?

We will work as full-time youth leaders, church leaders, and teachers, building relationships and teaching students like we do here in the US. However, we will also be helping to implement various church programs that we often take for granted in the United States (small group models, marriage enrichment classes, mentoring/discipling, Bible college curricula, taking short term mission trips to tell other people about Jesus, etc.) Eastern Europe has so few Christian resources—not enough people, not enough money, not enough supplies and materials—and this often stifles the church and keeps it from effectively providing a place where people can grow spiritually and become the followers of Christ that the Bible calls us to be. More to come on this topic.



This newsletter is too short! To learn more, check out our newly created Website at

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