



Damien & Melanie Austin
Ukraine

austins_ukraine@yahoo.com

Sending Church - Westwood Missionary Baptist Church
3210 Avenue G., N.W. Winter Haven, FL 33880
Tel (863) 294-2219 Fax (863) 299-1476
joy@westwoodmbc.org

Pastor Walt Lanier
Director of Missions
Douglas Wiersema

Join us on the Journey

February 20, 2024

Hello to all!



Thank you for your continuing your prayers for us and for the people of Ukraine.

I must apologize for the delay of this letter. I wish I had more to report about the situation in Ukraine, but quite honestly there has been very little change. Sadly, we are coming up on the two year anniversary of the Russian invasion into Ukraine. The Ukraine army continues to fight against the oppressor. The people continue to pray for God to intervene on their behalf. No-one expected the war to go on this long and no-one can predict when it will end. Only our God knows. We continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, and that they continue to strengthen their faith, peace, and trust in God.

Isaiah 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

We are so thankful for our friend Alex who continues to preach for our congregation and has kept the church active with help in the community. Alex is blind. He has been a friend for the past eight years when he first came to the English Bible Study at our church. He is currently working toward his Masters degree at the Bible Institute in Kiev. When he realized that we were not in Ukraine, he contacted me to ask if he could help by filling in for me at Bethany Baptist in Zhitomir. He has been doing that for almost two years now. He has recently lost his job because of the economy in Ukraine. Alex has a church of his own, and has always been able to provide for his family without support from other churches or missions. Thank you to Westwood MBC for voting to send him monthly support to help him through this time of crisis in his life.

The kids are still safe in Poland (*picture above*) and are fluent in Polish now.

Here at home we hit a bit of a road bump. On December 9, Melanie fell in a parking lot and bruised her face, wrist and hand. Her wrist was in a brace for a month and an MRI found that nothing was broken or fractured but everything was severely bruised. She lost much of the use of her left hand, but she is going to therapy twice a week and we are finally beginning to see some improvement. Praise God that He protected her because we know it could have been so much worse. She has had to suffer through not only the physical pain, but also she has had to eat my cooking for the past two months. Praise God... it could have been much worse... they still sell Raman noodles at Wal-Mart. 😊

We want to thank you all again so much for the prayers and support you have given us and the ministry in Ukraine over the years. We continue our efforts to help the people in Ukraine and the refugees in Poland through your support of the Ukrainian Relief Fund. Thank you for all you do in the name of the Lord.

In Christ,
Damien & Melanie