

Hi everyone,

It's been a while since I sent out an email update. Since I've been in the States for the past several months, I've been able to connect with many of you face-to-face and share what is going on in my life and ministry. But, I realize that there are many of you that get my emails that haven't had the opportunity to hear about what I'm doing and what my plans are for the future. I'm sure that many of you are wondering how the war in Ukraine is affecting me and my team. So, I'd like to share some of that with you here and give some ways for you to pray.

### **Home Service**

I have had a wonderful time connecting with churches, family, friends and supporters these past several months. I'm thankful for how God has provided a house for me to live in while I've been in NY, as well as a car to drive. And every meeting I've had has been a meaningful and encouraging time of fellowship. For that I'm so grateful. God has given me a wonderful support team. Thank you to all of you who have welcomed me so warmly and taken time to meet with me and given me opportunities to share about God's work in Russia.

### **What's happening in Ulan-Ude?**

Shortly after the war started in Ukraine, my teammates in Ulan-Ude made the difficult decision to leave Russia for a time. Even though Ulan-Ude is safe and we wouldn't be in physical danger, there were many reasons for them deciding to leave. Our hope is that we can return someday (hopefully soon!). I'm so thankful that I can still communicate with my friends back in Ulan-Ude through social chatting networks. Most of our possessions have been left in Russia and we are thankful to our local friends and partners who are helping us in taking care of our homes, cars & pets. As it stands now, we don't know when we will be able to return. This makes it very difficult to know how to make plans. How long will this continue? After the war ends, will it be possible still to return? What should we do in the meantime? We are all trying to wade through these questions, and it's not easy.

### **What's Next?**

In April, I was able to be reunited with my team at our Eurasia Family Conference, which was held in Turkey. I originally didn't plan to attend this conference, but after my team was displaced, I decided it would be important for me to go. The conference was a very special time of processing all that's happened and we have since had many discussions about what is next. Here are a few plans I have in the upcoming months:

- I hope to take a quick trip to return to Russia in order to keep my residency permit (I've been out of Russia already over 5 months), to pack up a few things, and to see some close friends and visit my church and home group. Sadly, I will only be there for 10-14 days.

- From there, I will help at a camp with Leif and Jami and their family in Kyrgyzstan. They have been living there and made connections with churches and believers and were asked to help at a camp there. They invited me to join them, which I am excited to do. :)

- There are also some opportunities to be a part of refugee ministry for 1-2 months this summer, which I am seriously praying about.

- I also hope to take a couple of short vision trips to investigate what SEND is doing in other parts of Central Asia.

After all these trips and traveling, I hope I can make a better informed decision about what to do and where to live while I wait for things to become clear about returning to Russia. Of course, these plans are tentative and I have to be ready for plans to change, if God changes direction.

**In all this, I'd ask for prayer for these things:**

+ Please pray for me and my team as we have some big decisions to make. Pray for God to lead each one of us. Pray that we will be sensitive to His leading and fully trust Him in all these unknowns and uncertainties. We kind-of feel like refugees ourselves and we are deeply grieving leaving Russia and our friends there. It has become home to us. Please pray for my heart to surrender all to Him.

+ Please pray for great wisdom and strength for Dave and Leif, and other SEND Eurasia leaders, as they are trying to help guide and support all the missionaries who are all deeply grieving, and who are displaced and wondering what to do and where to go.

+ There is a lot I could say about needs for Ukraine and for Russia, but I would ask particularly for 2 things:

1) For unity in the churches. Please pray for unified hearts and that they will focus on Christ and the most important task of making His name known. Pray that the Russian church will not sleep. Also, pray for healing and peace in the relations between the Ukrainian and Russian churches & believers.

2) Pray that in the midst of much hardship and suffering, that the Gospel would spread all throughout Ukraine and in Russia and many will turn to Christ. Pray that the work amongst the unreached will continue.

In the meantime, we continue to pray for a mighty work of God's Spirit amongst the Buryat people and other unreached peoples of Russia & Ukraine.

May God grant peace! Thank you for standing with me in prayer and for all your love and support during this difficult time. I trust that God is doing wonderful things in the midst of all the evil, chaos and suffering. His light is stronger than the darkness and His plan will never be thwarted!

In Him,  
Janette (Nettie)