



THE REASONER FAMILY MISSIONARIES IN RUSSIA

MICAH • SARAH • CHLOE • LEAH • MICAH JACK



November/December 2019

Dear Pastors and Co-laborers,

We are over half-way done with furlough. We know that we are supposed to be here, but we are still counting down the days to go back. We have been overwhelmed at how good all the churches have been to us. We don't feel worthy. We are so very thankful for faithful partners who have gotten behind us to see the cause of Christ continue in Russia.

In November things started to slow down a little bit as most started preparing for the holidays. We enjoyed traveling close to home visiting churches in the Oklahoma and Texas area. My wife's family thoroughly enjoyed spending more time with the grandchildren. I had a personal blessing. The Lord allowed for all my siblings to get back together for Thanksgiving. We had not all been together for years. It was a truly special Thanksgiving. I am so thankful the Lord provided for me to be there. My younger brother Jeremiah announced that his wife Kayla is pregnant! Praise the Lord! I was so glad to be there for the announcement, but also realized I would miss the birth of his first child. Sometimes I think we might overlook things that missionaries miss while they are on the field. It is a sacrifice to serve God. It is hard sometimes. We were in Bible Baptist Church of Stillwater's mission's revival. Pastor Matt Farinella preached on this very thought. He preached out of Matthew 16:24-25 about taking up your cross. Jesus warns us in this passage that following Him is going to require us enduring a cross that has been prepared for us. I am sure many of you know the cross Pastor Matt and his family have had to bear this past year with his wife being diagnosed with leukemia. He was very open and honest about how hard it was. He then opened up about how during these trials God showed Himself. God gave them the grace and strength to get through it. It grew them in so many different areas. God used that to show me the theme that the church plant in Russia will have for this year. "My Cross" What is it God wants me to carry and endure for Him this year and beyond? Am I consciously seeing the trials in my life as a chance to grow in Christ or fall away from Him? Last year our theme was from the book of Hebrews 10:23-25 "This is God's Church, but it is our responsibility." It was teaching the people that they needed to get involved. They need to be invested in God's work. They need to see the church as a local assembly they are apart of. This year we are going to explain that if you truly want to follow God it is going to have to be on purpose. It is going to require putting Him above the things of this world. It is going to require going through some things that we might not want to for Him. The greatest example of this for us has been furlough. We love seeing everyone and we love being apart of these amazing mission's conferences and meetings. But if it was up to me, I would have never left Russia. We miss it. We want to be there. However, God has us here for a reason and we are praying we will be a blessing to everyone we meet and visit with on this furlough.