



Vitalii and Liudmyla Mariash

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Dear friends!

I hope that in such times as these the Lord keeps you safe! Since the pandemic broke into our world and lives two people from our church and three people whom I knew very well died (more than eighty thousand people have died in Ukraine from Covid now – this is twice as many as in the war with Russia on the east of Ukraine). It hurts and greatly affects your way of life and viewing it. Many people who went through this illness in an especially difficult way — reevaluated, reassessed their approach to life and their walking with the Lord. Well, we all need to do this in our lives.

Therefore, I'd like to say thank you for all your prayers, and not only for Ukraine people here, but for all who suffer from illness, loss of loved ones and need greatly our prayers and support. Having said this we have to remember that even in such circumstances we must be faithful to the Lord and do our work of ministry before Him. Let me say a few words about my ministry in Kyiv. Firstly, I'll tell you a few words about how things are going in our church – “The Bible and the life”. Then — briefly about the Seminary's life.

Thank you for your prayers for our church weekend. I think there were between 40 and 50 people. Amongst them were five non-Christians who were able to listen to the Word of God. It is sad that nobody responded to the call to the Lord during our last service, but we do not lose heart – next weekend or the next church meeting we hope the Lord will bring them near to Him. Pray that His Word they heard would work in their hearts. During our last church leaders meeting we were praying and planning to organise a Bible study group for unbelievers – we have some contacts with different people and we want to bring them together to work closer with them. Pray also for our English club for children. American missionaries – Mike and Rachel Gustafsons lead this club but my wife and some other people from the church are also involved (many children from this club are from the same school as my children Mark and Mariana — they were very active in spreading invitations). There are 25-30 children regularly attending this club and some of the parents stay with them - we have organized tea and talk with them during this time.

As another direction for evangelism, we'd like to have a summer camp for young couples (in summer 2022). We are praying that the Lord would prepare people for this camp. Our plan is to invite those non-Christians to attend a group for couples. We'd like to invite Dmytro and Vira – the young couple who attend our home Bible study group.





Let me tell you as well a few words about Kyiv Theological Seminary (KTS). We are so thankful to the Lord and for your prayers for new students at KTS. We have seventy-six undergraduate students who have joined KTS. Amongst them there are 8 students who applied to study at the newly created programme on Media discipleship. Apart from this cohort of students we have ten students who applied to study at our new Masters programme of Biblical Theology.

(I am currently preparing a course on the Exposition of Wisdom Literature which will

take place at the beginning of February 2022 – need your prayers for this as well).

At least one time I asked your prayers for developing online education. The work on the studio to shoot lectures for online courses and to edit videos is completed. We would like to create at least two courses by the end of 2021-2022 Academic year (New Testament (NT) Survey 1 and NT Survey 2. I have a couple of lectures on John's Gospel).

These are the most urgent prayer requests. I'll be very thankful if you pray for many routine affairs we face every day – pastoral visits, preparing for and leading meetings in the church (with deacons and young preachers) and in the Seminary (with faculty, Program Directors, librarians and potential professors and students), weekly home Bible study group, sermons, lectures. As you can see my life is far from boring :)). In this business I do not have to forget that I am also a father and a husband (as my wife is gently but regularly reminding me). I feel so sorry that in my very tight schedule I neglect to write my prayer letters – forgive me for that! Forgive me for that and pray that my love and gratitude to you (which I assure is in my heart) might find its way to prayer letters in a more disciplined way.



With love in Christ!

Vitalii Mariash



European Mission Fellowship • The Old Rectory • Main Street • Glenfield • Leicester • LE3 8DG
Tel: +44 (0)116 232 5192 • Email: hq@europeanmission.org • Web: www.europeanmission.org

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