

Dear brothers and sisters of the Blacksburg church,

Peace to you!

Let me answer your questions:

1. Our family now lives in three countries. Mila and I live in Poland. Our youngest daughter, Darina, lives in Russia which she is dreaming of leaving as soon as possible. Our oldest, Ksenia, returned to Irpin, Ukraine, three weeks ago. Her children missed their dad very much. They decided to stay there unless there is any danger, and then they will return to Poland again. They have restored their house after the shootings and have fixed windows and gas pipes to have some heating at winter. They are not yet sure what to do with the children's school because it no longer exists in Irpin, but at least the school in Poland will accept them gladly should they return.

2. The church in Pulawy, Poland, that we attend now used to be very small. When we got there in March, they only had five members. Over the past six months, the church has grown significantly due to Ukrainian refugees. We spend time with them. It is hard for people to find fellowship and services in their language abroad. Right now, there are around 25-30 people in the church. I believe, this is due to the fact that we can all together worship the Lord and listen to the sermons people can understand. Since many people work in shifts, they can't always all come to church on Sundays, but we are keeping up these relationships, call them and correspond in messengers.

Two weeks ago, 13 people from our Polish church attended the Unity Conference near Warsaw. It was organized by the UMC Poland, and there were people from many countries. We met Ullas Tankler and his wife there. We were very happy to see them. Mila and Zhenya served as part of the worship team at the conference.

We have also organized weekly prayer meetings for people in our area, who are able to come to our little village.

3. The new computer we got helps us a lot. We have weekly Bible studies in Zoom. Once a month, we also have full services with communion for all the members of Istochnik who are now scattered in different countries. We are staying in touch practically with everyone. Some of our church members were able to come visit us in Poland for a few days, and it was a real celebration. In July, we received the family of senior pastor Oleg Starodubets. Recently, another family of our members came to visit us on their way to Germany.

This war and our forced emigration showed us how valuable personal fellowship is.

4. The Family Center is not in operation because there are practically none of our people left in Kyiv. Pavel is busy working with refugees in Uzhgorod. The church premises are

not being used right now. Our sister Margarita comes there regularly to keep up order. She says there are no neighbors around any more. Everyone who could, has left. A few people from our church are still in Kyiv, but for various reasons it is too difficult for them to physically attend any church, so they join our Zoom services and meetings, along with all those who live abroad these days.

5. Our current ministry plans are to fellowship with everyone we run into and to pray for them. This is what we can do for people realistically today.

6. We cannot make any future plans right now. Many members of our church decided to stay in their countries of emigration for the upcoming winter. Ukraine is expecting a very severe winter without heating. Many of our church members have been left without jobs and means of support. The church is doing our best to support them.

The money we had been planning to spend on a new church premise, we are now spending on helping the people who have nothing to live on. Last week, we sent \$100 to each person who has no job, especially those who are retired. This is, of course, a drop in the sea, but we are doing all we can. The most realistic and practical help needed today is financial.

We have not yet discussed any potential dates of returning to Kyiv.

Thank you very much for your prayers and support! It is very important for us to have friends at such a difficult time!

May the Lord bless you and strengthen each of you. We pray for you, too.

Pastor Vladimir and Istochnik church council