

Stovers to Germany



October-December 2023

PRAISES:

- * Church visitors
- * Jon in language school
- * Opportunities to witness in our classes
- * Simeon growing

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- * Souls to receive the Gospel
- * Opportunities to share Christ with our classmates:
 - Specifically: Irina, Sergei, and Nikol
- * Language studies
- * Growth of the church
- * Simeon's homeschooling

Frohe Weihnachten!

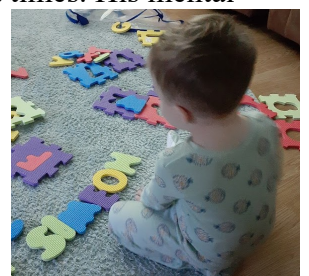


The Christmas season is here again! It is hard to believe that we have spent an entire year in our apartment. Thank you again for everyone who prayed for us to find this place. God has truly blessed us! So much has happened in this past year and we have so much to be thankful for. There have been many setbacks, but God's timing is always perfect, and we know His way is best! He has continued to answer our prayers, and we know that is in large part because of you faithful prayer partners!

Perhaps the biggest bit of news is that I have finally begun language school. I had been keeping an eye on the class schedule and noticed that a new course was beginning in November. If you recall, Lena had begun a short integration course for ladies. One of the ladies in her class mentioned receiving a letter to attend class but that she was not available to do so. Since I had not received any letters yet, and since the online schedule stated that there was one place available, we decided to visit in person and request if that place was still available. God gave us favor, and they registered me for the course. Thank you so much for your prayers; our ability to communicate has been major prayer request over this past year, and we are excited to see God moving to help us progress.

Both of our classes are giving us opportunities to spread the Gospel. In Lena's class, she has been able to invite some of the ladies to church. One of them, Irina, came with us to church the first Sunday of December. In my class, I had an opportunity to share my faith when talking about occupations. God has used this to allow me to talk to several of my classmates already. Some of them want to know why I left the United States to come to Germany, and others want to talk about what kind of pastor I am. A man named Sergei talked with me for some time, telling me he was also a Baptist who was baptized last fall. Neither of our language skills are to the point where we could communicate well with each other, but pray that God would use these opportunities to reach people with the Gospel and teach disciples to observe all that Jesus commanded. Pray also for our neighbor Nikol. She is planning to come to church with us on Christmas Eve. Pray that the Gospel will reach her!

Lena and Simeon are doing well, although adjusting to school hours has been a new experience for us. Simeon's obedience some days is better than others, but overall, he seems to be coming to terms with the new schedule. His high energy has been challenging, and it is hard not to feel overwhelmed at times. His mental growth has been amazing to watch, and he loves "reading" Bible stories with us. Pray that God keeps his heart hungry to know the Bread of life.



In Christ,

Jon & Olena Stover

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