

News from Roman

and the Ukrainian New Hope Team

August 2009



Dear Friends,

Finally, we know who we are expecting and can share with you. It's a girl. Irene wants to name her Anna, like her sister. The baby is very active and kicks hard. We expect her to be born at the end of September – beginning of October. Irene doesn't feel bad, just tired. She went to Poland to see a Professor to consult with her diabetes and an ophthalmologist to have a check-up and laser micro coagulation of the eye-ground vessels. The

results appeared to be pretty good. She and Mathew have been staying with me in Lviv almost all of June. At the beginning of July, Irene had to stay for a while in the hospital (by Maternity House) to have some check-ups. So, she returned to Lutsk.

Mathew is growing very fast and is becoming more independent. He tries to do many thing for himself (what he can't do well enough, we help him with) and learns very quickly to imitate what we do. He prays before every meal and has learned to eat like an adult, using a fork. His favorite meal is buckwheat and sour cream. And his favorite toys are a shovel, hoe, and the vacuum cleaner. He doesn't like the sound of a working vacuum cleaner but can 'clean' a house all day long when it's off.

One Sunday, our music band was invited to a wedding of a friend who had a banquet in traditional Ukrainian style. Mathew was the youngest walking person in the party and enjoyed the music and clapping his hands. I hope he will inherit an ear for music from his grandparents and parents. Meanwhile, he can 'play' a toy pipe and drums very well and loud.

Between taking care of Mathew and carrying our new baby, Irene has had some time for doing translations for New Hope. She is now working on a book named, "*Where is God When It Hurts?*" by Philip Yancey. It looks to be a promising book for many people. Irene loves to read and to do translations and, having such a gift, she is a great help for me when I work on many documents, curriculums, and books.

Lately I've been busy helping our workers prepare for summer events. We had many meetings with regional leaders, pastors, and representative of other ministries. I hope all of those meetings will help build partnerships for the benefit of God's Kingdom!

The New Hope Ukraine team continues to work hard, and we have had very positive results in youth ministry and school programs. We provide trainings for youth pastors on programs that can be used in public schools. Recently, I had a meeting with an associate youth pastor of Belarus Baptist Union. He came to learn about New Hope and find a way for partnership with New Hope because he had heard many positive things about our



Roman Matviyiv



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ministry in Ukraine. I shared with Uriy Plehov about New Hope values, goals, and spheres of ministry. He was very interested in public school ministry and the way New Hope equips local churches to reach the next generation for Christ. Uriy was very excited about possible opportunities that many churches in Belarus can have through the New Hope ministry. Please pray for wisdom for us so that we may take little, but right steps, in order to mobilize churches in Belarus.

A couple of weeks ago, we organized a practical workshop for children ministers. Representatives from 17 churches with their helpers improved their skills in ministry for children during this workshop that was organized by New Hope. A team from the US brought hundreds of ideas, games, programs, and craft ideas to share with Ukrainian children's ministers. Such a workshop was especially helpful because many of the children's workers were preparing for summer activities.

I love to share stories about successes in ministry but at the same time feel the need to share with you about some difficulties. One program where we face many difficulties is the Bible Corresponding Courses for children. The number of children in this program has dropped since the beginning of 2009. The main reason is that the cost of envelopes and stamps has almost doubled. Many children stopped writing us. During the last two months, the situation has started to change, and some children have renewed correspondence with us. But correspondence is not as active as it used to be. Increased postal service costs have also had an influence on New Hope's capability of producing and distributing the Bible Correspondence lessons. Right now, we are looking for ways to use the Internet for online Bible lessons so that Bible lessons could be used by many teenagers enrolled in Bible Correspondence Courses program. This would make Bible lessons available for larger groups of teens and youth who use Internet. This is a very important step, because the number of teens and youth who use Internet is growing fast.

Friends, I want to ask you to pray for wisdom and creativeness from the Lord to find the best ways we can improve this program in order to reach more children for Christ. Also, you are welcome to share your ideas or help us with this program. I would appreciate your input, prayers, and support for this program.

Thank you, dear friends, for all you do for us so that we can be involved in New Hope ministry. It's a joy to have you as ministry partners and family friends.

Praise God that:

- Irene feels well, and we look forward to when the Lord will allow us to see our new daughter.
- We've made good progress in Youth ministry and opportunities to mobilize churches in Belarus.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom and creativeness as we try to transfer the Bible Correspondence course to the Internet.
- Finances for the existing Bible Correspondence Course and development of the website for online courses.
- And please, continue to pray for Irene's health and that of our soon to arrive daughter.

Your Brother in Christ,

Roman

