

The Hearron Family Newsletter

Second Quarter 2020

Missionaries to Russia

On the field since 1996



DUE TO SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA, US POSTAL MAIL DOES NOT COME TO CRIMEA
My new telephone is: +7 (978) 069-6506 (Moscow Time Zone)

Greetings from Crimea

Yes, we are still in Crimea. Actually, it has been impossible to leave due to the severe restrictions on travel because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Russia, like most of the world, began to lock down the country in early March. Our family was fortunate that our trip to the US Consulate in Moscow was not called off. We barely got there and back home before the airlines stopped flying. Although there are a few flights in and out of Moscow, these are mainly for repatriation of Russian citizens trapped abroad.

New Passports for the Kids

We left Simferopol on March 11, spent the night at the airport in Moscow, and drove early the next morning by taxi to the US Consulate. We left the hotel early in order to avoid traffic to ensure our on-time arrival for our appointment at 08:00. Well, we missed the traffic and ended up at the consulate almost two hours early. It was a windy freezing day and we were dressed in light clothing. After shivering for several minutes in the cold, we gathered our bearings and found a coffee house a short walk from the consulate. The tea and coffee warmed our chilled bodies.

After coffee and tea, we returned to the consulate and was able to bypass the long line of Russian nationals, gain entrance, and passed security, after which, we ended up first in line for our appointment. In all, the process went smoothly. We were able to convince the consular officer to allow the kids to keep their old passports since we needed them to return back to Crimea that afternoon. They made an exception and validated them as a duplicate passport.

The Lord was good by allowing us to complete all this and make it back to the airport for our return flight that afternoon at 15:00. On the way back to the airport, I asked the taxi driver to stop at McDonalds and Krispy Cream Donuts. I picked up a bag of burgers and two boxes of donuts to eat in our hotel room before catching our flight to Crimea. Needless to say, the kids were ecstatic. McDonalds was forced to leave Crimea, after the annexation by Russia.

Because we live in a sanctioned part of Russia, the US Consulate was not allowed to directly mail the new passports to us. The consulate agreed to mail them to a missionary in Krasnoyarsk. He then forwarded them to our family via a courier service. ***Praise the Lord our kids have brand new passports good for five years.***

Crimean Medical Student Ministry

Our ministry with our medical students continues in a limited capacity because of the pandemic. We try to stay connected via video chat. They were at first quarantined to their dorms but now are able to leave to buy items of need. Occasionally, we are able to video conference in addition to sending them sermons to read.

In June, we begin meeting at our home. Of course, we follow social distancing measures. Pray for our students. Some are graduating this year and will return to their home countries. Pray that the seed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, planted in their hearts, will one day bring forth fruit. We are happy that one young lady has already been saved, during our time in Crimea. Only in eternity will the fruit of our labor in Crimea be made known.

Until then, pray for each of us as we take the next steps in our family's journey, in God's will.

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