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Greater Europe Mission

Gregory and Debby Nichols

Serving In Eastern Europe

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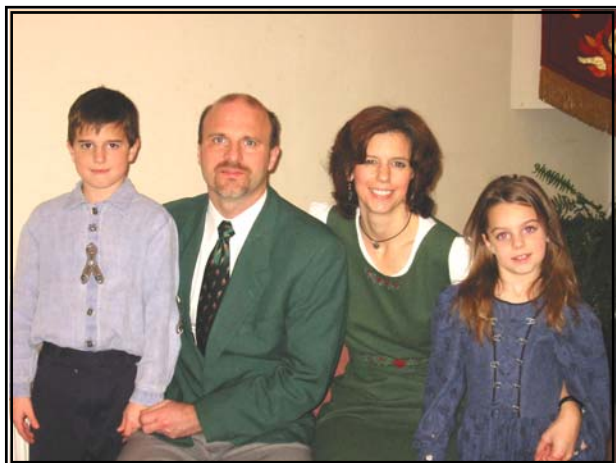
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Family Update

Dear Praying friends,

It has been a while since the Nichols have checked in with you and that is perhaps due to the very busy schedule that they have had. We will let you get a look at that schedule and catch you up a bit on all the exciting things in the past and future of their ministry. So sit back and enjoy the glimpses.



FAMILY NEWS

The last several months have seen the Nichols involved with the Greater Europe Mission's regional retreat, visitors including the mission's pastors from College Church, supervision of the construction team from Wheaton Bible Church, two birthdays, and their fifteen year wedding anniversary. It has been an exciting spring.



Some of you may know that Debby's backpack was stolen out of the car as she picked up the children after school one day. At 3:30 PM, with three witnesses standing near, two teenagers drove through the school's parking lot on a motorcycle, smashed the passenger side window, grabbed the bag, and drove off. Most of the important items have been replaced or are in the process of being replaced. It could have been much worse but still, it is an unexpected "bump" that eats away at time and the soul.

Gregory's elbow is nearly fully healed. He has full retraction mobility but limited extension mobility. It will be checked again this summer to see what the long range issues may be.

TEACHING

Greg has been teaching the Church History course this past semester. The students seem to be very keen on the subject this year and have enjoyed it much. He also has been spending time with the residential male students in a discipleship group.

Debby continues to teach piano to her students. She has grade school children as well as seminary students. She has been trying hard to get the seminary students ready to play in a church service before they leave campus this May.

STUDYING

Greg was able to take a few days away for his Ph.D. studies and continues to progress in that area. He has found some good Russian sources for his topic and continues to close the gaps as he writes about the life and theology of Ivan Kargel.

Nic and Selina are enjoying their studies at Riverside School. Though they had two weeks off for Easter, they continued in their studies with mom at home each morning. Nic is trying to catch up in mathematics (or as they call it in his school, “Maths”) and Selina is working hard to better her reading skills. They both continue to work hard and enjoy the environment they are in. Both of them have found a good friend in some of IBTS’s professor’s children. This is a great answer to prayer.

CHURCH MINISTRIES



Greg continues to lead worship and preach at the Sharka Valley Community Church. He also has helped create a mid-week-Bible study that most of the IBTS students attend weekly. Debby continues to work with the music ministry and finds it most intriguing. There are so many styles and ideas from the many cultures that are represented at the church and the seminary. This is a challenge at times but also very exciting to see how worship may look in heaven some day. The WOW (Wonders Of Worship) time, which Debby initiated, for the children continues. Debby has also started a new project called JAM (Jesus And Me or Just Awesome Music) which is just developing as we write. Tonight is the first JAM session. We are expecting all the church’s musicians to met together and bring their instruments and songs. We want them

to introduce and experiment with traditional as well as contemporary musical venues. It is our hope that they can be translated and used in our church as well as their home churches.

On Easter morning, the Nichols helped organize a “Resurrection walk”. It was a family walk where the church’s families searched for the risen Christ throughout the valley near our church. In the end we celebrated by singing praise songs, as the other morning walkers listened to our voices. It was an experience we will not forget.

STUDENTS

Our Certificate of Applied Theology students will be graduating May 22. With this comes uncertainty for many of them. Some of them will be going back to their university studies in their home countries, others are hoping to go into ministry, and two of them have decided to continue at IBTS to get their Masters degree. Please pray for those who still do not know what God will have them do after graduation. Also pray for the continuing Master’s level students who still have another six to twelve months of study. Pray that God would open paths of ministry for them as well.



Please Pray

1. Thank God for the protection and healing He has shown to the Nichols
2. Thank God for the friendships that the children have been developing.
3. Pray for the Certificate of Applied Theology students who are graduating in May.
4. Pray for the remaining Master’s level students.

Gregory Nichols