

## Incoming Students

### Gregory and Debby Nichols

*Serving In Eastern Europe*

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Dear Friends and Family,

The new academic year is settling into a routine and I would like to update you on our lives. Nic and Selina are enjoying another year at Riverside School. Nicolas is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and in the high school building this year. He changes classes and must keep track of his own homework. Selina is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and has a male teacher for the first time. She is doing a good job with her reading issues but that is still a concern to us. Nic enjoys several after-school activities such as tennis, soccer, and a fishing club taught by a man from Alaska. Selina enjoys her drama classes and horseback riding. She has had her first fall from the horse and is gaining confidence in her skills.

Debby's Supra Ventricular Tachycardia has entered a remission of sorts which we believe is due to your prayers and God's help. She still teaches piano and works at the seminary with the book shop and the daily tea time. She also enjoys her weekly Bible Study with some other missionary women. They are studying two books and meet weekly for three hours. It is a real commitment but she sees it as an anchor in her hectic schedule.

This year, our Certificate of Applied Theology program is made up of 12 students from 10 countries. The students are from Russia, Kosovo, Spain, Serbia / Montenegro, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Ukraine, Korea, and Kazakhstan. It is a very diverse group yet they are developing into a good study community. As moderator of our campus church, I had the privilege to interview them for membership. Let me tell you about a few of them.



Liridon

Liridon is from Kosovo. He and his mother became Christians during their time in a refugee camp. Since then, they have helped start a new Baptist Church in Rahovec, Kosovo. Liridon is planning to return to help lead that new church when he finishes this year of study.

Ilja and Volodymyr are brothers who grew up in Ukraine. Their father studied at the Greater Europe Mission Bible School in Zaporozhye, Ukraine. After several years in Kiev, the family moved to Kazakhstan where their father has become the director of a new Bible School in Almata. They are not sure where they will minister once they finish their study here in Prague but the door is open to return to Kazakhstan to assist their father in that work.



Ilja & Volodymyr



Kim

Kim is from a Christian family in Korea but served in the army. He was assigned as an aide to a general who happened to be a committed Christian. The general's entire staff accompanied him to church and it was there that Kim heard the gospel in a fresh way and recommitted his life to Christ. He is in Prague because his aunt owns a Korean restaurant here. When he learned of our CAT program, he quickly applied and is considering what his next move will be after he completes this program.

My work at the seminary involves many different aspects of campus life. I am leading the mentoring group for the residential graduate students. We meet weekly for accountability, discussions, and prayer. One man in this group is from

India. He and his wife served as missionaries in the Indian islands in the Bay of Bengal. He is here at IBTS working on a doctorate in Applied Theology which will help in his teaching at a seminary in Hyderabad, India. Another member of the group is a former student from my time in Odessa. Sasha completed the bachelor's program at the Odessa Theological Seminary and is now in the Master's program here at IBTS. When he completes this degree, he hopes to return to Ukraine to teach in one of the newly developed Bible Schools.

In addition to my mentoring group, I am teaching the Church History course as well as trying to finish the rough draft of my dissertation on Ivan Kargel and the Holiness Movement among the Russian-speaking Baptists. I still lead the social committee which tries to make sure all the students have beneficial events to build community and let them experience this beautiful city of Prague. I will soon pass on my responsibility as Moderator of our campus church, having completed a year as the pastor of that church. It has been a busy year but God has been faithful. We have been able to see His hand at work in the church this year as our attendance has grown and our weekly Bible Studies have added depth to some of the younger believers.

Thank you for your consistent support, both financially and through prayer. Our support account is able to provide us with the needed resources to complete the ministry which the Lord has asked us to accomplish. We have also been able to provide several donations to students through the gifts of our supporters which have enabled them to continue their studies here at the International Baptist Theological Seminary. Our plans are to finish this academic year and begin our furlough in July 2007 and to be in the United States for one year. It is hard to believe that we have been here in Prague nearly four years. God is good. There are still times when we miss Odessa, Ukraine but we have found much here at IBTS to keep our hands busy.

*Gregory Nichols*

**Please Pray**

- 1. For guidance as Greater Europe Mission selects their next president.**
- 2. For our students here at IBTS, that they would grow spiritually and academically.**
- 3. For our family's physical and spiritual health.**

