



**Summer 2017**

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Dear friends and family,

Wow, this year has been flying by for me. January through May I was busy with three Graduate courses and working as a Teaching Assistant (TA) for a four course. Through these God has provided many learning opportunities and great experiences I would not otherwise have had. For example, while being a TA I had to teach the class for one full class period. This would have been terrifying and I would have lacked confidence about what I was doing, if I had not learned how to train and teach adults in a class I took last fall. Because of that class (and the professor who is very good at what he does), I not only was confident about the class session I had planned, but I enjoyed it, the students gave a ton of positive feedback, and the professor said I "hit it out of the ballpark"! I learned a lot through that TA job.

Along a similar line, I have been given the opportunity to help the professor I was a TA for, revise his course! It's called Principles of Translation and it's one of the foundational courses for those being trained for Bible translation. I never anticipated I would be doing this, but I'm glad God is bringing these unexpected learning experiences and opportunities my way!

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**Training**

As you know I'm in the training phase of becoming a translation specialist and full-time missionary. For the past 22 months I have been focusing on the graduate school training I need for my future ministry. With excitement, I am happy to say that only one more course and my comprehensive exam stand between me and my receiving an MA in Linguistics and Exegesis from the Canada Institute of Linguistics (CanIL) and Trinity Western University! Lord willing, I will have both of these complete by the end of August this year!

**Trip**

Another immensely important task I have been working on for the past 7 months is planning an exploratory trip to the area of Russia that God has put on my heart. The main purpose of this trip will be to gain a better understanding of the local situation and for me to have a clear idea of where I will go back to for my first term overseas. Some categories I will be looking into are housing, transportation, a school to study Russian at, networking with other missionaries and local people, what churches in Russia would be important to connect with, and other practical logistics of living there.

You can be praying that God will send more Pioneer Bible Translator missionaries to serve in the location I am interested in; because I am currently the only PBT person who will be there. Don't worry, PBT will not send me there alone. Even if no PBT personnel are there, my on the ground "team" will consist of missionaries from other organizations who are in the same city and area as me. God has already been providing these kinds of non-PBT people to partner with the ministry God is calling me to in Russia; but there it would be very helpful to also have like-minded missionaries with the same organization as I am.

While my trip to Russia should be in October and November, I still have a lot of details to work out. Buying plane tickets. Applying for a visa. Figure out a budget and raise enough funds to be able to go on the trip.

## **Prayer**

God has also been teaching me about prayer. I regret not keeping you all more informed in the past several months of the many ways you could have been praying for me. I think one of Satan's tactics in battling against God's people is to keep us from reaching out to others for prayer. To get us to not admit our needs and weaknesses. To isolate us and make us feel we have to be perfect and have everything together before we can tell others how we really are. Prayer shows our dependence on God and I want God to help me show my dependence on Him more freely. So I'm asking you to pray that God would do this in me, and for your commitment to lift up to God the prayer requests I send to you. I would also love to hear back from each one of you as to how I can pray for you! It goes both ways. When someone shares their prayer requests with me, I am grateful for the privilege I have in seeking God's face and will for them on their behalf. What a blessing it is later to hear how God came through for them! By God's grace, I hope to share my prayer requests with you more often when they are especially relevant.

## **Timeline**

By the end of August, I need to . . .

- Finish (and pass) the Sociolinguistic Survey course
- Take my Comprehensive Exam (passing = getting my Masters degree!)
- Buy plane tickets for my Russia trip
- Apply for a visa
- Finalize the trip budget
- Finish doing work for my Research Assistant position
- Say good goodbyes to all the people in BC that God has blessed me with during my time here!

These are just some of the things on my plate right now. I could definitely use pray for balancing these things and all the other things I haven't mentioned.

## **Additional specific prayer requests I haven't already mentioned:**

- Pray that God would help me take every thought captive to obey Christ and think on what is true.

- Pray for God to help me focus on the one task in front of me and not become frozen in the face of all the different tasks I need to do.

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If I can persuade you, please send me a quick reply when you get this or when you get a few minutes. It can be as brief or long as you would like and have time for.

I would love to hear how you are doing, what's going on in your lives, and how I can be praying for you. This helps me stay connected to you all. It would also be encouraging for me to hear what you are praying for me, Scripture verses and/or songs that have spoken to you, and advice you have from a similar situation as me or some nugget of wisdom that you've gained.

You'll be hearing again from me sooner than later. :)

And remember, I covet your prayers. Isn't it wonderful that our Father is a God who hears our prayers.

I will leave you with this verse that I've been meditating on lately: "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly." Psalm 84:11

My prayer: Lord, please help us to trust You when we don't understand how You are giving us every good thing. When it feels like You don't have our best in mind, please grant us the grace to be honest with You and for You to give us a greater measure of faith in You, for You are faithful and Your mercies are new every morning. In Christ's name, amen.

Blessings,  
Hannah