



I am back in Canada, studying away in what will be my last semester as a full time graduate student. The time has flown and it's hard to believe that I've been here this long and am almost done with my program. God has been faithful!

Medical Update:

As I mentioned in my December newsletter; I had an MRI done to rule out what is causing my migraines. The results came back negative; clear. This means there is nothing wrong with my brain or head. I also had my eyes checked to see if my prescription had changed and that was causing migraines. Again, nothing is wrong with my eyes, so that's the problem. This is great news! It's still somewhat frustrating to not know what is causing the migraines, but I am trusting God as I move forward.



I love my family!

From left to right: Sister-in-law Jenna, Zach, me, Dad (Scott), Mom (Sara), Isaiah, Rachel. Grandpa and Grandma Ely in front (Lew & Gloria).

My Courses this Semester:

Russian #2

My Russian language and culture learning course is going well. I am learning quite a lot of new aspects of the Russian language and culture. I am continually reminded of what a blessing I have been given to be able to take these courses now before I physically arrive in a Russian speaking part of the world. My professor, a Russian, is like a bridge between his culture and the North American culture. Later this semester, my whole class will visit a Russian speaking church in Vancouver and practice communicating in Russian!

Discourse Analysis

This course is about the concrete ways language is used in narrative stories, though some abstract principles are employed. I am privileged to be able to use a Russian story for the class project. We had to choose a language other than English, so naturally I asked my Russian professor for help in finding an appropriate story. So now I get to learn more about how the Russian language is used in two different classes. Though in Discourse Analysis, I learn about Russian mainly from my own analysis of it.

Semantics and Pragmatics

This course is online, but the professor that teaches my Discourse Analysis class is the prof for this course as well. This means I can talk to him in person if necessary. Semantics has to do with the meaning of words and sentences. Pragmatics, in short, is the study of the meaning that the speaker intends to communicate. These are very simple definitions, but are the basics of what I am learning. This course is by far my toughest this semester. Not only is there a lot of reading, but it is very dense and abstract, both of which make reading harder and considerably slower. I am thankful that I had already worked it out with my professor to be able to finish the two big assignments of this course over the summer semester instead of by mid-April.



We've had more snow in BC than they usually get in Langley.
(I captured this beautiful scene in South Dakota.)

Next Steps:

The most immediate next step is finishing this semester. In addition to taking 3 courses, I am also a Teacher's Assistant (TA) for the Principles of Translation course, which I took a year ago. This is a great experience, not only because I get to learn how to grade, but to get to practice teaching, and to review the course material. Each week I usually grade two of the student's assignments. I taught a week and a half ago. Because of the course I took last semester and the amazing professor, I now feel confident preparing to facilitate (teach), knowing how to connect with my learners (students), and helping the students learn. My teaching experience went great! I'm always learning, adjusting and improving.

Reviewing the principles of translation is great preparation for the comprehensive exam I will take this summer to conclude my Masters of Linguistics and Exegesis. This summer I plan to take my last course, and study for and write this exam.

Currently, my PBT director and I are in the process of planning my vision trip to Siberia later this fall. The ultimate purpose of this trip is to discover the location I will begin my missionary service. There are a great number of details to be worked out, not only for this trip but also for my ministry plan after that.

Please be praying for God to open doors and direct me as I follow Him through these next steps. Pray for me to have an extra measure of faith and trust in the One who knows the end from the beginning.



More winter wonderland!

Prayer Points

- Plans for my vision trip to fall into place
- Making margins in my life so it's not overly stressful
- Healing from migraines, if that be God's will for me

Thanksgiving

- My MRI came back negative
- No migraines for 7+ weeks!
- My own room
- A God who is sovereign
- Friends and family
- You!

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