

LITHUANIA REPORT

February 22, 2008



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Kaunas 3000
Lithuania

Language courses moving along

In December's report I stated that Sondra and I will be teaching English language lessons on a part-time basis. This endeavor will supplement our income which continues to dwindle due to the falling dollar. In preparation we used the end of December and much of January to refurbish a two-room office. After laying down new carpet and repainting the walls this office space is now suitable for classroom use. A sign was posted on the door and a website www.speakenglish.lt created to advertise our English language courses (from ages three to adult). We already have a Saturday class running for three and four year olds, several private students and a handful of adults in our general courses. Though the pace is slow, it is moving according to plan. As with many European countries English language courses are in demand and the competition is stiff. Nevertheless, Sondra and I have

competitive advantages enabling us to steal a few crumbs that fall from the table. We expect larger groups come September.

Progress with Sondra's green card. Sondra finally received the invitation to appear in Warsaw, Poland for an interview on March 10. A tedious process of document gathering preceded this final step and we will be thankful that all will be finished come March 10. And if I may share a self-effacing note, I will admit that while returning from Brno, Czech Republic last winter I was lost for 4 hours in Warsaw trying to find a way through!?! Again, we have no plans to move to the States. But with the green card we can bypass the tourist visa process when visiting the States with my Lithuanian wife. And as a sojourner here, I will have the assurance that I can leave Lithuania with my whole family with little or no frustration if any future circumstances would force our departure.



The Kaunas church

Sickness among the children has hindered our midweek studies through the winter. Nevertheless, the church recently concluded the law/gospel study. A study on the head covering will follow.

We are currently coordinating a July visit from Jeremy Dehut. Jeremy, [a preacher in Indianapolis](#), will come with three others for a lengthy two-week gospel agenda in Kaunas. It has been many years since we have had such vigorous input and therefore we want to maximize our effort with early planning.

In January the radiator in Onuta's kitchen broke. We discussed her solution and she is adamant about waiting till Spring to replace it. For now she will keep the kitchen door closed. Because she is a pensioner of little means the families have made donations to help her cover the cost of a new radiator.

With the new year comes new year's resolutions. The church enjoys a successful start in a year-long Bible-reading program.

The Jonava church is being tested. They still gather throughout the week but were going through a period where they were not constantly gathering to worship on Sunday. I encouraged them by emphasizing the significance of meeting on Sunday. Later, we were pleased to hear of their renewed meetings on the Lord's day.

The two Christian teenagers, Ieva and Sondra, are not being ministered to adequately. The family recently moved to another location which is located further from Jonava. The two are also helping out with raising their newborn brother. And transportation difficulties also stands in the way. Thus, the two are not able to fellowship with the others.

Church website producing mixed results. I am happy to report increased visits since I redesigned the website in October. The site even provokes several questions a month. However, the site has failed to generate any healthy correspondence or visitors to our assemblies or Bible studies in the past quarter. I do realize that the website is an auxiliary tool for the church and wields a limited influence. Nevertheless, it has served as a necessary, informational reference when we were going through bureaucratic channels to secure a temporary meeting place in Jonava.

Even more red tape. Evidently the family is passing through a dismal season of bureaucracy. On top of the paper shuffling to obtain Sondra's business certificate and her green card, I am trying to finish my own formalities to obtain my residence visa. Tis true that a lovely wife and children will keep an honest man humble. And the proverb also rings true with annual residence visas. Regretfully my American sensibilities allowed me to oversee a critical detail in filing this year's visa application. The several documents that required notarization required international notarization. I just turned them in with plain, vanilla notarization. However, they wanted an "apostille" from America. I thought that we might open the New Testament and find twelve of them. Humor aside, my negligence de-



PHOTO KEY:

page 2: <TL> Gediminas and daughter sledding down a hill <TR> Fausta, Fiona and Atlė in the bike buggy <TR> Gediminas and Indrė at the midweek Bible study.

page 3: <TM> Fausta at her Suzuki violin lessons

layed my application and distressed the immigration officers.

Parting words...

We continue to rely on your prayers and support, brethren. God bless you for your zeal and may God bless all our efforts to His glory.

Peace be to you,

Lee and Sondra

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Magazine Feature:

Two years ago, "Mamos" magazine featured us in an article on mixed families (Lithuanian/American couple). Last month, "Tavo Vaikas" magazine featured Sondra and our oldest daughter, Fausta. The article articulated Fausta's early reading ability at 3 1/2 years in conjunction with Sondra's teaching methods.

(<http://www.tavovaikas.lt/newnumber/102/60.html>)

