

Praying Through the Month

*Mark and Donna McDonnel
Kiev, Ukraine (on home assignment in Katy, Texas)
for March 2008*

UPDATE

Thank you so much for praying, dear friends!

Here at the beginning I would like to let you know that we have a blog. The address is <http://mcdonnel.wordpress.com> This is yet another way to keep up with us, if you are interested!

We want to thank you for continuing to pray for some items that are repeated each month. In many of these cases, the issue is still unresolved, but we are confident that faithful prayer will make difference.

Thank you for praying for our health. Mark finally got the cough that hung on for two weeks. We normally have so few health issues; it was a good reminder of our – is complacency the right word? – towards the gift of physical health.

Our dear friends and co-workers Genna and Armie Friesen are thankful for good news about Genna's health. Genna had been hospitalized this past week because he was unable to eat or drink. After an MRI, the doctors have decided to give Genna's body a time to recuperate and will not be continuing chemotherapy at this time. They are also thankful for his sustaining presence during this long trial. Please continue to lift up this family as they wait on the Lord in this process.

Our church in Kiev has gone to two morning services. It is exciting to know there is the need and we look forward to returning to this wonderful body this summer. Do pray for the church as this will also mean new challenges to the body's cohesiveness and as the church continues to grow in leadership.

Finally, we are so excited to report that the Lord has brought our support up above 80%! It is now, technically, almost 83%, but we just received word this week of three more significant increases which are not yet part of that figure!

May the Lord bless you for your continued prayer on our behalf. The things we mention here are on our hearts and we are thankful that you are willing to lift them up with us, sharing in our ministry in a special way. We are truly blessed.

Mark and Donna McDonnel

Praying Through the Month

Mark and Donna McDonnel
Kiev, Ukraine (on home assignment in Katy, Texas)
for March 2008

FOR PRAYER

1. Pray for Oksana and Yulia and the safe delivery of their babies this month. Conditions at typical hospitals can sometimes lead to unnecessary difficulties and tragedies.
2. Pray that we, as believers, would be responsive to the Lord's working in our lives. It is so easy to be/become lethargic as we live in this place where things are so easy, comfortable. We desire to hear his voice and respond quickly, not only when we are in trials and struggles, but also when we are well and physically at ease.
3. Pray for Donna's father's salvation. He seems very closed to speaking about God on a more personal level. Pray that we can speak very plainly with him in these remaining months in the U.S.
4. Pray for "Dimitri" as he works on a discipline in his life. Pray especially that the Lord's voice would prevail as he faces opposition from the enemy and his flesh in this journey.
5. Pray for Alexander, who leads the handicapped ministry at our church. He has significant health problems – high blood pressure, heart problems – which are exacerbated by his saying 'yes' whenever he's called, day or night. Pray for wisdom, discipline, and courage to establish and follow through on priorities.
6. Pray for Margaret McDonnel as she watches our children while we are away at a missions conference in Dallas. Pray that the Lord would give her grace, peace, and physical rest. Mark's father will be out of town and she will be managing alone.
7. Pray for our pastor in Kiev in his role as pastor. Pray for discernment, scriptural wisdom, and godly counsel. Pray also for protection from the enemy, who would seek to tear Peter and his family down as they do this vital work.
8. Pray for those in leadership in our church in Kiev, that the Lord would also give them discernment, scriptural wisdom, and godly counsel as they serve in the church. Pray for their families and family relationships.
9. Pray that we would keep our focus on the Lord as a family. Pray that we would be disciplined in the things we ought, and that we would be gracious and patient with each other.
10. Pray for our teammate John White as he serves at Donetsk Christian University. Pray for peace and joy as he teaches and works in the administration. Pray also for the Lord's financial provision. It has been difficult to pay salaries and utilities for some time.
11. Pray for Sasha as he makes daily choices to balance ministry demands with home life. Pray for vision about what he wants for his family and courage to consistently follow through.
12. Pray for Lydia as she cares for her aging parents. Pray for grace and patience; although they are physically very limited, they are often antagonistic towards Lydia and her family. Pray especially for their salvation.
13. Pray for Oksana to deal with a serious reconciliation issue. Pray that she would humble her heart, determine to be obedient to the Lord, and go the party in question right away. Much time has passed since the offense, and it has become very easy to push this issue aside. Her obedience in this matter would have a huge impact in a larger sphere. Pray also for her husband to compassionately support her in this.

14. Pray for Ukrainian church leaders to be transparent servants, dealing honestly and biblically with sin and forgiveness. Church culture commonly practices covering up personal sin, harshly condemning, and not seeking biblical restoration.
15. Pray again for Donna's father's salvation. He has been so very closed to speaking about God on a more personal level. Pray that we can speak very plainly with him in these remaining months in the U.S.
16. As Jesus entered Jerusalem the people cried out, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' Pray that we would have our eyes on Jesus as we remember his triumphal entry, looking to him now in anticipation of and in praise for his working in our lives.
17. As Jesus cleared the temple, pray that we would think about how we may have missed the Lord's purposes for us, and that we would be willing to clear out everything in our lives that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.
18. As we remember Jesus teaching in the temple each day of that week, pray that we would be willing to submit our hearts to his life-changing teaching today.
19. Pray that we would examine our hearts today, seeking to honor the Lord in all that we say and do.
20. As Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples, pray that we would be convicted by Jesus' example of obedience that night and that we, too, would submit to the Father's will for us.
21. As we remember the crucifixion, pray that we would take seriously the sin that sent Jesus to the cross, taking today as a fresh opportunity grieve over our sin, confessing and repenting as we remember his death.
22. Pray that as we remember Jesus' being in the tomb, just as death had no mastery over Jesus, we today would strive to count ourselves dead to sin but alive to God in every situation we face.
23. Hallelujah! He is risen! We have new life in Christ and through his death, burial, and resurrection, we have a relationship with the Living God – Praise Him!
24. Pray again for "Dimitri" as he works on a discipline in his life. Pray especially that the Lord's voice would prevail as he faces opposition from the enemy and his flesh in this journey.
25. Pray for Mary to have a tender heart and be sensitive to authority, her own sin, and about obedience. Pray that the Lord would convict her and that she would come to an understanding of her need for salvation.
26. Pray for Donna's brother Darrell, that the Lord would give him wisdom and a heart to seek him. Pray that he would submit to being part of a fellowship of God-honoring believers.
27. Pray for Mark as he continues his work this year of communicating effectively with our supporters, working on course preparation for when he returns to Ukraine this year, and the studying and writing needed to progress in his doctoral studies.
28. Pray for the Lord's provision for the seminary's finances. The difficult Ukrainian economy, inflation both in the U.S. and in Ukraine, and controversies with Russia have made it difficult for the seminary to pay salaries and bills.
29. Please continue to pray for the young married couples in our Kiev church, that they would build solid foundations for their home life, and that they would be teachable. Many young couples struggle with how to build a Christian home, especially in applying things they have not seen modeled in their own lives.
30. Pray again for Donna's father's salvation. He has been so very closed to speaking about God on a more personal level. Pray that we can speak very plainly with him in these remaining months in the U.S.
31. Pray for wisdom about schooling Mary and Abigail this coming year in Ukraine. Pray for vision, clear direction, and getting the materials needed for whichever path we take. We are considering starting Abby in Ukrainian school this year. We are particularly desirous to have Mary regularly involved with some other children; homeschooling can be very isolating in our context.