

Encouragement

INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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MAY MISSION TRIP

Portugal

Porto

We began our trip in the Northern Portuguese city of Porto to a Russian speaking church pastored by Oleg. There we continued our study of the *Attributes of God* by teaching on God's *Faithfulness, Omnipresence and Peace*. Cecilie was also very integral to the ministry by having opportunities to speak to the women on the topic of *submission*.

On Sunday, Pastor Oleg (one of the pastors EII brought to the ShepCon) asked me to preach on the topic of *God's Role for Women* using 1 Timothy 2:9-15. Although Pastor Oleg and the congregation were very pleased with the message, it was reported to us that the senior pastor of the Portuguese church where they meet was less than enthusiastic about my message. We learned that the Portuguese pastor is planning to install his daughter as his replacement once he retires in a couple of years – a decision that appears inappropriate to the Russian speaking group meeting in the church and is not fully accepted by the Portuguese Baptist Union at large. So, after I preached 1 Timothy 2 on Sunday, Pastor Oleg was summoned on Monday by the Portuguese pastor and given an ultimatum – either accept his decision to install his daughter as the next pastor or leave the church! Since the budget and strategic planning of the Russian speaking congregation is 100% controlled by the Portuguese church, Pastor Oleg is facing a very difficult decision about his future in ministry. Please be praying for his decision and future. It is interesting that this situation has occurred while the church heard teaching on the Faithfulness of God. As Hleb mentioned: *'They have a great opportunity to check themselves on whether or not they will be faithful to the teaching of God's Word.'*

Lisbon

In Lisbon, at a sister church of Porto, we also taught on the *Attributes of God* but focused on the attributes of *Truthfulness, Faithfulness and Omnipresence*. We are always very well received by this church which is the sight of our inaugural ministry in Portugal. There is one fellow who always asks questions and many times challenges my teaching. However, this time he was very attentive and just listened. During one of the breaks this man eagerly told Hleb that he gave his daughters an assignment to share everything they heard with their mother who was not able to attend our conference because of her work schedule. We see spiritual growth as they are humbled by the teaching of God's Word each time we visit.

Albufeira

Our final stop in Portugal was Albufeira for a conference on *The Gospel in the Old Testament* at the Russian speaking church now pastored by Hleb. The sessions were well attended by those living in Albufeira and Lagos (located 45 km away). The teaching on Genesis 6 stimulated personal study among the attendees who used the limited theological resources available to them for more research and then even more discussion. One regular attender of the church in Albufeira said that the message on Isaiah 53 enlightened him for the first time. At Hleb's suggestion, I also had the opportunity to challenge his 'flock' on *Worshipping God in Spirit & Truth* from John 4:1-26.

Cecilie had a huge impact on the women in this church. The first night in Albufeira she met with the ladies to have an informal discussion about the practical ways of being submissive to their husbands (some who are non-believers). They all have jobs to assist their poorly paid immigrant husbands to provide for the family. This spurred individual meetings with the women during the remainder of our stay. Hleb's wife, Sasha (pictured), also was greatly encouraged from translating for Cecilie as well as in personal conversation with her.

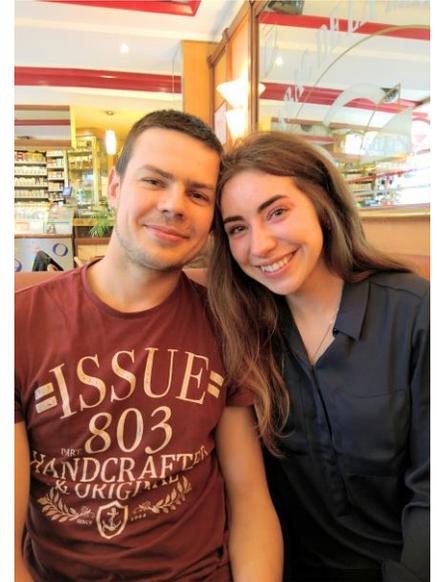


Encouragement INTERNATIONAL, INC.

P O Box 8524, Northridge CA 91327-8524 | 818.772.1177 | encouragementinternational@gmail.com

Paris

The Church of the Living Stones is experiencing a generational shift with the addition of many new young couples. The pastors requested a seminar on relationships including topics on dating, marriage, birth control and living arrangements before marriage. Last January I participated in the wedding of Andriy and Yulia Yefimchik who were eager participants in the conference. Our time in Paris also allowed us to meet personally with them for a fruitful review of how they have been doing in the first 5 months of their marriage and in planning for future life decisions. Cecilie also continued her mentoring of a young mother (Christina) who has many questions for her whenever they get together.



PAT SULLIVAN UPDATE

Pat is back after successful knee surgery and rehab! It was good to have him ministering alongside us once again. In Portugal he was able to share **the Timothy Program** – a men’s mentoring ministry he helped develop and implement at his former church, Scottsdale Bible. In Paris he spoke on his signature topic: ***The Differences Between Men & Women!***

HLEB YERMAKOU UPDATE

Hleb continues to be a vital part of EII’s ministry not only as an untiring translator of our messages but as a keen evaluator of EII’s effectiveness and conference planning. He has also moved smoothly and effectively into his role as Senior Pastor to the Russian speakers in Albufeira, Portugal.

JIM LILJEGREN UPDATE

Jim continues his very fruitful mentoring from afar through skype with EII’s church planting pastors in Western Europe. He is preparing to visit them this coming August.

FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION

Thank you for your continued financial and prayer support. We do not take the Lord’s provision through you for granted! Please prayerfully consider partnering with me in 2016 for the following:

- **\$6,000** (monthly) for EII’s (monthly) ongoing administrative costs (*this is always a challenge especially as we enter into summer*).
- **\$11,000** for the July (\$5,500) and October (\$5,500) ministry trips to the Russian speaking churches of Europe.
- **\$20,000** to bring 20 pastors to the Shepherd’s Conference in **March 2017**. ***Now*** is the time to book the least expensive flights and to allow the pastors to get their visas to the USA. ***The pastors really benefit from this conference. One pastoral team went back to their church and hosted their own conference on Inerrancy, the topic of the 2015 Shepherds Conference.***
- **If you are led to give toward our needs, you may send your tax-deductible contribution to:**
 - Encouragement International, Inc. PO Box 8524 Northridge, CA 91327
 - Or, through **PayPal** at: www.encouragementintl.com, Or, through **Amazon Smile**.

Also, we enjoy hearing from you ... do you have questions regarding our reporting of events on the field? Never hesitate to contact us by phone (818-772-1177) or email (encouragementinternational@gmail.com).

Soli Deo Gloria

Hal

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