



Chase & Vaida Smith

Missionaries to Lithuania

...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Cor 10:31

Pastor and praying friends,

These past couple of months have been a bit trying for us. Back in Feb I got the crazy idea of trying to exercise on a daily basis to try and stay in shape. While doing some pushups I pinched a nerve in my back (or at least it felt something like that). I have had this pain quite a few times, and would get it fixed by visiting my Chiropractor, or if I couldn't, it would typically go away in about a week. This didn't go away, but got worse, much worse. I was in constant pain, could not sleep (I could only lay down for about five minutes before it would flare up real bad), I had a really REALLY difficult time paying attention in class, and I was VERY irritable all the time. After about a month of that I got a hold of my Chiropractor in the states, and he said to see a Neurologist, because I may have a herniated disc. I saw one a day later and had a CT scan, and it turned out that I had two herniated discs. I did some treatments, and now am virtually pain free! The blessing from this is we got to see the Lord carry us through another trial and understand a little bit more on how to pray for others that have intense pain and/or cannot sleep. We went through it for almost two months, and I can't imagine having that most of my life!! I didn't mention this in our last prayer letter, because I didn't have peace about mentioning it, and wanted to wait and see how God would direct us to deal with it.

While my back issue made it hard to pay attention in class, I was still able to learn. I would record the lessons so I could have my wife help me with them after I got home (Vaida even took my dictaphone to school for me to record the lessons when I was in too much pain to make it to class). However, about a month ago, my brain seemed to shut off. Nothing in class was making sense. I couldn't understand what the instructors were saying, let alone translate it into English! I started to dread going to class, I didn't want them to ask me any questions, I was constantly stressed out, and I just wanted to sit there and learn silently. That went on for a couple of weeks, till I finally spoke with our main instructor and told her what was bothering me, and since then my stress level dropped and I was able to understand what they were saying again. Praise the Lord!! Now we have three weeks left till our finals (oral and written exams), so please keep me in your prayers for that!!

We had Resurrection Sunday/Easter Service a couple weeks ago, and I got to help out with the music. I did my first special in Lithuanian (one out of three verses of the song), and it was challenging!! No one laughed (at least not out loud), and they seemed excited to hear a special in their language!

Thanks for your continued prayers and support, as you can see we need them!! God bless!!

Chase and Vaida Smith

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