



Chase & Vaida Smith

Missionaries to Lithuania

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

1 Cor 10:31

Pastor and praying friends,

Thanks for your prayers! We are doing good over here, just trying to stay busy. I have been dealing with a bit of culture shock as of late. I thought that since I have been to many countries while in the Navy that I wouldn't have a problem with culture shock, because I know the people will be different. Well, no matter how many places the Lord has taken me, my brain still processes everything like an American Seabee. All those times when I was deployed or stationed somewhere, I still worked on or off base with other Seabees, but now we are working strictly with Lithuanians. I never gave my wife enough credit, because when we got married she immediately left her family and people to live with me, not just an American, but a crazy Seabee! All those times she would wonder why I did things the way that I did, or why I thought the way that I did (which all made sense to me of course), were a mystery to her, but now, I find myself asking her the same questions about her people. The things that were bothering me before are becoming not quite normal to me, but more of something that I am beginning to expect. They are not bad things, but small things like "why don't people stand in front of the registers in line at McDonald's, in stead of a mob", or "why does everyone rush the doors to get on the bus before they let anyone off", things like that. People everywhere think and do things differently, but no matter the differences between our cultures, some things are universal; man is a sinner, and is in desperate need of a Savior.

I am back in Language School, and studying away. I have been back for about two months now, and Lithuanian is still difficult, but I am getting better. We are praying and thinking about what to do come January though. We are debating on weather we should stay in the capital for a third semester, or go ahead and move to Kuršėnai (Vaida's home town). I tend to speak more Lithuanian when we go there, so that seems to be where I get the most practice. We also have run into Vaida's High School Lithuanian teacher the last three times we went back there, and she said that she is available for tutoring, so that might be an excellent route to further my studies if we do move in Jan. God bless and thanks for your prayers and support!!

Thanks and God bless!!
Chase and Vaida Smith

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