



NOVEMBER 2019

# THE PEREKOTIYS

ODESSA, UKRAINE

SERVING VULNERABLE CHILDREN + UNREACHED PEOPLES THAT THEY WOULD PRAISE + PROCLAIM JESUS CHRIST IN UKRAINE + AROUND THE WORLD!

**Can you imagine growing up in a rural town, never having been grocery shopping, not knowing how to use a map and then moving to a city of more than 1 million people?**

Our friend Jacob is 22 years old and just graduated from Balgrad Deaf Orphanage and Boarding School this spring. He has about 80% of his hearing, but as a true orphan was raised in the orphanage in rural Odessa Region. Now he's moved to the "big city"! He was really nervous about coming to Odessa to study in a technical trade school as an auto mechanic — and rightfully so — Jacob's world was so small. He had never been grocery shopping to cook for himself before. He only knows his dormitory and the tram that goes to the school's garage. His vocabulary is small, and he lacks basic interpersonal skills.

A few weeks ago, Yura met with Jacob to take him out to lunch. Jacob expressed his worries about food and money. Yura asked, "Where's your stipend that you get from the government each month?" Jacob answered that he had already spent the first month on a bunch of new clothes and shoes. He has no idea how to split his money by the week so that he's not starving by the end of the month. Yura helped him buy a bag of potatoes and other groceries to last a week or two. It's going to take lots of time investing in Jacob to help him thrive independently!

The consistent theme we see with graduates from orphanages and boarding schools is a lack of skills and/or knowledge and concept of the future (be it next week or next year!). Even on the biking trips Yura noticed that the teenage boys didn't know how to use basic tools to unscrew a bike wheel or reattach it. Our partners at Heritage have started a Guys Club that meets every Saturday to teach young men skills like woodworking, handicraft and budgeting. Yura is looking forward to joining them when we return to Odessa!

*Would you pray for Jacob to gain wisdom and understand his worth in Jesus? Would you pray for Yura to have wisdom as he takes on mentoring some of these young men as they figure out life after the orphanage or foster home?*



YURA & JACOB PLAYING GAMES AT THE DEAF ORPHANAGE



JACOB & HIS ROOMMATE AT THEIR TRADE SCHOOL GARAGE



**FAMILY UPDATE**

- + We are all together! Thank you for praying for a safe trip for every one. We are currently in Orange Beach waiting on Baby Girl to make her arrival any day now. Lord willing she'll be born when this newsletter goes out!
- + Chambers, Lev and Mila are enjoying the library, parks, boat and Chick-fil A ;)
- + We plan to be in America until New Year's Eve, as long as we can get the birth certificate, social security number and passport in time!

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

- + Smooth labor, delivery and adjustment to a new little one! For all documents to come swiftly so that we don't have to change our plane tickets.
- + Maintaining relationships in Odessa while we are in the States.
- + God to stir the hearts of Ukrainians as they grow in awareness of at-risk families and vulnerable children right around them. In November 2020 we would love to see more than 20 churches in Odessa sharing about Orphan Sunday!

**GIVING TUESDAY**

We are so humbled by the opportunities God has given to us to spread His name! We feel His leading to serve in Ukraine for many more years. In order to stay long-term, we need more ministry partners. If 50 new partners committed to giving \$50 each month, we would be 100% sent out! Would you consider being one of those new partners this giving Tuesday?



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