

Wednesday May 23, 2018

Yesterday was a good day. Ava and I started the day by eating a bowl of oatmeal. It has been years since I ate the mushy stuff but I'm trying to follow doctors' orders. In all honesty it was not as bad as I remember.

Vlad came early and he and I left for Konstantinovka. This city of 100,000 and is located about 25 miles south of Kramatorsk. Everyone here calls it "That Little City." Kramatorsk is about 350,000. The economy is much better in Kramatorsk than in Konstantinovka. The church there consists of mostly elderly women who are widows. I know there is one man in his 30's along with his wife and child. They have struggled for some years to keep the congregation together so keep them in your prayers.

We returned to Kramatorsk at about noon just as Ava and Kate were finishing up with a morning class here. Kate joined us for lunch which turned out to be good because we really needed a translator to talk to the waitress. We would have been able to eat, but there is only so much you can communicate by pointing at pictures. We had a wonderful time just visiting with Kate. She's a single young lady and one of the teachers in the ABC School. I can remember her as a ten and a twelve-year-old student at the ABC school in Konstantinovka. She and several of her friends have wound up being teachers in several towns across this country at church affiliated schools. Kate, as do all the teachers here, has a teaching degree from a university here in Ukraine. Oh by the way, English is her third language. She also speaks Ukrainian and German.

Ava was able to teach a small group of ladies last night on the subject of raising children. These lessons are being well received by the ladies. I'm impressed by her ability to relate to these sweet people. Even with the language barrier her love just pours through and they return it to her. She is defiantly an important part of work on this trip.

Last night we invited the Pazyi's and Kate to have supper with us. Ava fixed some beef roast by slow cooking it until it fell apart (only took two days) then she whipped up something that resembled BBQ sauce and we had sandwiches, olives, potato chips, corn and salad with a home made salad dressing.



Ava and Kate working on different recipes



Kate in her class room with children.



Street construction. No barricades or yellow tape people walking right through the middle of all this.