



Dear Partner,

First, I pray everyone is doing well and staying healthy and safe in this interesting time.

Second, Wow... a whole lot has happened since my last newsletter update! Thank you so much for all of your prayers and support and encouragement. God has been so good, gracious and kind in this new and exciting season in my life. I am so thankful for God's faithfulness in my ministry and personal life. Knowing I have friends all around the world supporting me through prayer, means so much to me! Your prayers and support truly do make it possible for us to continue our ministry here in Ukraine!

WE GOT MARRIED

First and most important update... Ellissa and I got married!!! God blessed me to be able to go to the States in December and Ellissa and I had our wedding January 9th, 2021. We got married in a small church in the beautiful hill country town of Fredericksburg, TX!

I am so blessed to see the way Ellissa's family and community come together to make our wedding possible. We had awesome friends help make all the food (Ukrainian style : borscht, cucumber salad, smoked sausage and dill potatoes),

and serve it. Friends also helped decorate the church and reception beautifully. The body of Christ is amazing.

On March 6th we were blessed to have a Ukrainian wedding reception for my family and friends. It was such a good opportunity to celebrate with some of my family and closest friends.







ADJUSTING TO NEW LIFE IN UKRAINE

I was so blessed and excited to finally return home with my new bride and start our life and ministry together in Ukraine. It's been a good time of growth and adjustment for both Ellissa and I as we navigate this very new season together. God has been growing both of us in so many ways through our marriage and life together. We are so thankful to God that we can finally be together with no more goodbyes... Hallelujah! Ellissa, has been working on learning our local language and we've had a lot of fun practicing speaking Russian together.

NEW FAMILY MEMBER

We are also so excited to introduce our newest family member... Meet Daisy! Our playful, energetic and spunky 3 month old Parson Russell Terrier puppy. We've had a lot of fun attempting to train her and in the meantime keep her away from chewing on our shoes and chair legs. She keeps our life very exciting to say the least!

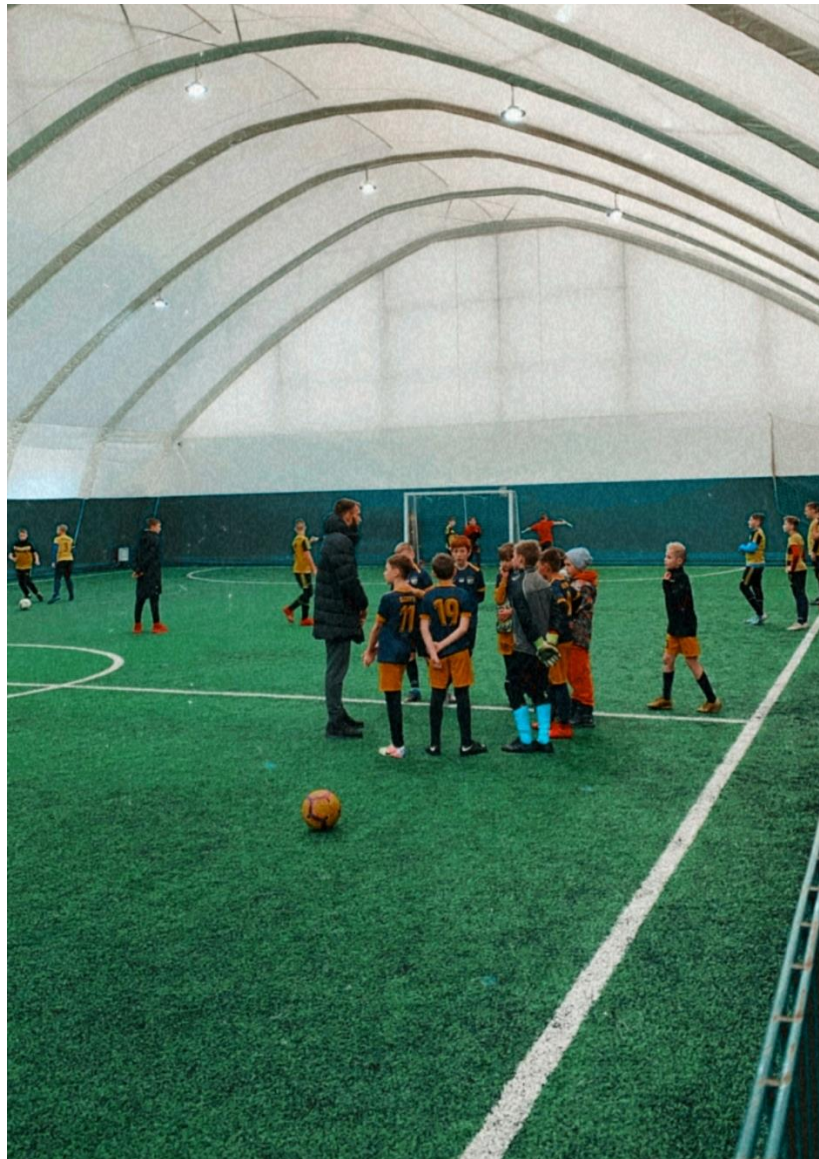




SOCCER

On March 8th we had the end of the regional tournament. We were excited to have 6 age groups from our academy participate. During these last 3 months of games the kids had really neat opportunities to grow and develop. Our teams weren't very good during these competitions, compared to other teams, but every player had a great opportunity to grow.

Now when indoor competitions are finished we have one month to prepare to it through the friendly games and small competitions.





Small kids

All age groups have their competitions and fun activities. For me it is such a joy to see development and growth of smallest kids of our academy who just in the beginning of their journey and make their first steps in sports. As part of the program we provide opportunity for fun competitions where they really can express themselves and grow.





Life of academy

One of our coaches, Igor, unfortunately, left our academy and we are now looking to find a good replacement for him. Other coaches have had to step in and take his responsibilities for his age groups till we find a new coach. I have been busy the last few weeks trying to look for a good coach who would be able to step into this important role. We have several different coaches that we are going to interview during the next couple weeks. We would so appreciate your prayers that God would fully direct our steps to the exact right coach! We continue regularly meet with coaches and I try invest as much as I can in their Spiritual and professional side.

Night with professional boxer.

We had a professional Ukrainian Boxer, Oleg Malinovskiy, visit our academy and share with us about his path to success and his strong faith in Jesus. It was a really great encouragement for our boys and their fathers to hear the testimony of a professional athlete who has faith in Jesus.





Church at UCSA Academy

We have had some exciting developments at church. We have been trying to concentrate our attention on building personal relationships with new people and families in the community around the academy. We invite them to discovery Bible studies at our homes so they have the opportunity learn more about Jesus and then invite them to the church. Ellissa and I really look forward to the many ways God might use us to bring new families to faith. Please be in prayer with us!



Please pray with us:

- As we adjust to be a new multicultural family
- For starting a new Bible studies at our home with families and Ellissa want to start Bible study with girls
- Growth of Church at academy and our role in this
- For God's protection for our team of coaches and our director
- Growth and development of our academy: kids, coaches, parents, infrastructure, etc...

Blessings and love from Ukraine,
Andrii and Ellissa Petrenko



