



WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER FOR THE BEARS SERVING IN LONDON, ENGLAND

Three months already!

It is hard to believe it is time for our next quarterly newsletter. From snowstorms, to babies, to church planting it seems like the last three months have been a little more than a blur. We have so much to catch you up on, we will try our best to make it all fit into a nice little newsletter. We hope you are warm and cozy at the moment as you enjoy the next installment of the Bear Prayer letter.



One of the last warm days before winter



Zhenya and Liam on a regular outing into the city

The Biggest news...

Zhenya is now just a few short months away from her due date. On April 19th we are expecting the latest addition to the Bear family, a little boy! We have no clue as to the name at this point. Zhenya has given Chris a few weeks to come up with some ideas or she picks the name on her own...(Isn't that how it works already).

Denominational news...

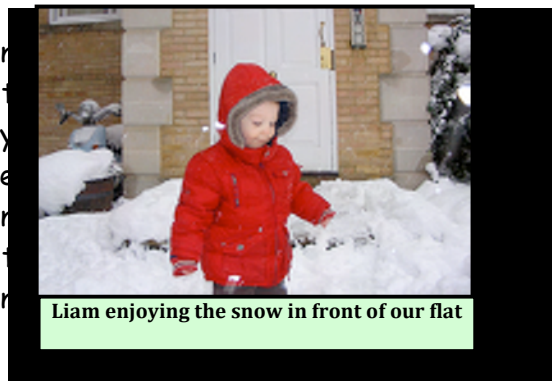
Before we arrived in England MTW had a strong church planting partnership with one of the two Presbyterian denominations here in England. Since we have been here in London an opportunity has opened up for us to move from working solely with the E.P.C.E.W. (Evangelical Presbyterian Church in England and Wales) to working with the I.P.C. (International Presbyterian Church). The main reason for the change is that our Canada Water church plant is affiliating (joining) with the I.P.C. and we anticipate more and more churches being planted through this model. If that means I am to be working alongside Kruger for the next few years it made sense for me to be a member of the same denomination.



The pastor from South Africa we work with: Kruger his wife Stephanie and their two sons.

The Craziest News...

You probably saw on the news, but this February London had the largest snowstorm in almost 20 years. It brought the city to a standstill for almost a week. To our many supporters in places like New England where it snows more often; how much snow do you think it took to bring London to her knees?...9 inches over two days. Yup, that is all it took. It hardly snows here. There are boroughs in London that do not even own snowplows!



Prayer Requests:

1. Zhenya's Pregnancy
2. Our process for joining the IPC over the next five months.
3. Finding and ordaining elders and deacons for the church plant.
4. For more connections to the people living in this part of London.
5. Our financial support to stay in the black.

Church Planting News...

This last six weeks Kruger was with his family for 5 weeks back in South Africa so Chris was in charge of everything for the month of January. Your prayers are the only things that kept us going. The Lord used that time to bring in almost 20 new people to the church and we added another 8 people to small groups. In the month of January we averaged 90 people at our services. (London is an interesting place; we can average 90 for 5 weeks in a row then average 50 for a few then we are back up to 90 again.) We are in the midst of starting the next phase of moving more towards an all-English service each week and away from the, split sermon approach. Your prayers have been an integral part in this work.

Financial and Prayer support information:

We have been blessed through the end of January to be on target with support. We cannot thank you enough for your past support. If anything is changing on your end, please let us know. If you are new and want to know how to send gifts to MTW, you can go directly to www.mtw.org or call them at 678-823-0004 and ask to speak to the partner relations department. You can also send checks made out to MTW: P.O. Box 116284, Atlanta GA 30368-6284. Make sure to include our account number 010725. If you would like to be added or taken off our mailing list please just send us an email at candzbear@yahoo.com.



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Website news:

Please note that we no longer have the www.ReachEngland.org website. We are in the process of creating something different. You can however find us at <http://www.canadawaterchurch.com/english/homepage.php>. Here you will see a two-minute video Kruger and I made for you. Also, you can find some of the sermons I have been preaching.

Many Blessings in Christ,

Chris, Zhenya & Liam