

The Giffones

"O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His Name together." (Ps. 34:3)

Dear Friends and Family,

Labas! We are excited to share what God has been doing this month. Our update is a little shorter than some of our previous letters, because January is a quieter month here on campus.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement to our family. We had a nice Christmas here in spite of being away from loved ones. We got to watch Lithuania's currency change to the euro. We enjoyed a brief trip to Northeastern Poland to see the birthplaces of Corrie's great-grandparents. We even stood at <u>Trójstyk Granic</u>, the place where Poland, Lithuania and Russia (Kaliningrad) meet (see picture on the next page). And after several rounds of the stomach bug, we all seem to be healthy again. Please pray for our health during the wet, cold winter.
- Benj has started a new semester of classes. This spring he is teaching Old Testament Narrative Books, Apocalyptic Literature, and Greek. Narrative Books is Benj's academic specialization, so he is especially excited about that course. Apocalyptic Literature is requiring a lot more research, and he relishes the chance to learn and re-learn! He is also supervising two senior theses in the department, one on the topic of suffering in 1 Peter, and one on the biblical foundations of liberal arts education. We have enjoyed having some students over for tea and hot chocolate. Continuing the momentum of the Christmas choir, Corrie is starting a women's vocal ensemble this semester. There has been a good deal of interest from students. *Please pray that we would build meaningful and lasting relationships with students*.
- We enjoy the people we are getting to know here at LCC. We are also trying to build trust with our new church family and with the world outside of the LCC community, which can be a slow process. We praise God for opportunities to get together with new Lithuanian friends, and that Daniel now enjoys Sunday School. We hope to continue to learn the Lithuanian language, build relationships and figure out the best ways to be involved in community life. Please pray for us as we continue to settle in and find our place our place here.

SUPPORT

Thank you for your generous care for us. We are reaching out to churches in the USA and planning visits for the summer. If you think that your church might be interested in having us visit, please put us in touch with your pastor or missions committee. We would love to visit and tell stories of how God is using LCC in this part of the world. *Pray that God would continue to meet all our financial needs*.

<u>Thank you</u> all for your prayers and support. Stay tuned for further updates; be sure to <u>follow us on the web</u> and join (and share) our <u>Facebook group</u>. To receive monthly updates about happenings at LCC, you may wish to <u>sign up for the university's newsletter</u>, *Transformations*.

In Christ,

Benj and Corrie Giffone (for Daniel and Elizabeth)









