

Dear Family and Friends,

Well, December and January have come and gone and we are into a very wet February! We have had good rain the last two weeks – the kids have enjoyed the rides to school rather than walking.

Just as your lives are very full, I am sitting here flipping through the calendar looking at all that has happened just in the last 2 months. Here are some bullet points from our lives:

- **Zane** is in his **MADA** (Magen David Adom – local ambulance) training. He has 60 hours of training before he can start his 60 hours of community service he has to do for school. He is pretty wiped out after his 3.5 hours of class 2X a week. But he loves it and he is doing great in biology as that class' material overlaps what he is learning at MADA.
- **Lydia** was asked by her music director to be in a 3<sup>rd</sup> **singing ensemble** for her music program. She is really enjoying it! Now that she is learning chords in her piano lessons, she will sit at the piano for hours and play chords and sing to music.
- **Zane** and **Lydia** are enjoying the **Youth group** and going to youth conferences. Two weekends ago was a boys retreat, then **Lydia** had a joint birthday party (she is now 14) at the congregation in [REDACTED] and this weekend is the girls retreat.
- **Bible Club** for **Ethan** and **Orly** has restarted – the older 2 have moved on from Bible Club.
- Orly lost her first tooth at school last week!!! It was very exciting.
- At the end of December, we sold our 2003 Volkswagen Transport and purchased a 2003 Citroën Jumpy. This new (to us) van has 9 seats and is more like a minivan than the large VW. Also it is proving to be much cheaper on gas and insurance!
- **Stephanie** has been having the Ot OoMofet single mom's team meetings weekly in [REDACTED] (45 min away) since Orna and Tami have moved there to start "**Bayta**" – the women's shelter. The team is trying to finalize the details so they can take the first women into the program. **Stephanie** has been asked to "chair" the team meetings as she is removed from the inter-personal dynamics of the team at the house and neutral to the other team members.
- Since mid-January, the Ot OoMofet team have been teaching about the Tabernacle as a tool to help us draw closer to the Lord at a Russian congregation near [REDACTED]. They have had 4 meetings with this weekend being the last. Two weeks ago, **Stephanie** taught her first full lesson in front of the congregation in HEBREW! It was a little stressful, but she did great!
- **JJ** finished his last class for his masters (he got an A)! He is now TRYING to study for his Hebrew and Historical Geography comprehensive tests and finish one paper so he can finally be done and receive his degree.
- **JJ** also has been busy with OM and congregational leaders meetings, the home group and starting a discipleship friendship with a man in the congregation.

... . . . . . [REDACTED]

- **Stephanie** has applied to Hebrew University in Jerusalem to begin Hebrew language studies; she will start studying in the beginning of March when the spring semester starts. This will be a big switch for the family as she will be out of the house 4 days a week (3 days studying and 1 day for Ot OoMofet meetings)
- **JJ** is in the beginning stages of planning for a group from Woodbury to come this summer! It has been a busy couple of months and it has been good to see how God has opened doors to connect with people. From coffees to play times to hikes, we have had very good opportunities to engage with non-believers and believers. We want to also thank all of you for your prayer and financial support last year! It was a great blessing to see God provide for us through you. Please pray for-
- We have a trip to the visa office on Feb. 5th at noon for a renewal of student visas. This time under Stephanie's studying. PLEASE pray that this goes well, that we will have favor and receive one-year student visas.
- **JJ** to have focus to finish his studies and **Stephanie** to excel in her study of Hebrew.
- The "Bayta" project as it is preparing to open and receive its first participant.