**10-5-22 Update, Conversation with Nadia:**

Dear friends of Nadia and Alexei and the Petrozavodsk Ingrian Lutheran congregation.

As you recall, in our last Update we learned from Nadia that on September 25 she and her family were in Finland. You have likely been as anxious as us to learn more about their circumstances. So, we were very grateful for a FaceTime visit with Nadia on October 5. Here is a very brief summary, without details, of what we learned:

1. **Being “watched”:** It is clear that the government has been “watching” the church (and other non-Orthodox denominations) and individuals such as Alexei, including threats, warnings, and hacking of computers.
2. **Safely in Finland at the right time, a miracle?** Alexei was encouraged to apply to attend a school in Finland so that he could get a Student Finland Visa, which would allow him to travel back and forth; not only was he accepted, his whole family received Visas. After much prayer and consultation, he accepted the strong recommendation of the Church Council that he take his family in mid-September to Finland to attend a course at the school. So, that is the good news of how they happened to actually be in Finland when the military conscription order was made! 😊
3. **The Petrozavodsk congregation.**  One reason we had not heard from Nadia until today is that she had returned to Petrozavodsk to help coordinate another Humanitarian Aid package for Ukraine and she needed to pick up her medicine for her health care situation; she also had participated in a flurry of activity and conferences within the congregation about how to respond to the military conscription policy. After much consultation, the tentative consensus is that Alexei remain in Finland and continue his responsibilities as best he can using virtual technology. They are staying in an apartment in the city where the educational program is offered.

The above is just a very sketchy snapshot of the turmoil, adversities, and uncertainties our friends are facing. Hopefully Nadia will be able to provide more details and some clarification in a Newsletter in the near future. One thing we can do for certain is pray. (**Here is one specific item for prayer:** success in finding a safe way to transfer available funds in our *Vision Petrozavodsk* account for the needs of the congregation and the Krongolms.)

Thank you for all of your concern and support.

Paul and Carol Anderson

*Vision Petrozavodsk* facilitator (Paul)

Psalm 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, O people: pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge.