**Eau Claire SDA Church News**

**Prayer Request Update**

**Twins**

My twin nieces celebrated their 1 month birthday yesterday! Bethany now weighs 2 pounds and 5 ounces; Kelsey weighs 3 pounds and 5 ounces. Many heartfelt thanks for all of your prayers. I ask for your continued prayers, especially for baby Kelsey. She has a Grade 4 Intraventricular Hemorrhage (IVH). IVH is bleeding in or near the ventricles in the brain. She will be having surgery this week to have a reservoir replaced. I do not know exactly when this week. My sister said it would be early this week. She is too small for a shunt which she may or may not need when she reaches 5 pounds. The severe bleeding in the brain also puts Kelsey at risk for Cerebral Palsy, hearing loss, vision problems and learning disabilities. She also has an infection on her heart which could cause heart failure or go to her brain. Once again, thanks for your continued prayers. Praise God for the miracles he has worked already! Ashley Johnson

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**Pastor's Father-in-Law**

The Pastors father-in-law has stabilized and will be transferred to a rehab facility tomorrow. Please continue to pray.
James and Kris Proctor

James and Kris made it home on Saturday evening with their new daughter Melissa. Their adoption made national headlines, because Melissa was the last orphan to make it out of Crimea before all adoptions were halted by Russia.


My Co-worker

I would like prayer for my co-worker. About a year and a half ago, she lost her husband to cancer. Last evening her pet dog passed away. She begged God not to let her dog die and now she is really mad at God. She needs your prayers.

Brandon Lubbert
Kristine and James Proctor went to Crimea to adopt a 16-year-old orphan, Melissa.

While they waited for paperwork to be completed, Crimea was annexed by Russia.

Kristine Proctor had to smuggle her daughter out of the region just hours before the annexation was complete.

Crimea has now been unified with Russia and all U.S. adoptions have been halted.

Melissa flew to Michigan on Saturday to begin her life as the adopted daughter of the Proctors.

By Alex Greig

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A Michigan couple have managed to smuggle their newly adopted daughter out of Crimea just after Russia officially annexed the state.

Kristine Proctor was waiting for the final pieces of paperwork to be filed for her and husband James's adoption of a 16-year-old orphan called Yana when Russian troops flooded the streets and a referendum decided that Crimea would become a part of Russia.

Although the official unification wasn't immediate, bureaucrats stopped issuing the documents the Proctors needed to remove Yana, who has since renamed herself Melissa, from her orphanage and the region.

Reunited: Kristine and James Proctor with their newly adopted daughter Melissa.

With James Proctor returned to work in the United States, Kristine Proctor enlisted the help of Inna, a Ukrainian woman, to help her and Melissa escape the area.

'It was terrifying,' Kristine Proctor told ABC News on Friday, just hours before flying home to Michigan. 'We've had a lot of miracles.'

As pro-Russian crowds marched, denouncing the Ukraine's Western supporters, Kristine Proctor became increasingly frantic.

Inna finally managed to procure a tax identification number for Melissa, after one refusal after another from bureaucrats unwilling to issue a passport for the orphan.

Uncertain future: The Proctors met Melissa when she was almost 16 - the age at which she would have aged out of the Ukrainian orphanage system and been left to fend for herself.

Adoptive parents: James and Kristine Proctor have adopted children from the Ukraine before.

The document enabled them to buy a rail ticket to Kiev and the three boarded the train just hours before Russia.
completed its annexation of Crimea.

As they approached the border, armed soldiers boarded the car, asking the conductor if there were any foreigners aboard.

He indicated Melissa and Kristine were Americans.

The soldiers, miraculously, asked no further questions and the train continued on its way to Kiev.

'When the train came into the station [in Kiev], Inna and I looked at each other and started crying,' Proctor said. 'We were in survival mode and it all hits you.'

The Proctors, who have adopted several other children from the area in the past, met Melissa in December, when she was just short of her 16th birthday - the age at which she would age out of Ukraine's orphanage system and be left to fend for herself.

New daughter: The Proctors say Melissa is bright and confident and believe she will thrive in the United States

The connection was instant and the couple felt sure the 'smart, fun' teen would thrive in their family.

However, their battle wasn't over once Kristine and Melissa reached Kiev, as officials demanded she be returned to Crimea and refused to issue a passport.

Finally, after days of bureaucratic back and forth, Melissa was granted a passport and flew to her new home with her new mother on Saturday.

ABC News reports that other adoptions that were in progress in Crimea have been halted. According to advocates, it's unlikely Russia will allow any adoptions by Americans to proceed.