

Hinson Family

in Tbilisi, Georgia

April 2024



Our Friends,

Thank you for continuing to pray for us! Ministry is possible because of the power of God and we are comforted to know that you are seeking God and His power on our behalf! The Lord gave us dear fellow laborers and partners when He led us to you all. Thank you for the prayers and also for the support that provides for our family and enables us to minister in Georgia. May the Lord bless your desire to see the Gospel preached.

I have a **special prayer request** to share with you this month regarding **Pastor Nukri**. As I share this, let me revisit the situation of churches in Georgia. Numerically they are few, especially when I don't count the ones that are Russian speaking. (These mainly work with Russians and other foreigners, as the country has continued to follow the resurgence of the Georgian language.) Georgian speaking churches are few, usually small and with an elderly membership. There are exceptions, most prominent of which is a charismatic church in our city of Tbilisi, which I'm told has a membership of 2000 people. Regarding the Baptist or Bible type churches (often they don't have a church name), there are some significant doctrinal differences between them, us included. The largest point of concern is that many of them believe that salvation is a gift of God, but one that can be revoked by God based on the believer's behavior. Ultimately this makes salvation dependent on maintaining good works and this affects the way preaching and witnessing is conducted. Many sermons sound like threats of what God will do to them if they (the congregation) do not behave or live holy enough. Witnessing becomes admonitions to do good works.

I recount this because, in our current attempt to start a church, Biblical teaching must be protected. Thankfully the Lord has saved us from two men who wanted to pastor with us, but could not, due to doctrine. Another part of this prayer request, is that Georgians as a whole are disinterested in foreigners teaching them religion, so having Georgian people to help us would be a big blessing. Pastor Nukri leads a small village church about 2 hours outside of Tbilisi. I have been connected to him and we are getting to know him. He wants to do some ministry/evangelism in the city and is interested in helping us. He also brought up money, probably knowing a lot of Georgians would like to get a salary from a foreigner, and says that he doesn't want anything like that, just fellowship. Help would be a blessing, but we want to be wise, understanding the will of the Lord. Please pray for God's guidance.

Family Moment: We sang "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" in family devotions one night. Then the boys started discussing what the song meant and why it is important to follow God's way. Zachary ended the conversation with his very confident answer. "-Because God has joy and the world has sin."

Michael, Barbara, Jude, Zachary, Paul & Evelina Hinson

Serving With: Baptist International Missions Inc. P.O. Box 9 Harrison, TN 37341 (423) 344-5050
Sending Church: Stanley Heights Baptist Church Chattanooga, TN www.stanleyheights.org (423) 867-8060
Contact Us: *Michael:* heart4georgia@gmail.com *Barbara:* michaels1jewel@gmail.com