



As we let you know, our visas were denied this month. We looked into our options and there is not anyway for us to stay in country. If we appeal the decision, then it can take up to six months for them to review it. However, that will not allow us to stay while it is being reviewed. We had hoped that we could get a bridge visa during the review process, but that just is not possible. To be honest, I (Nathan) was pretty upset about this. I was not upset at the government, but at the lawyer that we used. They reviewed everything that we sent in, and told us that it was all fine. Having read the judgment by the state department, it was obviously not even close to being what was needed for our approval. Through prayer and deciding to apply Ephesians 4:31-32 to my life, I have been able to get victory over the bitterness that I was fighting. We have now been in contact with a different lawyer. They have already been more responsive and honest with us about our challenges. What I like most about them is that they charge an extra fee after we receive a visa. They are more expensive, but they care about success instead of just fees to translate documents. We have our first meeting (outside of the emails that have been sent) on Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup> where we will come up with a plan on what route to take to be able to get a visa approved.

Thank you so much for praying for us. I know that the results are not what was hoped for, but I am sure that God has known the result the entire time. I am sure that your prayers were of great help, much of it in being able to control the way that I am handling this through the Spirit. Another way that your prayers have helped is in wisdom on what to do next. In European Union countries, a US citizen is able to be 90 days in the country every 180 days. That means that we will need to leave the EU for 90 days, or until our visas get approved. There really were two options for us. One is that we have a missionary friend in North Macedonia who found out about our visa issues and invited us to join him for the 90 days. This route has two pros. First is that we would still feel like missionaries and be in a more similar culture. The second is that they are in the same timezone as the Czech Republic. This is a big-deal because we will still be in language school Monday through Friday 8:30 – 12:00 Czech time. The problems with that is getting the paperwork together to apply for the visas would be harder and that we would need to pay rent in two places.

The second option was coming back to America. The pros and cons are exactly swapped, with an added pro of getting to see our family. We went back and forth on these two options a lot. To be honest, what I really wanted to do was to go to Macedonia because it would feel like a we were not stepping backward and would not have class from 12:30 am to 4:00 am. Maybe we are just getting old, but that sounds terrible. On top of that, we knew that language class would take up the majority of our time, but we under-estimated how much. We have been spending spending around 10 hours a day on language, through study and trying to get out and practice some in the wild. Coming to America will mean that we will not have opportunities to use the Czech that we are learning and will need to pay tutors for extra time to practice while not having a good sleep schedule. However, we just had no peace about going to Macedonia and believe that coming home is what we are supposed to do. During this time, we will not be traveling. Instead, we will be focusing on language studies, and taking the opportunity to spend time with Steele. Due to his health problems, we were unable to spend the last year of deputation with him. We see this as a blessing from God that we will get some time back. However, our prayer is still that we will get a new visa approved to return by next year. We have purchased round-trip plane ticket, returning to the States on November 16<sup>th</sup> and leaving again in February. However, the tickets that we purchased can be changed without worrying about any change fees so that we can get back sooner without any extra costs if our visas are approved. Now we are working out some logistics, like getting American health insurance, getting Makayla set up to continue her school from the States, and figuring out exactly what all of the costs for documents and lawyer fees will be.

Also, I would like to give an update about the insurance situation. The insurance for the man who hit us finally got a hold of the police report that stated that he was at fault and is paying for the medical costs and for the damage done to the rental car that we we in.

Once again, that you all for praying for us. We greatly appreciate every one of you who has prayed.

### Prayer Requests

- \* Steele's medical treatment
- \* Visas process
- \* School/Language Classes from America

### Sending Church

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