

# Kremenchuk, Ukraine

## Newsletter

### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to start this Newsletter, as a letter to you each of you as I would to my own family (because you are!).

I love and miss you so much! Our dear Lord fills my life with many wonderful people that I share Jesus with here in Ukraine. God is blessing me and this work above and beyond all that I ask or think as He promises He will when we walk faithfully with Him. But I still miss you!!

I have had a minor miracle happen here in the last couple of weeks and that is that I have actually received TWO letters from the States that haven't been opened, so if you would like to write, I MIGHT actually get them!

Well, my dear family I have to write my Newsletter now, but I wanted to take a minute and let you know how much I appreciate each and everyone of you. Your love and support for me and the Lord's work here is blessing my life and the lives of so many here in Kremenchuk. I appreciate your trust and faith in me through the Lord as I carry out His work here.

Your Brother in Christ,

Doug Berry

### Two Souls Obey Their Lord

I believe that the Lord is providing a great deal of growth and fruit in our service to Him here, but we have seen two young men baptized into Christ through the prison ministry in the last month. The first was December 28<sup>th</sup> after he was released. The 2<sup>nd</sup> boy, Serge, was a first for this work. Gregory has been working with these boys for 4 ½ years and this is the first time they have allowed Gregory, us, to take a boy to be baptized across the city at a local indoor pool. The prison authorities have been impressed how much Serge has changed since he has come to the prison over a year ago. He was baptized on January 8<sup>th</sup> in the midst of big snow storm, but we didn't want to wait. He is a great influence for the Lord in the prison and wants to preach when he is released.

We are having an average of over 90 boys come to our class each week. I am very thankful for the elders at West Fayetteville for granting us a budget of \$150.00 a month to help to feed, cloth and help with medical needs for these boys. God is working a great work here, I believe.



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About December 1<sup>st</sup>, it became apparent to me, that my youngest daughter and my Mom needed to see me and for me to be with them. I asked the WF elders and they agreed to help me, so I left on December 19<sup>th</sup> and returned on December 29<sup>th</sup>. The trip blessed my life in many ways and hopefully blessed my family as well.

### The olidays

Of course I had a wonderful early Christmas with my Mom and then Christmas with Janessa, my daughter! Then when I got back to Kremenchuk, I was just in time for the New Years where Ukraine celebrates the giving of gifts, New Years and fireworks all in one! Two of my student friends, home from Kiev, spent the New Year with me till 3:30am. They call their New Year tree a Yolka Tree and Santa Clause is Grandfather Frost, with his grand daughter being Frost princes or something like that. Then on January 7<sup>th</sup> is the Christmas here, but just a time for family and friends. I shared this time in the home of some of my Christian brethren (three families). Then they have the "old" New Year on January 14<sup>th</sup>, so we had some more feasting in another home. I have encountered a huge host of holiday traditions that are all fun, and some kind of strange to my Western mind. So in all I had three Christmas Days, and two New Year's Days and lots of wonderful food and sharing with family and friends.

## My Schedule

I want to share my schedule with you of classes and lessons that I do on a regular basis. Of course with all of this, are the hours of class preparation, many personal times with people in study and relationships that never show up on any weekly schedule.

### MONDAY:

8-10am – Russian Lesson

12:30-1:20pm – School #11, 11<sup>th</sup> grade class

### TUESDAY:

8-10am – Russian Lesson

11:40am-12:30pm – 7<sup>th</sup> grade

6-7pm – Singing Devotional at my home

### WEDNESDAY:

8-10am – Russian Lesson

10:45-11:35am – ½ of 6<sup>th</sup> grade

11:40am-12:30pm – ½ of 6<sup>th</sup> grade

1:30-2:20pm – 9<sup>th</sup> grade class

### THURSDAY:

8-10am – Russian Lesson

10:45-11:35am – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

1:30-2:20pm – 10<sup>th</sup> grade

7-10pm – Bible study with a family

### FRIDAY:

8-10am – Russian Lesson

1:30-2:20pm – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

### SATURDAY:

8-9am - Special trip to the market to buy about 20 pounds of meat and cheese and 96 buns to make sandwiches for the boy's prison.

9am-12pm – get my place ready for Bible Clubs

12-2pm – Adult Bible Club at my home

2-3pm – Make the sandwiches for the prison

3:30-5:15pm – Church Discussion & Fellowship Time

6-8pm – Teen Bible Club at my home

### SUNDAY:

9-9:50am – Teach a Bible Class at the Central Church

10am-12pm – worship service

3:30-6:30pm – Boy's Prison teaching

As you look at this schedule you and I both have some concerns that there is no day off. Mondays and Fridays are lighter than others, but it is still not the same as a day off. These were the only times we could work out. I will take a day here and there and get out of town for different things and that will be acceptable to me.

## My Trip to Poland

My friend, Natalie, is engaged to be married to an American from Maryland and is preparing to get married and live in the USA. She asked me to accompany her to Warsaw, Poland where she had to get her Visa to the US. On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, we traveled by bus and train 24 hours there, got her visa and spent about 36 hours visiting Warsaw and then traveled 24 hours back! Now I can say that I have been in Poland!



Natalie with my closest university student friends at a dinner saying good-bye to Natalie Zhenya, Lilya, Natalie, Igor and Inna

These are my closest and dearest friends, here. I have many others, but these are the ones that help me to stay sane in Ukraine! And now Natalie is leaving on February 21 to get married and live in the US. God will bless me as this friend moves away, but she has been such strength in this work for such a long time, it will be hard to do without her.

Zhenya, Lilya and Inna are all studying the Bible with me and growing towards the Lord. Igor is a Christian growing in the Lord. He just taught my older classes, 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> this past week on the cross of Christ, with my supervision and it helped his growth even more. I believe that you will love my Ukrainian "children" when you have a chance to meet them!

## My Financial Report

I have sent my financial records to the Elders at the West Fayetteville Church of Christ. I have tried really hard to keep an accurate record of what I spent and how I spent it. I have been under budget on everything except the prison ministry, because until last month I had no working fund for the prison. We now have a fund of \$150.00 for this work. My work fund is \$360.00 a month and I have been under budget every month until last month I went over \$46, but the under months more than covered that. I have had adequate personal funds on the field of \$450.00 a month. I have yet to purchase an apartment, but will do so, soon. The rest of my funds stay in the USA to pay past bills, insurances, travel funds, etc. The Church at West Fayetteville puts out a monthly report of these expenses, the incomes and out goes. I also believe that you can see this budget on my web page as well at [ukrainemission.com](http://ukrainemission.com).

## My Telephone, email and address

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**Please write or call! God Bless!**