

Kremenchuk, Ukraine

Newsletter

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Previt. Kak dela?

That means, "Hi! How are you?" I pray that the Lord has been blessing you abundantly as you walk with Him!

My last two months have been incredibly busy. I have continued my regular classes at school and home. I also have been doing everything I can to prepare people in Kremenchuk for our classes that started with our York College students on May 19th. Many of the things I am doing continue to grow with God's blessings, but some are still not where I want them to be. God is encouraging and strengthening me at every step. If there were no challenges, there would be no need for faith. I want to have GREAT faith in the Lord to walk with Him like I believe in Him!

April in Kremenchuk

The Bible Clubs (classes) and devotionals continue to blossom that I have in my home. My adult Bible Club hasn't grown greatly in number, but the heart and desire of my students continues to grow in the Lord. We have between 7 and 10 in numbers and it is always a good study and a good time that we have together each week. My teen Bible club has grown to an average attendance of 15 and that is really crowding my dining room for study. We try to crowd 10 around my table and then I have an arm chair and a large couch that from 4 to 7 can sit on. Lord willing, I want to start a second Teen Bible Club for the new students that we are attracting to our classes with the York College students. It was about mid-April that our singing night has jumped to around 18 in number each week. Our singing is getting better and better and is becoming a real draw for the glory of the Lord!

Easter was a week later in April here than in the states, on the 27th, because of the Orthodox calendaring of events. I have found out that Easter is always in April or early May, here. I was invited to an early morning Easter Orthodox service and it was interesting, but not much of a service. We lit a candle in the building, went outside and lined up on the street curb and waited for the priest to come along and literally splatter us, our Easter eggs and bread with holy water! I of course still worshiped with the Church and

afterwards I was invited to my first shiskabob cook out of the year with several members of the church.



Peter, on the right, is the preacher at the church.

The cooking job is always reserved for the men to do! Does that kind of sound familiar to you? At school we had a 3 day holiday from Saturday through Monday.

May in Kremenchuk

May was marked by unexpected holidays, by me that is! May 1st, on Thursday, started a long weekend of celebration as people all over town and in all schools took the days off to honor all workers. Then on May 9th we celebrated another long weekend celebrating Victory Day, the day that the Germans were defeated in WWII. It was great, but it was hard on my English classes I teach at School #11 because I teach only on Tuesdays and Saturdays!

May has seen an increase of my students that are coming with me to church services. I had the most ever on May 4 with 7 coming with me. On the weekend that the York College students came, May 18, we had 12!

Anya from Kremenchuk who is now a student at York College, came on May 11 and came just in time to translate for me, since Oksana has gone back for another month of study at Poltava. It is so good to have here. She is a wonderful young Christian and a great servant of the Lord! On May 16th, Kelli, Titus and Matt came. On Saturday, May 17th we had a reception for them of just my regular older students and the 4 YC students and some of their friends attending and we had 35 in my flat! After much visiting and eating, we

gathered in my living room and sang. With 35 people CROWDED into a room, we had incredible singing!! Starting on May 19th we started having Bible Classes every morning for the 5th – 7th grades and the first week we averaged 25 students. Then at 4:30pm everyday we had our 8th – 11th grade class and have averaged 39 in the class (with a high of 47 on Thursday) with students from 8 different schools in Kremenchuk! At first, most of the numbers in the classes were from other schools, but by the end of the week about ½ were from School #11. The second week we averaged 20 in the younger class and 42 in the older class.



Anya from YC, teaching the younger class.

I am getting up early, as usual, but going very hard all day and going to bed late. I forgot how demanding it is to try to keep up with University students! God is really blessing His work with them, while they are here! All but Titus, who goes back to the USA on June 15, will be here until July 13th. Brian, a worker from last year will join us on June 26th to help out with our Bible Camp that we will have from June 30 to July 11th in the Crimea by the Black Sea.

Coming To USA!!

I am coming to visit you, if I can! I want to visit as many of the churches and people as possible, as well as spend as much time with my children in three states and my Mother in a fourth! ***Please contact me by email, phone or write to the West Fayetteville Church to my attention to schedule a time to hear about the Lord's work here in Kremenchuk!*** Here are my tentative plans:

Tennessee - July 17 - August 10

I fly into Nashville, TN on July 17 and will be in TN for 4 Sundays and three Wednesdays to visit supporting Churches. Of course West Fayetteville, as my over seeing church, will have first priority on my time!

Texas - August 11-17

I am probably going to go this week and visit my daughter, Jenise and her boy friend, Jon in TX. I hope to make a day trip to Lubbock to visit the AIM program

with the Sunset Church of Christ, in Lubbock, TX about bringing an AIM team to work with me here.

Nebraska, KS, MN, IA, WI - August 18-29

My priority here is visiting my youngest daughter Janessa and her fiancé, Brandon in NE (they are getting married in August of 2004). I want to spend a week with them, but I hope to visit area supporting churches at this time as well. I was even thinking about flying into Minneapolis and visiting churches in that area and then rent a car and drive to NE.

This is why it is really important for you to let me know when I can visit with you as a congregation. Can you arrange for me to visit with you on a non-church service time in this part of the country? If some of you can arrange to do this, then I can see more people.

South Dakota - August 30 - September (4,5,6)

I will be visiting my Mom and two sisters in Pierre, SD during this time.

Washington - September (4,5,6) - 12

I will visit my oldest son, Butch and his wife Erin and my grand daughter, Hannah who will have just turned one year old!

Kremenchuk, Ukraine - September 13

One year to the day, I will arrive back in Kremenchuk to begin my second year of work in the Lord's service, here.

Your Prayers are Needed

1. We have 6 weeks of very important work ahead of us with our York College students helping me to make contacts and build relationships that only young people can do! Please pray for this work this summer.
2. Pray that I will be the Christian and servant that Jesus Christ wants me to be. I need to be able to say to all of these young people, ***"Become imitators of me as I am of Christ,"*** like the Apostle Paul said.
3. Please pray for the Lord's blessings in bringing in the harvest of souls that He is preparing and that I will patiently serve Him and wait on His will to be done in the lives the Gospel of Christ is touching.
4. Please pray for my children and their family and friends as they continue to live and trust in the Lord with their lives. Please include my Mother's health (Helen Berry) and well being in these prayers.
5. I also ask for your prayers for my safety in all my travels coming up.

Other Workers Needed

Here

Do you know SOME ONE who would be interested in joining me in this work that I am doing? There is a good chance that I could teach in at least 4 additional schools next fall. People are needed to enter this work

with me! *Please contact me at my info on this
newsletter.* *With all of Christ's love for you, Doug*