

Kremenchuk, Ukraine Newsletter

Doug Berry, Missionary

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God Will Bring the Increase

“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.” I

Corinthians 3:6,7 My work as God’s child in Ukraine and your work for Him where you live is the same: we are to plant and water the seed of God’s Word in people’s lives and with faith believe that God will be faithful to His promise to bring about the growth. God is fulfilling that promise among us in Kremenchuk!! I want to tell you about the 9 wonderful souls that were added to Christ and His Church through faith and baptism in June. We have 10 new Christians since May 21st and 13 since July 7, 2003. I want to tell you about the path that each of them has taken to come to obedience to Jesus Christ. Many of these people you have been praying for over the last 23 months.

Yulia K. was baptized into Christ on June 3 at 11am. Yulia started attending my classes in early October, 2003. She has been a very diligent student and has sought after God with all of her heart. Yulia has finished the 10th form and is 16 years old. It was such a wonderful time baptizing this sweet young lady into Christ! Afterwards she said, “I am just so happy!” and she kept saying it all day and hasn’t stopped since! Kellie Himebough (one of our MAP workers) stayed in Yulia’s home and also studied the Bible with her.

Anton Brusnick was baptized at about 1pm on Sunday, June 13th! Anton is 17 and has graduated from school this year. God has brought Anton to Himself and I am so thankful that I could be apart of this gentle and kind young man’s life! We had maybe 15 or more people at the river for the baptism! What a wonderful day! He was ready! He was one of the first people I studied with when I was here in 2000. When I came back in 2002 he came to me and asked for us to study together again! He is becoming a wonderful Christian!

Ira K On June 21, we baptized Ira in the middle of one of the biggest thunder storms I have seen in Ukraine! Fortunately it was also a warm evening! Between rains, about 9:15pm 20 us ran down to the river and shared in God’s adding Ira to Christ as I had the great joy of baptizing her! As we finished it rained the hardest it had all evening and everyone got completely soaked! But what a wonderful and joyous experience! Ira is 15 and

will be in the 10th grade next fall. She told me that she had been in my classes since she was in the 5th grade and now was ready to become a Christian by being baptized!! Kellie Lovelady (another MAP worker) stayed with Ira and her family and did a really great job of also studying with her!

Black Sea Bible Camp

Continuing the Stories of Conversions

We took 35 pupils and 10 workers to our Black Sea Bible Camp this year, leaving in the morning of June 25th. We left with all our plans in order and with high expectations, but nothing could have prepared us, I think especially me, for what God would have in store for us in the first 5 days of camp! We had 6 baptisms in five days! All of these people God had been preparing for some time to come to Him!

Alina came to me on the bus trip and we continued our Bible Study together, studying for about 2 hours on the bus. Both she and I were convinced that she was ready to be baptized into Christ. On our first morning of camp, we all went down to the sea and baptized her into Christ on June 26th at 9am! Alina has finished the 10th grade, is 16 years old and has the most amazing spirit in her. She is Yulia’s best friend and now they are sisters in Christ! Alina started attending classes in late October and has had a great hunger for everything related to God, Christ and His Word. Alina’s baptism got camp started off on the right foot!

Tanya started coming to my classes in October of 2003. She graduated this year, but will stay in Kremenchuk to do her University studies. We started studying about her soul’s salvation with her and her Dad about the first of April. Before we got to camp, Tanya was seriously considering baptism and her obedience to Christ. On Sunday afternoon, June 27th at about 5pm, Tanya was baptized into Jesus! She is another wonderful addition to Christ’s Church and family!

Artem On Monday morning June 28th came to me and said that he was ready to be baptized! Artem is 20 and has been considering baptism for a year, but has put it off because his parents are so apposed to anything associated with the Church. Artem first came to me about October of 2002 and started attending classes and church. So early in the morning we took him to the sea and baptized him into Christ! By this time, my head

is in a swirl of joy and I can't believe all this is happening!



Our Staff for Camp with 4 Ukrainians and MAP team

Anna O. came to me later in the afternoon of June 28th, and said that she is ready to be baptized! Anna O. is 17, but a 2nd year University student (we have 5 girls with the Anya name). This one took me by surprise because Anya has been coming to our classes for 3 years – everything but church services - very regularly, but has resisted giving up her life to Jesus. So we sat down and we talked and studied for some time and after supper we announced to everyone that we were going to the sea again with Anya!!! By this time, you cannot imagine the excitement and joy that is flowing through our small camp! I have a picture of Anya just before I put her under the water and her face is so serene and then so full of joy when she comes up out of the water!

Max Antipov On June 29th, Tuesday morning early, Max who is 13 but a student of ours for 2 years comes to me and says, “Doug, I am ready to be baptized!” Max and I started a personal study about the first of the year. Max is very smart and a very good student of God’s word and knew exactly what he was doing! So we announced Max’s decision at breakfast and we went to the sea again!! Now all the guys in our camp are Christians! Kostya, Anton, Artem and Max, plus our Christian leaders, both Ukrainian and American!

Nastia on the same day came to me and said she wants to be a Christian, too. So we spent much of the day in study. Igor studied with her in the evening and into the night. On Wednesday, June 30th, I studied a lot more with her. Then Nastia called her mother and her mother gave her permission to be baptized. We were all full of joy for her as she was baptized into Christ after lunch! It has become, “Who is going to be baptized next!?”

Nastia is 15 and will be in the 10th form this next fall. She was brought to our classes by her friend Mariana last November and has attended our classes ever since. She has been a very enthusiastic student and now is a very loving and excited child of God!

This would be our last baptism at our Bible Camp this year, but it truly made everything go at a much higher level than we could ever think or imagine! This was the first time that we did a 14 day camp having always had a 10 camp. No one wanted to leave camp and go home! We arrived back in Kremenchuk on July 9th.

Fayetteville, TN Team

On the morning of July 10th, I went to the airport and picked up 6 people from the West Fayetteville Church of Christ in Fayetteville, TN who came to work with me for a week. When we got to my apartment, we found over 30 of my students with the MAP team praising God in song and waiting to welcome them to Kremenchuk! On Sunday both Nick Fowler and Steve Jefferson preached. Then we went out to eat with the MAP team and the TN team with several of my students – 27 in all! In the evening we had our first ever Sunday evening service at the Church building with over 70 people in attendance! We sang for most of 2 hours and then I gave a short talk. On Monday morning, July 12th I took the MAP team to the airport and the TN team started teaching the personal Bible Studies that they came to conduct. They studied with 11 people in 4 days, conducting 15 personal studies during this time. One of the things that I am so excited about, is that 2 of these people they studied with are Ira’s and Yulia’s (who were baptized in June) mothers! Also, I continue to study with Tanya’s father (who was baptized) as well. Also while they were here we were able to give them a tour of Kremenchuk and a tour of Comsomsk, a town of 140,000 people about 25 miles from Kremenchuk, where we hope to soon start a new Church of Christ, where there is none. On Friday, we toured Kiev, the capitol of Ukraine. They then left us early Saturday morning July 17th.

Wrapping Up

I am about to finish my 2nd full year in Kremenchuk. I cannot imagine working any place else for the rest of my life! You have been a very important part of this work through your prayers, love and support. Thank you so very, very much!

I will be at the World Mission Workshop, at York College in York, NE September 30th through October 2nd. ***I hope that you will come to this fantastic meeting of outreach to the world.*** I will have a booth there and will speak one time. I will return to Ukraine Oct. 12th.