

Kremenchuk, Ukraine Newsletter

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Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus!

God has been so good to all of us and we have experienced such joy this summer that our news has been good! I bring you greetings from myself and 17 new Christians since July 7, 2003! We are so thankful for your love and support of this work. Thank you and may God bless you for blessing us and participating in reaching these wonderful people for Jesus Christ.

August – A month of joy!

Through July of this year we had 11 baptisms in 2004 and 10 while the two American teams were here. After July 17, all the American teams left and we had a time of recuperating and a more relaxed atmosphere. I had gone through 2 ½ months of no days off and often long, long hours. It was a tremendous 2 ½ months, but very exhausting. So several times a week, we would go down to the beach by the river and play ultimate frisbee and also volleyball. Then many times afterwards we would go back to my house, have some refreshments and sing and study the Bible.

On August 2nd, I had the great privilege of baptizing Vladimir, Tanya's Dad, into Christ in the Dniper River. He is our first parent to obey the Lord and we hope that there will be many more to come!



For 10 days, my young Christian brother, Anton and I went on a vacation to the Carpathian Mountains in western Ukraine. We took the train and it was a 20 hour train ride one way! This was very good for me, as it was beautiful, rainy (so we stayed in most of the time) and very restful.

The last two weeks of August, we began our Bible Clubs and regular schedule for our devotionals. Everything is back on a "normal" track again.

On August 13th, we had all arrived down on the beach to play ultimate frisbee about 6pm, one of our 17 year old girls, Ira came up to me and said that she wanted to be baptized. Ira had decided after a year of study to be baptized while we were at the Black Sea. She had called her mother but her mother said no. This was very difficult for Ira. So now when Ira told me she wanted to be baptized I asked her what her mother thought about this. She said, "My Momma doesn't know, but I want to be baptized!"

One other thing that was happening at the end of July and through August was that Zhenya and I were studying with a man that had been coming to church, Vitaly. Vitaly is 29 years old and is the brother of a man that was a Christian, but had died at the age of 35 of cancer. Vitaly had been studying the Bible for over 6 years, but was afraid of making a commitment to Christ. But on August 29th he was baptized into Christ!

September, more joy & much travel!

September 1st is always the beginning of all schools and Universities in Ukraine. As I went to the First Bell ceremonies of School #11, I was warmly welcomed by many of the school children that had been in my classes. I am not starting my classes until I get back from my trip to the USA, so I went around school to all my younger classes and told them I would be back in October.

On the evening of September 3rd, Olya came to my apartment with Ksusha, who had become a Christian on March 17th. Olya told me that she wanted to be baptized. Olya started coming to our classes last Oct. and now her and Ksusha had been studying and talking together for the last two weeks. We studied for about an hour and a half and then the next morning, we baptized Olya into Christ in our baptistry, the Dniper River! Olya is 14 years old and in the 9th grade.

On September 12th, 20 came to my place and we celebrated my 2 year anniversary in Kremenchuk! It was so hard to leave my students, friends and new brothers and sisters in Christ. I will see them again in a month, but I am missing them so as I am now writing this in the States.

Travels begin

On September 13th, I caught a bus to the airport in Kiev and flew out on the 14th to Nashville, TN where I was met by Don Wallace, one of my elders from my overseeing Church, the West Fayetteville Church of Christ in Fayetteville, TN. I was there from the 14th through the 19th. While I was there I had some really great singing, I spoke about the work, preached and on Sunday night, we had a delicious home made ice cream social after services! Also on Saturday, I spoke at a Mission Workshop in Huntsville, Alabama.

From September 20th to the 27th, I had about a week to spend with my Mother and two sisters in Pierre, SD and with my daughter Janessa in Grand Island, NE. I was with my daughter Janessa off and on through the next week of 27th through Oct. 2nd. During this week I was preparing and then speaking at the East Hill Church of Christ in York, NE and twice at the World Mission Workshop held this year at York College in York, NE. I also had a booth at the World Mission Workshop telling about our work in Ukraine. I spoke twice more on Sunday to the Auburn, NE Church of Christ and to the MAP program back at York College in the evening.

I am now at my mother's home in Pierre, SD. From here I will visit my son Butch and his wife Erin in Puyallup, WA and my two grand daughters! My youngest was born Oct. 2nd at around 2am! Her name is Ella Marie and she weighed in at 9 lbs. and 6 oz. and is 21 inches long! On the 9th, I will go back to Fayetteville for the weekend and end up back in Ukraine on Oct. 13th! Wow! It makes me tired, but joyful just thinking about it!

More about "WHY" I came to USA

Since the Lord has blessed us with 17 new Christians, I have very deliberately added another class to my teachings and that is a new Christian class. I am determined to do all that I can to help keep these new Christians be faithful to the Lord and help them to grow in their faith and to become multipliers like 2 Timothy 2:2 says that they should learn to teach others also. Of course we continue to grow with the Lord's blessings and this means more people to teach and reach.

I am going to start teaching in a village school (my third school) every other Friday. This village is about 1 ½ hours away from Kremenchuk. Lord willing, I will have the opportunity to teach an adult class here as well.

The elders at West Fayetteville have agreed to support (with other congregations help) Sasha so that he can start a new congregation in Comsomosk, a city of 120,000 about 30 miles from

Kremenchuk. We hope to plant this church around the first of November. I will help with this initial effort of getting it started and of course on going efforts of encouragement and teachings.

There are at least two more schools in Kremenchuk that I believe that we could enter to teach in if we had the people to do it. I do not have the time at this time to step through these doors of opportunity. It just is not physically possible for me to do!

So what are we going to do?

1. We will trust in the Lord and we will work and pray so that he will send workers into His field.
2. I spoke at the workshop in Alabama to seek out interested workers to serve with us.
3. At the World Mission Workshop I talked to AIM – Adventures In Missions from Lubbock, TX about sending a team to join us next May for 2 years. We will know in December if they can come.
4. My booth at the Workshop was for the sole purpose of seeking out workers to join us. Several were interested and many will continue to receive this newsletter.
5. The final answers to all things are in God's hands and so I ask you to pray for this work and for workers for this future work. Please continue to pray for me that I will have the strength necessary to continue this work with joy and enthusiasm as God is preparing His workers to join me in the field!! God **WILL** provide!

Your prayers are so much needed

God is always faithful to keep His promises to us. He promises to hear and abundantly answer our prayers as we are faithful to Him. Please pray for:

1. All our new Christians to remain faithful and strong in the Lord.
2. That God would lead us to many new souls who seek Him and find Him through His Word.
3. That the parents of the students will be open and understanding to what their children are learning and want to be apart of His Church as well. five of our new Christian's parents are apposed to them being with us.
4. Pray that we will know how to overcome the barriers between us and some of the parents.
5. Pray that God will send us workers, soon!!

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