

Kremenchuk, Ukraine Newsletter

Doug Berry, Missionary Volume No. 3

Issue No. 5

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Greetings in the Lord!

It is 5:10am as I start to write to you today. Our lives here in Kremenchuk have become so busy, but I have thought about writing to you for some time. In all our rush, we must remember to trust in God for everything and for all we do. I am so thankful for your fellowship with us in the work of the Lord in Kremenchuk and in central Ukraine!

Our Team is Growing!

As you probably know, I came to Kremenchuk without a “team” of coworkers coming with me. I have always been God’s team member! As pupils (1st through 11th grades), students (university age), and adults began to come to my classes, I was never really alone. When these people began to become Christians, my team grew and they became my best friends as well as family in Ukraine. Then God brought more mature workers to work with in the cause of Christ in Ukraine with native workers Gregory, Sasha and Valeria. These men are constant encouragers for me as we work together for the cause of Christ.



James, Max, Natalie, Yulya, Kelli, Nastya, Frankie, Jared at the airport on May 10th

On May 10th God has added more to our “team” of workers by bringing our AIM team to work with me for 14 months to 2 years! James Vaughn is 22 and from England, a graduate of the University of Scotland with degrees in statistics and economics. Frankie Villigas is 19 and from Amarillo, TX. Frankie has a brother who married a Russian girl while he was working in the mission field in Russia. Jared Kendal is 19 and from Arkansas. Jared lived for two years with his family in Russia and now feels himself home in Kremenchuk!

We are also very fortunate to have our summer workers arriving as well! Kelli Himebaugh arrived with the AIM team on May 10th and is making her 4th visit to work in Kremenchuk. That is not all. Kelli will go through a year of mission training with AIM and bring a 2nd team to come here next spring to live and work for another 2 years! We will have 3 other 2nd year returnees coming in June. Kellie Lovelady will arrive on June 6th; Kyle Gustafson and my daughter Jenise Berry will arrive on June 16th. We will have Roy Whittington from the Church of Christ in Auburn, Nebraska come to work with us for 2 weeks from June 9th-23rd.

The Last Couple of Months

April is a month when things always seem to pick up the pace for us. All of our classes are better attended. We have become very busy with trying to get things ready for our new arrivals, our summer classes, and our Black Sea Bible Camp. We started earnestly looking for an apartment for the AIM team to live in. I never dreamed we would have such a difficult time finding an apartment for them. As always, God provided us with a great location; not a bad price for a very livable home in the very center of the city! They moved into their new home on May 23rd. One of the exciting things that happened in April was that I started a personal Bible Study with Natalie, our young English teacher (26 years old) from School #11. Then towards the end of April, Yulya, the young English teacher (24) from School #9 told me she would also like to have a personal study with me! Please continue to pray for these young teachers and their souls!

The early part of May brings many holidays to Ukraine. This year we had more holidays because Orthodox Easter fell on May 1 which is also a kind of workers day holiday. Then May 9th this year was the 60th Anniversary of the ending of the Great Patriotic War or WWII. There were literally thousands of people in the center parks and streets, and the city closes down the center streets for this type of celebration.

As I have already said, May 10th brought us our new workers. We spent the first few days mostly helping them to get acclimated to their culture and surroundings. From May 16-19 we visited different schools to invite pupils to come to our classes. Also, on May 19th we made our 2nd annual trip to the village of Bugaevka for their spring celebration. We will have 2 of the 10th grade girls from the village going with us to our camp! They have been studying with Zhenya and me all year. Our 4 weeks of summer classes started on May 23rd. Because

school is still in session this week, we continued to have 4 classes every day with the 5th form averaging 12 at 11am, the 6th and 7th forms averaging 14 at 4pm, the 8-11th forms averaging 10 at 4:30pm and the 5th and 6th forms averaging 10 at 6pm. All our classes are 1 ½ hours long. Also, in May there was a team of 15 workers that came from Kentucky to assist in holding a week long, city-wide campaign. There were 9 baptisms that resulted from this campaign! My greatest concern is that normally when people are baptized in Ukraine in short studies, they don't often remain faithful to the Lord. Please pray for these new Christians and our follow-up with them!

For the Rest of the Summer

Our Summer Classes will end on June 17. This will give us a little over a week before we leave for our summer camp. We are planning on taking 45 to 60 people to our 3rd Annual Black Sea Bible Camp this year. We will be leaving the evening of June 26 (we travel at night, because it is cooler and a 12 hour trip!) and arriving back to Kremenchuk the morning of July 10th. On July 14th most of our summer workers and I will go to the USA. I will arrive in TN for about 3 weeks of needed fund raising. I will then go to Grand Island, Nebraska for my daughter, Janessa's wedding to Brandon Paul on August 13th and spend some needed time with family. I will be with my granddaughter, Hannah Berry, on her 3rd birthday on August 17 and her family Butch, Erin and Ella (sister). I will return to Kremenchuk on August 31.

Fund Raising This Summer

I am very thankful to Bell Trust that has supported this work for the first three years. They support a work for only a certain period of time and then it comes to an end. Their support of me ends this fall, so I need to replace their support of \$400.00 a month. I am very thankful to all of you, Churches and individuals who have so faithfully supported me and the growing work here in Kremenchuk and central Ukraine! There are three ways that you can possibly assist me in my upcoming fund raising efforts:

1. Contact Steve Jefferson, a deacon with the West Fayetteville Church of Christ in Fayetteville, TN about my coming to visit your congregation in the TN area while I am in TN from July 14 through August 7. I would love to talk to your congregation about the work here. **Steve's phone number is 931-433-0189.**
2. Your faithful continued financial support has been the life blood of this ministry. Thank you so much! As you or your congregation continues to support this work, consider increasing your support, if possible. Even a small increase would help and be greatly appreciated!
3. As for you who have been supporters through prayer, love, and possibly with a one-time gift when we started

this work: Thank you! There is no greater gift than your prayers. Now, I am asking you as a Church or family to make a financial monthly commitment to this work. Let it be whatever fits your ability. I so much appreciate your being a part with us in any way you can!

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Prayer Requests

1. For continued open hearts to Christ's message.
2. For boldness to walk through God's open doors.
3. For our summer classes and Bible Camp to be life changing experiences for many people!
4. For the faithfulness of our new Christians and that they would be encouraged and strengthened every day.
5. For my children and family and for their health and well-being while I am away from them.
6. For Gregory in his work in the village and in the boy's prison and for Valeria in his work in the Church as well.
7. For Sasha as he preaches in the new Church of Christ in Komsomolsk and for the young church there.
8. For Frankie, Jared and James as they enter into the work here full time in Kremenchuk with me.
9. For Kelli, Kellie, Kyle and Jenise as they share in the work of this ministry this summer that they would move lives toward Christ and that we would bless them, too.
10. For me to be the strong, faithful, loving leader, teacher, brother, and friend that I always need to be.
11. For several who are considering becoming Christians. Please pray that they would obey the Gospel and put Him on in Baptism and live faithfully to God.
12. For my fund raising to be successful beyond all that we ask or think, so that this work can continue.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

Ephesians 3:20