

## ***We Visit and Encourage Ministry in Kharkov.***

Dear brothers and sisters thank you so much that you trust me and Julie in the work what we do in Kharkov. It has always been my dream to take kids from the Church to the camp. God blessed us with an opportunity to take 10 kids from Alexeevka Church of Christ to Mayak, Poltava. I am very thankful to the Lord that He allowed me to convince brethren in Alexeevka that it is important to start sponsoring our kids with a reward which is going to be for them to go to Poltava. At least the church is able to cover 4 kids right now. I am very thankful to brothers in Alexeevka who voted for Julie to go and be with those kids 24/7. We both are thankful to the Lord that we are in the Church that allows us to be active and that this church is thinking that next generation is very important. All of that puts a lot of responsibilities on us and it is a double load for us too. We need lots of prayers on our behalf and lots of encouragements as well. Ha! Julie and I love kids a lot and want the best for our next generation.

‘We Visit and Encourage Ministry’ is going to be based on several things, such are: A. to have a logical conclusion of the evangelism work that is being done in Kharkov. We are using several methods and eventually will use the one that works the most. In other words Evangelism Work. B. We would like to continue on helping orphans and widows. C. We visit congregations and encourage them to search for talents in different areas and together do the work of Evangelism and build new programs. So in other words, visiting people, spending time together and encourage each other is a key to success.

It is God’s blessing that He gave me an ability to generate ideas and accomplish them too. It was just an idea at the end of December and by the end of January we know that not only kids who attend my Bible through the English course but kids who just come to the church can go to Mayak.

I do have another idea to plan a VBS camp in Kharkov along with Poltava camp for summer 2012 in Kharkov. We will see what plan God has for us.

Please, please continue to pray for open hearts of those parents who bring their kids to study Bible in English, please pray for the local church to stay active in their thinking and reasoning. Please pray for Julie and myself so that we will be able to encourage not only kids who are coming to study Bible in English to go to the camp but to influence the whole church or several congregations in Kharkov that this is our next generation. Our next generation must be smarter than we are and build faith in Jesus from childhood.

Also it might be a good idea to start thinking about Poltava congregations and Kremenchuk. I do have many friends in Kremenchuk in the Church of Christ but not in Poltava. So, if we will have orphan kids this coming summer from Kremenchuk then it will be a good idea to contact local churches over there or maybe invite few people from those congregations to visit us and do the follow up locally afterwards.

We need your prayers brothers and sisters and dear friends. Julie and I want to thank you beforehand for supporting us and your active participation and partnership in the Lord’s work in the Ukraine.

*“Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of {our} God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, {and} to keep oneself unstained by the world. James 1:27.”*



**Visiting orphans in Kobelyaki and doing EEM presentation in Alexeevka  
after our trip:**







We have had a fantastic trip to visit kids. I am very thankful to Rob, Bimbo, Imoh, Masha, Sergey and Robert for their desire to help orphan kids and participate in follow up program. We were blessed to get to know Valentina Nikolaevna director of this orphanage and after our visit her impression was that we are good Christians and she allowed us to come back. It reminds me a passage in the Bible. In John chapter 4 we all know that Jesus spoke with Samaritan woman. Her opinion changed about Jesus during the conversation process probably 15-20 minutes. If you look closely in the passage you will notice that in v, 9 she called him *“how is it that You, **being a Jew**, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan...”*, then in v, 11 *“**Sir**, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep...”*. John continues in v, 19 *“...**Sir**, I perceive that You are a **prophet**...”* and v, 29 *“Come, see a man who told me all the things that I {have} done; this is not the **Christ**, is it?”* Later on at the end of the chapter we know that a lot of Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified. They got faith from listening to her. *“And they were saying to the woman, “it is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.” **John 4:42**”* That’s exactly what Valentina asked me privately before she allowed us to enter into the building: Who are you Valeriy, and whom you represent? I gave her an answer we are simple Christians who have been working with your kids for the last three years in Mayak under EEM organization. She by the way has been working as a director of this orphanage for the last three months. She doesn’t have a clue about the camps or EEM or ‘simple Christians’. That’s when you got to tell your story. If you remember I shared a small story from John Eldredge’s book in the annual newsletter for 2010. So I told her our story in 10minutes. After spending one hour talking, singing, laughing and hugging with kids she changed her opinion. We literally had to pill them off from us the kids were so touched by our visit and would like us to come back. I personally was touched too. That’s hard when you are leaving... Who knows if the Lord willing Valentina will be sharing positive thoughts about us and her faith will grow in Jesus too. And that can be a start for the Church of Christ in Kobelyaki© Probably I will need to give a call to Denis Sopelnik (Bear Valley School of Preacher director) and share about this possibility. Ha! By the way, we sang a song with kids at the end of our fellowship “Sea of Galilee.” I did a small presentation for them: ‘why is so important for them to read Bible?’ Rob spoke about his mission over here in the Ukraine. So it all went fantastic. Later in the car Sergey shared some of his mom’s delicious “Vareniki” (dumplings with potatoes inside). We enjoyed “Vareniki” and Rob’s coffee. The day was really blessed by God.

This trip would be really hard to make without Rob's part in it. I mean he drove 200 km one way and back. Rob thank you so much for your heart and your desire to help us out. Maybe who knows God is willing for you and your family to participate as a part of Poltava EEM team next year in Mayak. Ha!

In January I've spend most of my time doing presentation about EEM work in Poltava as to the local congregations as well as to individual parents. I concentrated 90% of my time to this work. Besides as usual I was teaching classes in Alexeevka. I didn't teach as it was planned in a congregation of downtown because we all were busy and the theme that brothers chose "Preacher and his work" is a very specific oriented more for brothers. Ivan works at home, Andrew is busy with his job and I was busy with camp preparation. So, hopefully this subject we will study in February or at least look at specifics and the most important things.

**I was doing the presentation in Alexeevka about EEM work in Poltava, Mayak camp. On the pictures you will also see brothers from downtown every Friday we get together in a place called "Puzata Hata" eat breakfast or simply have tea and share what has been done during the week and discuss important matters for the downtown congregation. Please enjoy the pics:**





In January I cooked the most delicious borsch for our friends: Rob and his family, Katya and my sweet wife. Ha! Everybody liked it and I liked it too. Ha!

#### **Fellowship at Kachuk's place:**



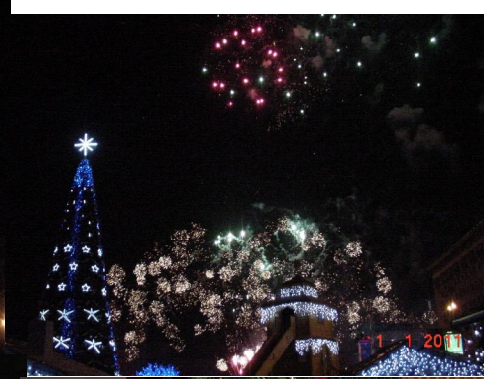
In January also we have had a great celebration of the New Year with our friends Denis and Vera Sopelnik and Robert. Denis is a director of Bear Valley Bible School in Gorlovka plus he and his family does a lot of good things in Gorlovka and Donbass region. Robert works in Alexeevka as a security guard. He is a good helper and a good friend too! Also we observed a wonderful skit in Alexeevka on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. After that we went for a week to Donetsk to fellowship with our friends and relatives. We had a fantastic fellowship with Julie's brother, dad, grandma, mom and her cousin. We also had a wonderful fellowship with Grishuk's family Dima, Julie and Sofia. They are our good old friends. Dima works in Sunset School of Preachers and does a lot of good things in Donetsk. Julie his wife is responsible for a choir in the Church of Christ and she is teaching about 20 or 30 people how to sing. We have two or three of her CD's just a brilliant girl with a fantastic voice. Ha! Both of these Julies (my wife and Dimas) are friends since the establishing Church of Christ in Ugledar in the 90ies. They used to sing together in choir for 4 years before Julie and I got married in January 18<sup>th</sup> of 2003.

So we were blessed with good visits and great fellowship in Donetsk.

By the way, before we left we had a great celebration of the New Year in Alexeevka on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vladik's parents came and I got introduced to them. That's great when parents are coming to see what their kids are involved to. Please keep the Children's group in your prayers. Thx.



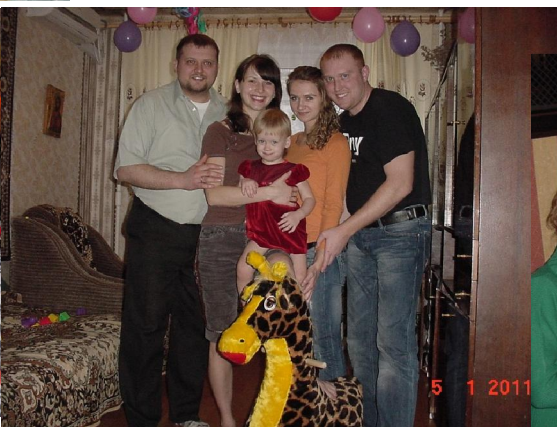
**Fellowship with Denis and Vera Sopelnik and Robert in Kharkov.  
Celebration of the New Year 2011 at Rob's apt and  
great fellowship in Alexeevka Church of Christ:**





Our visit with Dima and Julie and their daughter Sofia went really well. We also were blessed to fellowship with Julie's relatives. For a few minutes we were able to fellowship with our old friend Vanya Konovalov. Vanya is a member of Petrovskii Church of Christ in Donetsk. We became good friends during my first trip to Donetsk in 2001 and we worked together with the youth group of Petrovskii Church of Christ the whole summer of 2001.

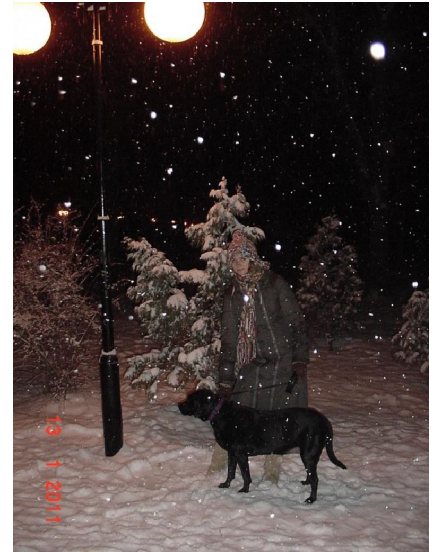
**Felloship with Grishuk's family,Vanya and our relatives in Donetsk:**





We had a lot of fun time watching Kona (Rob's dog) for six weeks. So we took some pictures during a wonderful snow storm we were playing with her in the park. We miss Kona a lot she is a good dog. Ha!

**Pictures from "Molodezhnyi Park" (A Youth Park) playing with Kona:**



Therefore, January flew by as one of the busiest months of the whole year. We set a resolution to concentrate our minds on peaceful attitude to all of our friends and brothers and sisters and also concentrate our energy on the things that bind us together. Our hopes are that the Lord's work will grow in Kharkov, Poltava and Donetsk. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

Julie and I would like to thank Miles City Church of Christ for giving us hope and being our partners in this work in Khakov. We would like to thank Kelly Milam, Todd Tarbett, Judy Rau, Patrick Gallagher, Robert Leitz, Jesse Anthony and others who are praying for us and helping us individually or helping us to raise support from other congregations. Thank you, thank you, thank you dear brothers and sisters.

Please continue to pray for us.



**Plans for February:**

- 1) We will continue to grow in our MINISTRY: “WE VISIT and ENCOURAGE.” **2 Corinthians 2:15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 1 Peter 4: 7-11; Philippians 4:6-8; 2 Timothy 2:2.**
- 2) Continue on persuading local congregations how important for us to take care of the next generation and raise funds for kids locally or ask for it in US. The BEST TEAM is going to arrive to Mayak this coming summer 2011. The BEST TRANSLATORS are going to be working in the camp Mayak. The BEST TEACHERS will be teaching the BEST material in the camp Mayak. Last but not least THE BEST DIRECTOR Lyudmila Victorovna is going to host us in her wonderful camp Mayak.
- 3) We would like to visit our friend in Kramatorsk. I personally need to see Vlad and speak with him about summer camps. So that he can share with me few important preparations for kids: rules, medical documents, conduct of kids in the camp etc...Plus we would like to see Jeff Abrams in Kramatorsk. We also are planning to join his BEST camp in Svyatogorsk in June. If of course we will not have two teams for Poltava.
- 4) I would like to cook borsch for all missionaries who work in Kharkov from US or other countries. For such event Rob and I discussed this briefly but we would like to invite Inna Kuzmenko so that she will speak about EEM work in the Ukraine. She can do a wonderful presentation and I will cook a wonderful Borsch. Ha!
- 5) Inna and I came up with an idea as far as the annual meeting for all translators who are going to be working this coming summer for EEM. Maybe we can have the annual conference in Poltava, Mayak. I talked with Lyudmila and she doesn't mind at all. I talked with Inna last Sunday she is fine with that and she will let Darryl know about it and ask him if it is a good idea. I told Lyudmila that if they chose her camp I can help her to organize whatever she will ask.
- 6) I will be asking people about Kharkov camp and will start searching for it.
- 7) We have the deadline for the parents to come up with the decision as far as who is going from Alexeevka to Mayak and who is not. So a list should be ready by the end of February.
- 8) I will continue to work with English through the Bible program in Alexeevka.
- 9) Both Julie and I will continue to encourage downtown congregation.
- 10) My personal studies and preparation is going to be done during the office hours.

Julie is staying very busy with her school. Please keep her in your prayers too. We still in the process of raising our personal funds and she can't quit now.

I personally was able to renew my visa till the 9<sup>th</sup> of April locally. Praise God I didn't have to travel to Russia using cold trains. Ha! In April I will try to do it locally again in Kharkov. I am hoping they will permit me to stay for another three months and do the permission locally in Kharkov. If not I will have to go to Russia and stay there for a few days and come back Kharkov again.

We love you all dearly.

Please keep us in your prayers.

We do keep you friends in our prayers always.

In Jesus' love, your friends and co-workers Valeriy and Julie Kachuk. Philippians 4:13.