

Lord's congregations in Kharkov, Ukraine.

"The old green pickup truck came sliding sideways on the gravel road, stopping as the front door of the little crossroads country store. The driver in a breathless shout asked, "Did you see a blue bus come by here with about 35 men on it?"

"Yep, sure did about 30 minutes ago."

"Which way did they go when they left?"

"They took that right fork in the road to Newtown."

"Thanks, I've got to catch up with them because I'm their leader."

A lot of leaders are trying to catch up with their followers. They aren't out front where a leader should be, but, rather, they're bringing up the rear; which is the wrong position for a get-things-done leader to be. Dynamic leadership takes place out in front of the group. The only things you can do from behind are push, hide, watch, or try to catch up. Very little leading, if any, occurs from the rear ranks."(Leadership For Great Missions, written by Dr. J. J. Turner).

"Now when all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from each tribe, and command them, saying, 'Take up for yourselves twelve stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet are standing firm, and carry them over with you and lay them down in the lodging place where you will lodge tonight.'" So Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the sons of Israel, one man from each tribe; and Joshua said to them, "Cross again to the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel." "Let this be a sign among you, so that when your children ask later, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' then you shall say to them, 'Because the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.' So these stones shall become a memorial to the sons of Israel forever." Thus the sons of Israel did as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, just as the LORD spoke to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel; and they carried them over with them to the lodging place and put them down there (Joshua 4:1-8)."

"Our Lord understands that we, as feeble, sinful humans, are only too apt to forget the great things He has done for us. Not only are we likely to forget, we are also likely not to tell the next generation of the things of God, as we ought to do."

Dear brothers and sisters you know what I wear on my ring-finger on the left hand is a graduation ring from Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver. You may ask me what for is that V? Well first of all, in Russia or Ukraine if you are married you need to wear your wedding ring on the right hand third finger, secondly that remind me about Bear Valley Bible Institute in Denver where I've spent the most terrific two years in my life, and thirdly the most important thing on this ring is written one verse from the Bible that I like the most: ***"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2Timothy 2:2)."***

I am very thankful to the Lord that he helps me and Julie to stand on His promises. We would like to leave behind, before we will go to Heaven something that Ukrainian nation will use to glorify God's name. We work on the most import task that world can ever imagine. Which is to establish Christ's congregations around Ukraine and possible in the whole world and preach the Gospel to the Lost. Those small inscriptions on my graduation ring from BVBID are the things to remind us about so many blessings from the Lord.

Our goal is therefore simple: give assistance to missionaries so that lives and souls maybe saved.

Our purpose statement:

The purpose of united servants abroad (in the Ukraine) is to expand the Church of Jesus Christ by encouraging love and obedience to the Lord our God and participation in the Great Commission through short term missions and long ones. Giving assistance to missionaries is important to the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Assistance for missionary support may be through a construction team's building a church, school, or else...

Goals should be **SMART**: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-Based.

Two weeks ago we've officially been added as members to a new congregation in downtown. Eight of us said "yes" for legal status and decision making process for our congregation. Andrew, Sveta and Vanya Nesteroviches, Natasha, Katya, Onome Prince (brother from Nigeria), Mike McDougle, Valeriy and Julie Kachuk said 'yes' to the congregation in downtown. It is a true joy to observe how Andrew takes a role of leader of this congregation and does well in it. It is a true joy to work hand in hand with Sveta, Vanya, Natasha and Katya in encouragements of each other and sowing good seeds. It is a true joy to have missionaries in Kharkov who do Lord's work in different areas and respect this culture a lot.

Of course Julie and I will concentrate our vision and that's our great desire on the area of Novye Doma in Kharkov and will do as much as we can here in our community. But definitely we will need a lot of help from Alexeevka and downtown congregations. We are peacemakers in Kharkov and believe that we should concentrate on the things that bind us together rather than separate us. Julie and I are the team builders for God's Church, His work in summer camps and Evangelism work in Kharkov too. Ha! Well, for example Inna Kyzmenko and I spoke during our fellowship time in Alexeevka last Sunday about previous teams and Ukrainian translators. I would like to be again a responsible person who will help her to coordinate Ukrainian translators for camps but specifically for Poltava camp in 2011. I have been working as team builder (Ukrainian translators) for the last 6-8 years for WWYC and EEM organizations in the Ukraine.

I would like to thank Andrew because it is a true privilege for me to work with him in one congregation and in summer camps too. I've known Andrew since 2007. First time he came to Alexeevka, to study the Bible in English, and then I saw him in the summer camp Romashka, where Jesse Anthony and a team from Southeast Church of Christ worked with EEM organization. Even though Andrew was not on our team member in 2007 we instantly became good friends. I invited him to join me for morning jogging. And together with Andrew we were jogging every morning and became good friends. Later on we continued our friendship with Andrew. I helped him a lot with English language and in 2008 I've made a protégé about him to Inna and invited him to camp Mayak to work as a translator for EEM. In October 2008 three missionary families, our mutual friends, arrived to Kharkov. I invited Andrew because as you know good influence is very important always. Andrew heard the Saving Gospel message from me several times, Denis Sopelnik, Jesse Anthony and Patrick Gallagher before he heard it again from Mike, Rob and David and decided to be baptized. Amen! Once I told him: "Andre you will be a great preacher." He replied "No way V." Well, a year has passed and today we see the result he is preaching right now, last Sunday he preached on Love subject and he is a good leader right now. Thanks to Jesus most of all, and of course to Mike, Rob, David, Denis, Jesse, Patrick and myself for encouraging Andrew in such most important decision of his life.

Ivan, Sveta, Natasha and Katya are: our good old friends from Kramatorsk Church of Christ and Slavyansk Church of Christ (Donbas region). Both Julie and I have known them for last 7 years from 2004. Together we were connected in Kramatorsk through the Biblical Institute of Bear Valley. We became good friends 7 years ago and still are. Together for the last 7 years we've been attending all kinds of Christian seminars (youth, women's, men's); we went to different cities to attend Christian conferences and took part in summer Christian camps. It is our privilege to sow seeds of truth in downtown congregation with them together too.

And of course I am thankful to my wife for because she has been encouraging me all those years. Kharkov city is a challenge to preach because it is still under big influence of Russia (I mean only Orthodox for Orthodox people) and post Soviet period. It is not like Western part of

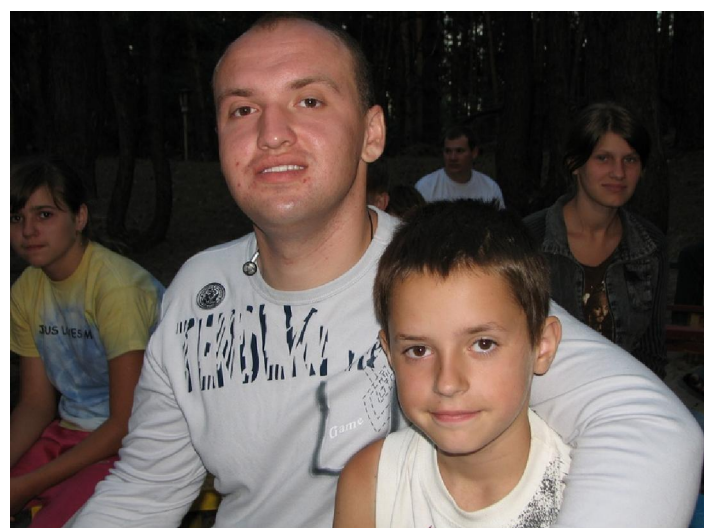
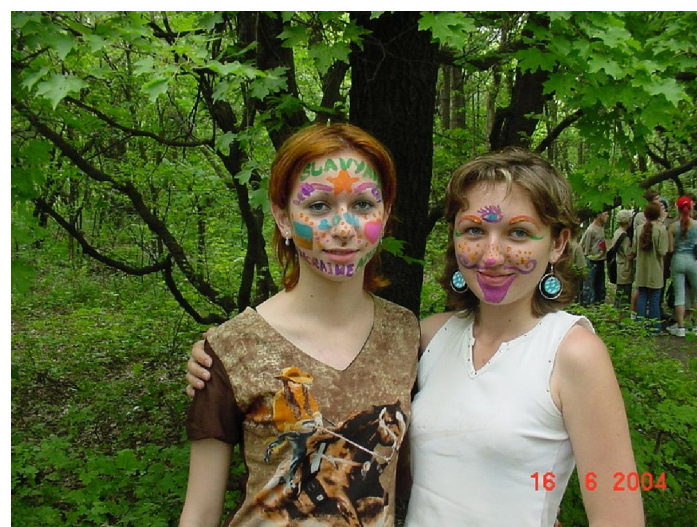
Ukraine where everybody knows that they should pray to God before they eat and go to the Church every first day of the week. But anyhow, God is great; He is Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent. Amen! He blessed me and Julie, introduced us with Andrew and other Christians. God reunited us with Ivan, Sveta, Natasha and Katya back for His work in Kharkov city.. Isn't it great? I think this is a providence of God.

Therefore we have big task to fulfill to take this saving Gospel to the Lost and dieing world. We must leave our comfort zones and be out there talking to people and introducing them to Jesus as once somebody introduce us to Him. Only the Blood of Christ saves us all and unites us all. A church building can be a hindrance don't get me wrong here but our focus should be on "seeking and saving the lost" Luke 19:10!

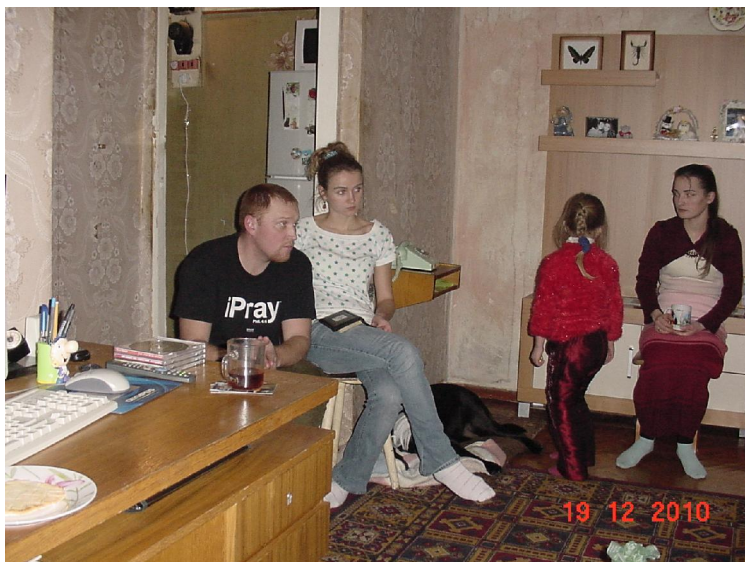
Julie and I will continue on encouraging Alexeevka Church of Christ to fix their vision on Evangelism and downtown Church of Christ to fix its vision on Evangelism as well. With their help we will start one more congregation in Novye Doma.

I would like to share some pictures that remind us a background of a starting point of our fellowship with Andrew, Ivan and Sveta, Natasha and Katya:





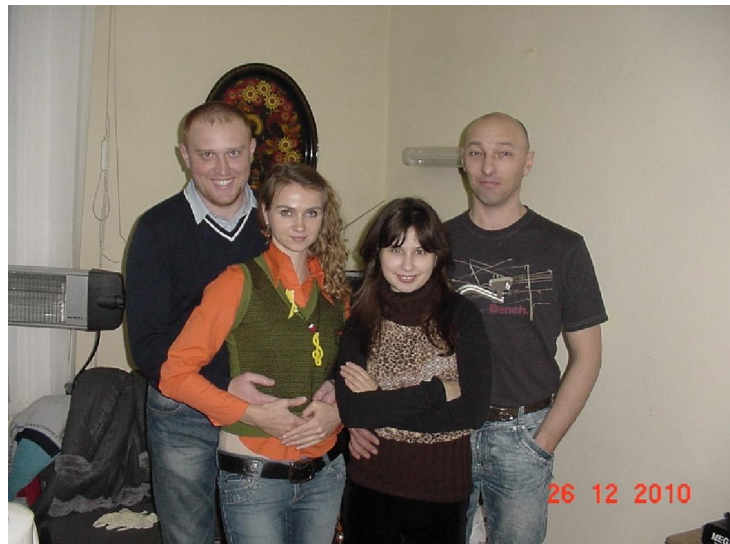
In December we've accomplished what was planned in November. I preached in Alexeevka and Valeriy Gaidash came to speak at our downtown congregation. Along with other friends: Imoh, Katya, Vlad, Robert, Lyuba and Zyhra we cooked Borsch and a second course macaroni on the 25th of December. Along with that my courses Bible in English language are going great as for adults as well as for kids in Alexeevka.



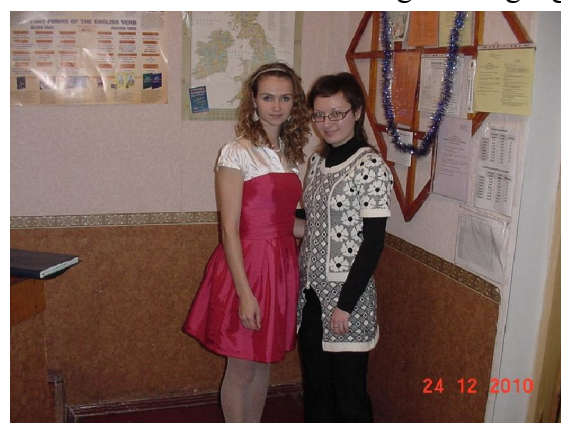


Last Saturday we had a wonderful fellowship together cooking borsch in Alexeevka. Katya came to help, Vlad came, Imoh and Robert came, and later on Andrew came, Valeriy Gaidash and others for the youth group Bible study. On Sunday for our charity dinner and a worship services we had a little over 60 people. If I am not mistaken we had 62 folks total in number. Such events help people to be more open and more talkative and friendly. Here are some pics of our loving friends in both congregations as in Alexeevka as well as downtown:





With preaching and teaching in both congregations I was able to visit two public high schools one in Malaya Danilova and Julie's school. Visiting with student's and their teachers is a joy for me as well. In Malaya Danilovka our small theatre showed a skit again. Next time I will definitely participate as one of the actor. I was a main photographer and encourager of Vlad, Marichka, Lesya Gaidash, Lyuba and Robert. I went to Julie's school where I got introduced to Julie's friend Inna they work together in the same class room, and Inna is a great teacher of English language. Also we had a nice visit with Julie's students from the 5th grade.



Few things that I think we must to share with ya'll. I've spoken literally with all those people who are on the pictures of our blog and told them those are for the news because Julie and I work as missionaries over here in Kharkov. Not only that but this morning I have a very constructive, positive dialog with Vanya, Andrew and Robert, where all of them encouraged me to continue on, to take as many pictures as I can and be responsible for the history of the downtown congregation and our family album. They are reading our Newsletters also and thankful to the Lord for us. Isn't it great to have such a fantastic support group? Honestly speaking Julie and I really blessed with such folks who care about Lord's work, care about His Saving Gospel and are busy about our Father's business. We are looking forward to see the rest of our encouragers: Mike, David, Rob and Brandon with their families. We all would like to help them in accomplishing their plans and goals in Kharkov.

What we have accomplished for the last few months? Well first of all, Julie and I set a goal to invite 10 people for English through the Bible program for Alexeevka. And we have accomplished that. We have 5 for kids class and 5 for adult's. I would like to emphasize that those folks are consistent as far as their attendance. A lot has been done as far as being peacemakers and unity among two congregations. It is impossible to have a growing assembly if we hold grudges on somebody. Those issues were all solved and resolved. Our goal is to share almost everyday what is happening here in Kharkov. Not only can you read things in the monthly Newsletter about our family and the Lord's work but in our blog too. I am very thankful to my friend Rob Hindman who helped me a lot how to create this blog. We would like to encourage you all to leave your comments as well. We understand we are not perfect people and do not baptizing 100 people per month, but that's a dream so far. Ha! Our dream also to see those people who love the Lord so much that agreed to support us and this Lord's mission work in Kharkov, we would like to see you face to face and share wonderful blessing of the Lord's work in the Ukraine. We have so many projects and ideas and plans in our head about how to make this country as a Godly nation. And we will share with you about those ideas, goals and plans in our mutual work together.

Thank you so much to the Miles City Church of Christ to support us, Jim Lynch, Todd Tarbett, Kely Milam, Robert Leitz, Judy Rau, Jesse Anthony, Patrick Gallaher, Steve and Stephanie Codara and just others wonderful people in the Lord.

During the middle of the week I study a lot for future classes but I am saving right now one day or one and a half for the future in Novye Doma and benevolence work with orphanages. The rest of my time is simple: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday when I spend most of my time encouraging Christians. Tuesday and Friday are office days and visitation days. Julie of course busy with her school but is free to help me out on Sundays and Saturdays.

Our plans for January:

First of all, to concentrate both congregations on the things those bind us together but not separate us. If we will have to we will sing the song "Bind Us Together" one zillion times. Ha! Singing helps us to remember to stand on the promises of God.

Secondly, since the first week of January 2011 official state vacation for all public schools of Ukraine or rather winter holidays, we will take a small vacation with Julie and go and visit her mom. I haven't seen my mother-in-law for a while. Ha! We will have a family reunion in Ugledar on January 5th, 6th and 7th. Along with that we are planning to visit Donetsk and our friends over there Grishyk's family. Dima Grishyk is a dean of Sunset school of Preachers in Donetsk. Julie his wife is a wonderful singer and their daughter is Sofia is just an awesome child. So it will be a lot of old friend's visitations and our relatives as well.

Thirdly when I will come back brothers of downtown congregation agreed with an idea, which I shared with them to teach a course on a subject of "Preacher and his work" and "Preacher and his role in the Church." So I will be responsible for four weeks session teaching

this course every Thursday night. We by the way changed our time for Tuesday morning small meetings. We are flexible with time and would like to have as many at our small Bible class as we can.

Last but not least, I will continue with my program Bible in English in Alexeevka, and would like to increase it up to 10 people by summer 2011 in each group if the Lord willing. But in January I would like to concentrate as much as I can on the area of Novye Doma and orphanage's work.

By the way, I received couple of messages from Sergey a friend of mine from Poltava camp. He worked with Jesse and me as a counselor with a first group. He was a counselor for group one, adult kids ages 14 and +. Anyway, he told me that our kids will be at Lyudmila's for winter holidays if I can I will go and try to catch them their if not I will ask Andrew to do a visit before I will come back from Donetsk. I will have to talk to Lyudmila and check with her first.

Furthermore, next summer camp in Mayak, Poltava is coming soon. As you noticed I was on the picture with Inna Kuzmenko last Sunday. Well, we had a fantastic conversation about next summer camp. I shared with her my idea and think will share with you. If everything will go the way it should I would like to take my kids from Bible in English program to the camp to Lyudmila, during the time when American teams of EEM over there. It will not only help them to learn more English, but they will have a great fellowship I would say unforgettable time, and it will stimulate others to come to this program. In the future I would like to make an ABC's school of God's word in Alexeevka. Inna thought the idea itself is great but definitely we will have to tell their parents to come up with the money even for 10-15 days in camp and talk to Lyudmila about it way ahead before next season is going to start. Ages are 8-15. Again this is just an idea and I will present it to Lyudmila Viktorovna soon.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, 2011!

Thank you so much for your love, care, kindness and tremendous help to us.

1 Corinthians 15:58.

You are always in our prayers.

May God bless you all dear brothers and sisters richly.

Please keep this Lord's work in your prayers.

In Jesus' love, Valeriy and Julie Kachuk.

p.s. our annual newsletter for 2010 will be ready whether before the end of this year or a little after early January 2011! We are very busy right now for the New Year preparation. Vera and Denis Sopelnik are coming and on the way. Ha!

Meditating on the Word

"In His law he meditates day and night" Psalm 1:2

"Meditating on the Word," edited by Wayne Burger, is a work of the Columbine church of Christ, 7453 S. Zephyr Ct., Littleton, Colorado, 80128. E-mail: burgpreach@prolynx.com -- Suggested topics are welcomed.

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Acts 13:1-3

"Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas...and Saul (later to be called Paul) While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away" (Acts 13:1-3).

When some Christians, who had been scattered because of persecution, came to Antioch of Syria a few years earlier, they preached to the Gentile people. God blessed their efforts (Acts 11:20-21) so that a

large number obeyed the gospel. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard about this, they sent Barnabas to work with those young Christians. After he had been there a short while he recognized the need to have Saul (Paul) also work with them. He went to Tarsus, found Saul, brought him back to Antioch, and they worked with that church for a year (Acts 11:22-26).

About this time the Holy Spirit let it be known that Saul and Barnabas needed to go on a missionary journey. After a special ceremony of prayer, fasting, and laying hands on them, this congregation sent these men out.

Principles: Saul and Barnabas received a miraculous call from the Holy Spirit to go. Missionaries today are not going to receive that kind of call, but missionaries ought to feel a “divine call” to become a missionary. There ought to be that burning desire in them that they have to go. With that kind of burning desire, the missionary will prepare, go, and stay until the task is accomplished. He will not let obstacles prevent him. He’ll use the obstacles as stepping stones to success.

A second principle that we see is that the Holy Spirit directed that two go together. It is possible for one man or even one family to go to the mission field, but how much better if there is a team who goes, even if the team consists of only one other family. Not only can a team of workers accomplish more, but they have companionship, encouragement, and wisdom. ***“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart”*** (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

A third principle one sees in this text is that the missionaries spent time with the “sponsoring” congregation before they left for the mission field. Paul and Barnabas spent over a year with the brethren in Antioch before the Lord sent them out. How appropriate it is for a “sponsoring” congregation to get to know the people they are sponsoring. By spending time together, the members of the sponsoring congregation does not see the mission team as a name in the budget, but rather as people they know and love. The missionaries also feel that the people back home know them and are concerned, not only about their work, but about their personal struggles. The prayers for the missionaries will be more fervent because there is that personal bond that has been formed.

A fourth principle is that there needs to be a formal ceremony when the team is sent out. Notice that before Paul and Barnabas were sent out there was prayer, fasting, and laying on of hands. The laying on of hands was not to impart these men with miraculous gifts, but as a symbolic act that the congregation is behind them. This is not a law, but a principle. Not only does it show unity, but it also declares the seriousness of this event. That is much more meaningful than just an announcement in the bulletin or from the pulpit saying “the missionary team left yesterday.”

This is not the only example of having a public ceremony when putting people into positions of service. Paul makes references to the time the elders laid hands on Timothy (I Timothy 4:14). Again, this was not to give Timothy miraculous powers. Paul did when he laid hands on Timothy (II Timothy 1:6). Although we do not have a record of it in Acts, it must have been when Timothy joined Paul’s missionary team (Acts 16:1-3).

There seems to have been a public ceremony when Paul and Barnabas appointed elders. God’s word says, ***“When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed”*** (Acts 14:23) (to be continued in January Newsletter).