

Kremenchuk, Ukraine

Newsletter

Welcome from Kremenchuk!

I am starting my third full week and have experienced many blessings and a couple of bumps! I will tell you about both because I know that God works through both our ups and downs. I arrived in the airport in Kiev on time on Friday, September 13th at 1:50pm. My luggage all arrived with me, safe and sound. About two hours later I made it through customs and I was able to greet my six friends waiting for me. It was so good to see them all again. We arrived in Kremenchuk about 7:30pm. I rested most of Saturday and then met with my Ukrainian Brethren on Sunday. I was so excited to see Andrew, a brother that I thought was living in England, but he has just returned to Ukraine. He speaks excellent English. He is a University student about 1 ½ hours away during the week. He is a faithful child of God.

Prison Work

The prison work needed our immediate attention. We were asked to come and meet with the prison officials at 9 AM on Monday morning. The Church of Christ has been involved in this boy's prison for five years. The Church is given a room in which the boys can come and meet, but there has never been any up keep on the room. The prison was going to have an inspection 8 days away, and they were very concerned with the way the room looked. In a veiled threat that Gregory, the prison minister and Natalie clearly understood, the main authority made it clear that if the repair wasn't done, then the prison work would be finished. We ended up putting \$263.00 worth of repair into the room, of which it very badly need! The prison is happy and our work continues on. I will have my first opportunity to meet with the boys this coming Sunday.

School # 11 & the 5th -7th Forms

After we left the prison, we went on School # 11 where I was about to begin an incredible two weeks. We started by going to every class of 5th through the 11th forms (the grades here are called forms, rather than grades) to tell them why I was here and what we would be doing. We would use the Children's Bible Story book for the 5th through the 7th forms and teach

Bible lessons about Christian Principles for the 8th through the 11th forms. We told the students of the 5th through the 7th forms that they would receive a Children's Story Book if they attend most of the classes before the winter break and the older classes that they would receive a full Russian Bible for regular attendance. Then I met with the 6 English teachers that are interested in studying with me and I will use the book of Luke for that study. Then I went home and began to study like crazy, because I was to start my first class the next day.



The 7th Form Class

On Tuesday I was to begin the first of the 8 classes that I was going to teach this week. I had about 140 students in class this week, all except about 30 were voluntary comers, as I also taught two English classes that a teacher asked me to come and teach. The second week I conducted 19 classes, with over 200 students.

I really love all my classes! But how can you not help loving the younger, enthusiasm of the 5th and 6th form? They are so delightful and eager! I particularly love my 6th form class. They all want to answer the questions. They are so much fun to be around! When I took digital pictures and showed them my camera, I thought they were going to go absolutely crazy! They could not believe their eyes! Then, of course, they all wanted me to take their picture.

In all my classes, I began by talking to them about who God is, His characteristic and nature. I talked about how God is always true and that we can always absolutely depend upon Him, if we do His will or plan for our lives. Then I talked about how the Bible was the God breathed Word and Words of God and what

that meant. We discussed what truth was and how that since God is absolute truth and cannot lie, then the words that He has given to us are completely true and complete. I asked the little ones (5th-7th) to draw me what they thought God looked like. I received some very interesting pictures. Then we discussed more what God is all about. So far with the younger ones, we have studied the Bible stories up to the story of the Tower of Babel.

8th – 11th Forms



9 of the 12 11th form who came to my 1st Class

The students that are coming to my older classes are the bright and eager minds that I want to touch before they can graduate. Five of these pictured students helped me carry my books about 7 blocks in the rain from the post office! Four of these students were involved with our classes this summer. The boy kneeling is very close to becoming a Christian. His name is Uri. He has such a beautiful and tender heart!

I thought that three of the girls in the 8th form were going to faint when I walked into their classroom to be introduced! I had them in the 5th form when I was here two years ago and we were such good friends. We have been so excited to see each other again!

An unexpected teaching opportunity came about when the school's Russian language teacher came at the end of the first week and asked if I could come and teach all three of her 6th form classes about the life of Jesus. What a great class that turned out to be! The Russian teacher had been so excited about my classes that on Thursday, two other teachers asked if I could come and teach the same to the 9th form and also to teach classes on the History of the Bible. I really had to work hard that night, because I started teaching the next day!

God continues to open some incredible doors at this school and others schools. We have at least 8 students from at least 4 other schools coming to our classes as well.

Some Needs That I Have

When I get my own internet service, I will send out email pictures. If you have not received my emails reports and would like to, please give me your email address by writing me at: doug@ukrainemission.com.

If you have good quality O.T & N.T. visual aids and would like to pass them on to me, please send them to the West Fayetteville. We have plenty visuals on creation, Moses early years, and Joseph. If you have colorful, simple charts and maps that are easy to read, those may be helpful to.

Again, I ask that you communicate with the elders at West Fayetteville, but I would like to have a muffin pan of either 8 large or 12 smaller muffins. Also, hot chocolate packages and chocolate chips would be nice. And chili, spaghetti and taco season packages as well. Really the food is very good here, but you do miss certain things!

Prayer Requests

One of my main friends and supporter here in Kremenchuk is soon going to be moving to the United States within 90 days. I just found out September 27th. She has been a tremendous source of direction in this new culture for me, so I need your prayers for strength and guidance for all to work out. I am confident that God will use this to bless the work here, even though I don't know how as of yet!

Please pray for all 800 students and 50 teachers here at School # 11 to be open to the gospel and that God would drive Satan far away! Especially right now, remember to pray for Uri.

Please pray for my family, Butch graduating from Chiropractic College at the end of October (and his wife Erin and daughter, Hannah) Ben in Japan, Jenise in Texas, Janessa in Nebraska and my Mother in South Dakota! Oh yeah, me in Ukraine!

Financially Speaking

Right now, we are doing really great, thanks to all of you! Remember, this financial report is just for 2 weeks.

So far my expenses have been for September:

Start up costs: \$415 – includes mostly printer, heater and book shipping.

Work Fund: \$147 (normal \$360 budgeted).

Prison Work: \$263 is for fixing up the prison “church room.” So far we have not had a budget for the prison work by itself. Because of the generous giving, we hope to include the prison work in our budget as soon as we have a clearer understanding of the needs of the prison.

Personally, I am doing fine, financially. I soon will have a bank account in Kremenchuk that will allow me to transfer funds from the USA pretty easily.