

Kremenchuk, Ukraine

Newsletter

Hello, dear friend!

I greet you in the greeting that Uri says to me every time he sees me! The last two months have been very different months for me. On February 13th the schools all across Kremenchuk closed down for three weeks because of a major flu and cold epidemic that was going on. Obviously, this drastically changed my schedule and work, since I could not teach at the schools at this time. I did continue to have the classes on Saturdays and the singing devotional time on Tuesdays. The Lord did bless this time in many ways, because I did ask several of the students that I thought were more interested in the Bible if they would like to have a personal Bible study with me and these are all still going very well.

When School did start up again on March 5th, it took nearly two weeks to get the students again thinking about coming to my classes and find rooms and translators, etc. to make this all work. I went nearly a week without a regular translator, because Oksana, my regular translator went to Poltava for two weeks of University study and Natalie, the English teacher who was going to take her place was sick for about a week and a half! Three times I was able to draw on students from my English class to come and translate for me. Then on Friday, March 21st Natalie was back and I was SO thankful to see her! Oksana came back on March 24th and it is wonderful to have her back!

CULTURE SHOCK!

of
my life with you or not. I have been reading the book of James and God very clearly says we should tell others of our needs and ask them to pray for us. I am laying my life before you and the Lord and asking for your prayers.

About the end of February, I began to realize that I had lost my sense of humor and I found that I was beginning to withdraw a bit. I had read quite a bit about missions, culture and culture shock before I left, so I did realize that I was suffering from an ailment that EVERY missionary goes through, whether they recognize it or not.

So I began to reach out to my elders in TN and to the MAP committee (the missions program that I worked with in York, NE who has several experienced missionaries on it) for help. Mark Massey called (WF elder) and we talked for a long time. Ed Briley (another WF elder) also called and really encouraged me. Also, there are two older Christian brothers here from the states for 3 weeks, who are also long term experienced missionaries that are working with the school of preaching here, that have really encouraged me as well.

I don't know why I was so surprised when 5 friends from the MAP committee called me, but I was. Their experience,

expertise, friendship, reassurance and encouragement truly blessed me. All three families that called were long term missionaries of over 15 years apiece.

Some of the things that they told me, I knew, but I don't think that I wanted to accept, but I had been told before I went. My dear readers, you may not want to hear these things or accept them either, but I think it is very important for you to let me share them with you. The first that I have been told is that it is good that I recognize the signs of culture shock and that I keep very busy with being apart of the culture around me and on every front staying active with people. The second part is what I didn't want to hear, but knew to be true and every mission expert tells me is true. That is to **NOT TO EXPECT ANY** results for the first two years of your work until you learn the language and really know and become a part of the culture. If you are supporting this work, I KNEW you wouldn't want to hear that, but I think you need to hear it!

Let Us Believe the Promises

My friends, I am working very hard on every level that I can think of, but many times I am frustrated because I am not getting through **as I want to!** Again, God's Word and His Spirit have come to my rescue. Jesus told a parable in Luke 18:1-8 telling us we should always pray and not give up! Jesus doesn't want us to give up! In verses 7 and 8 Jesus promises us that God will hear our cry and bring justice to our lives. In James 5:7-9 we are told to be patient and stand strong, because the Lord's coming is near. God is going to yield His harvest when His time is right! I have to remember that as Paul and Appollos were seed planters and waters, so am I! I have to let go of my life, my wants, and yes, my plans to trust God to bring His increase, when He is ready! 2 Peter 3:9 says, ***"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*** God is patient with us and wants souls to be won so let us be patient with Him and His work in our lives!



New Friends And Old Friends

In the picture on the first page are some new and old students. The ladies on far left and right are Galya and Ula. They are English teachers that heard about me and wanted to meet me about the first of March. They have become very active in my Adult Bible Club and the Tuesday night singing. The second lady on the left is Nadia who came to the 2nd class of my Adult Bible Club and has come every since. She also comes to the Tuesday singing as this is when this picture is taken. Ann, the young girl in the 9th form, likes everything we do and comes to all she can. She wanted a picture of me the other night because she has been talking about me and my classes to her parents and wants me to meet them.

In the picture below is three of the guys from the same night of singing. Here are Alex, Anton and Uri. Uri is the one



that always greets me with, "Hello, dear friend!" I am studying the Bible with Anton and Uri at this time and they have open hearts for the Lord. Alex and Anton are in the 10th form and Uri is in the 11th from three different schools. I new Anton when I was here before and I really have enjoyed getting to know him again. He is a quiet and gentle young man that is really reaching out to God.

The Effects of War

First, I am alright and under no physical threat what so ever. When war fist broke out, I thought that I might be, because it is safe to say that AT LEAST 99.99% of the Ukrainian people are opposed to America and England fighting this war. I have been safe and never threatened in any way. The Ukrainians all think that George Bush is a terrible President and what he is doing a terrible thing. The ugly American has never been uglier than right now.

The positive side of all this is that I have been asked many times what I think about the war in Iraq. I am able to say with 100% truth and conviction that I believe that Jesus Christ came to help people and save their souls and not to kill them and send them to Hell before they have the chance to hear the message of the cross and salvation. I tell them that I am opposed to killing and to war of any kind and that I am here in Ukraine to bring the message of eternal life. There is NO DOUBT that Romans 8:28 is true, "All things work together

for good to those that love the Lord and are called according to His purpose." I have been faithfully praying that God will show me how to best carry out His message and use this terrible event in world history to further His Gospel. God will show us how to best glorify Him by showing love and kindness when other people do terrible things.

More Doors To Walk Through

In the last couple of weeks, I have had the privilege to be invited to come and speak to two other schools in opposite parts of the city. School #9 is the oldest school building in the city because it was used as a German hospital during WWII and therefore one of the few buildings left standing. Ula in the picture on the first page, is an English teacher there had a very nice program with students from the 5th through the 11th form participating. I was able to invite them to our summer Bible Class program and was invited back. I was also invited back to a religious private school that I visited last week. It was smaller, but very receptive to me and my messages. Galya in the picture above is the English teacher there.

I have mentioned to you before about School #10, the all English speaking school. I am going to try again this week to get into this school to teach at least a class or two. It is close to where I live and also to School #11. I believe that the door is open for me to go there, if I can just find the Assistant Principal and set up the times.



THE OPEN DOOR OF PIZZA!!

Yes, believe it or not, my cooking is also opening the door to more people! I got real tired of trying to eat Ukrainian pizza, so I looked in my recipe book and found a very good pizza recipe. (Now all I have to find is a tortia recipe!) I have been able to fix Chocolate Chip Cookies, Chili, Spaghetti, muffins, home made rolls and other American foods because of these spices, chocolate chips, etc. that you have sent or given to me. Surprise, my friends really like my cooking!

FINAL APPEAL

There could be so much more done and accomplished here with more people working with me in this work of the Lord! If you know ANYONE cable and interested please get us in contact with each other and with West Fayetteville. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS!