

Kremenchuk, Ukraine Newsletter

Doug Berry, Missionary

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There and Back Again!

So much has happened since I last wrote to you in this newsletter form. I will try to be informative and stimulating all at the same time without being long winded! I have gone from Kremenchuk to the Black Sea with 50 people and back again to Kremenchuk from June to July 11. Then I went from Kremenchuk to the USA and back again from July 16 to September 13. Now I have gone from my old apartment to a new one with classes all starting new all over again.

The beautiful thing is that “we” are not starting from scratch! The greatest thing is that “we” are ALWAYS going with God! Sometimes, people find it strange that I address the work that I am doing as “we.” To me it is only natural to express that I am going with God, the Christians that I am working with and the souls I am reaching out to as “we.”

Best News Can't Be Kept!

I was going to keep this news to the last of my newsletter, but I just don't think it would be fair! You have two new sisters in Christ since I last wrote to you. Zhenya is 18 years old and has been a student off and on with the York College work since she was in the 7th grade. We had been studying the Bible for 9 months before she has decided to be baptized into Christ at our Bible Camp in the Crimea on July 7th at 10pm in the Black Sea! What a wonderful blessing this was and what a great impact it had on a lot of lives.

Anna D. or Little Ann, who is 15, was baptized into Christ by my dear brother in Christ, Igor on August 27th. She had originally told me that she wanted to wait until I returned from the states, but then she just couldn't wait any more. Her parents are not happy with her decision and are apposed to her coming to Church with us, but she is committed to the Lord and doing what is right with her life. Please pray every day for these new sisters and several others who are coming closer to obeying Jesus every day.

June 1st to July 16th

Being apart of this 6 weeks and even looking back on it, it is easy to see that this was one of the most blessed and successful 6 weeks that there have been for this work. We averaged 20 students in our 5th – 7th grade class and 41 students in our 8-11th grade class. We then took 50 people, which included 36 students ages from 5th grade to 11th grade. This was our first ever Bible Camp that was highly successful and brought many of our students closer to God. The greatest thing that happened at the camp was that Zhenya was baptized into Christ after 9 months of Bible Study!

In the last devotional that we had in my home before the York College students returned to the states, we had 42 people into my home. God will bless all that we will do for Him!



8-11th grade Bible Class

Satan does try to raise his ugly head! On the day that we got back from our Bible Camp, I was told that I had to be moved out of my apartment before I left on the next Wednesday, July 16th! It worked out really well because 12 of my students helped me to pack and 15 helped me to move! God provided a flat in less than 24 hours that will have a bigger meeting room than I had before, even though I will have to completely furnish it. There is nothing boring in this life when we walk with God, always striving to trust in Him!

July 16th to September 13th

I had much traveling, great visits, wonderful time with family and a great rest (well most of the time!). I started with a 22 hour layover in Paris (a week would be better to try and see Paris, but 22 hours was fun).

On the 17th I continued my flight on to Nashville where Mark (one of the elders of the West Fayetteville Church of Christ) and Paula Massey met me and I went on to their home where they were gracious enough to allow me to stay with them for the next three weeks. During this time I renewed friendship with my WF family and spoke many times to different congregations who are working hand in hand with me in the Lord's work here in Kremenchuk.

From August 7th to the 17th I was able to spend some wonderful time with my darling daughter, Jenise, who I love very much! Jenise is 22 and a university student at Angelo State University in San Angelo, TX and is doing really well. She is growing so beautiful in

the Lord and I am so thankful for her and her love for the Lord and for me!

Then I went to spend a couple of weeks with Janessa, my youngest daughter in Grand Island, NE. My "baby" is 19 ½ and no longer a baby, as she is working full time and doing extra study on the side. She has grown leaps and bounds and she is a delight and joy to my life and I love her greatly, too! Janessa is to be married to Brandon Paul on August 7, 2004!

Brandon and Janessa took me to Pierre, SD for Labor Day weekend where I spend the next week with my Mother and two sisters Kit and Ida and their families. Mom is 89 ½ and doing well. It was wonderful to spend time with her. She is wonderful loving mother and her support means the world to me!

On September 4th I flew to Washington where I spent the next week with my oldest son, Butch and his wife Erin and my 1 year old grand daughter! We had a wonderful week of love, food, fun and just being together. It was very hard to leave them on September 12th. I love my family VERY, VERY much!!

I got up at 2:30am on the 12th and arrived in Kremenchuk at 7pm on the 13th, having lost 10 hours. I arrived back on my one year anniversary in Ukraine!

Contact Information

My new mailing address is:

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My email continues to be: doug@ukrainemission.com.

Any modern missionary loves emails, but they also find the old fashion snail mail is great, too. I seem to be able to receive post cards whenever they are sent, so maybe that is the best way for you to get me letters.

I don't have a regular phone yet, but my **cell phone** is: **011-380-67-97-37-551**. You may be able to reach me on this number.

If you would like send me a package the best way is probably through a shipping company in Chicago. UPS will reach me, but it is VERY expensive. Send your package by regular mail to this Chicago with the following directions:

MEEST-KARPTY
2236 West Chicago Ave.
Chicago, IL 60622

Tape the package well. Don't send electronics. Put the normal label from you to MEEST. In an envelope put the label taped on the outside of the box inside with my address in it. On the outside of the box write, UKRAINE ADDRESS. Include my cell phone number in the envelope as well.

The cost is \$12.00 per box and \$.69 a pound.

MEEST PHONE NUMBERS are: 773-489-9225; fax-773-278-7353; toll free: 800-PARCEL-1.

If you still want to mail something after all this, I know that you are really dedicated! Thank you!

The Last Two Weeks

In many ways, these last two weeks have been kind of a blur. I have been trying to get my classes set up and started again both at school #11 and at my home. My home has become a home from having only a very old stove in it. That's it! Only an old stove that didn't work! Several of my student friends have helped me clean up this flat, buy furniture, mirrors and literally the kitchen and bathroom sinks! I have to give special credit to Zhenya and Artem who spent hours and hours with me in this work. They have been tireless workers and I couldn't have done it at all without them. For two weeks we spent 10 to 14 hours a day trying to get this place livable. It is going to be a good place to live and work out of, but it has been a great deal of buying and work to get it there!

Not From Scratch!

At this time last year, I had known practically no students and had no one to start with. This year, of course that is different. For example on the last two Tuesday nights, we have had 21 and 19 students in our singing night/devotionals. We started our first Adult Bible Club with 10 students. A week from Friday, I will start a Bible Study at school #9 with the 8th through the 11th forms. I now have set up 6 classes at #11 on Tuesdays through Thursdays. Kremenchuk celebrated it's 432 birthday on Sunday and I went walking through the park and an evening of concerts and fireworks with 7 of my students. God is providing a way for us to carry out His work.

Prayer Requests

*Our new sisters in Christ, Zhenya and Anya.

*My preparations and teaching of all of my Bible Classes, that they would be what would be most needed to meet the students' needs.

*That many would come and continue to come to our classes at the schools and at my home.

*That Satan would be defeated in all his efforts to stop the progress of this work and that God would be glorified.

*For the Churches in Kremenchuk and Ukraine to be strong, bold and united for Christ in all that we do.

*For the West Fayetteville Church in their leadership and support of this work.