

Kremenchuk, Ukraine Newsletter

Doug Berry, Missionary

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“I thank my God...

every time I remember you.” Phillipians 1:3. The Holiday season is upon us and I want to wish you a very happy Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year. This is a time of thanksgiving, love and joy and I wish all of these things for you!

Our Ministry and Christianity

Sometimes it is easy to begin to wonder if what you are doing is really worth it all. But several in our group have written me encouraging words that validates what I am doing here and I thought I would pass these statements on to you. *“You are our best friend and teacher. We are very glad that you are with us.”*

“Thank you for the life that concerns many people and tells about the strength and love of the creator!” “I just want to say that without you I would be lost and nothing. You are our light from God.”

I asked several of my students what has changed in their lives since they had become a Christian and what their life would be like if they were not a Christian now.

An 18 year old Christian girl who has been a Christian for 1 ½ years said: *“It is much easier to live a Christian life because I am safe from this world. If I wasn’t a Christian now, I would be in trouble!”*

A 16 year old Christian girl who has been a Christian for a little over a year said: *“When I began to be a Christian, I began to think about what I had done and what I would do. If I wasn’t a Christian now I probably wouldn’t be in school now and maybe I would be living with some guy.”*

A 17 year old Christian boy who has been a Christian for 4 months said: *“I have grown up in my mind and heart and I start to think about what I do all the time. My life has changed and I have learned to be more kind. I have no idea what my life would be like without Christ.”*

An 18 year old Christian girl who has been a Christian for almost a 1 ½ years said: *“When I gave my life to Jesus, I started my life like a true Christian. I am sure that this life is better for it has so many blessings! I have some problems like before, but I look on them different. Galatians 5:22-23. I try to find all this in me and I try to grow. I am happy!!!*

I asked a 17 year old boy who has been coming to things for maybe a couple of months why he was coming. He said: *“I started to come because I saw a good group of people that were different from the people I was with, my friends – if you can call them friends. I like being with these new people.”*

A 16 year old girl who is not yet a Christian said: *“I have been studying and coming to classes for two years.*

When I came to Doug’s classes I found many new friends and I learned much about God. I like these classes and people very much.”

Student Spotlight – Olya



Olya just turned 16 on November 29th and is in the 10th grade this year. She is a delightful, sweet and fun loving child of God that we all love very much! She started coming to classes when she was in the 8th grade. It is just her and her mother at home and is often a very difficult situation for her. At first her mother was very much against her coming, but she continued to come any way. Her mother is often very critical of her Christianity, but Olya is faithful in service to our Lord. Her mother is now more supportive of her coming than she used to be. She said that she found love, friendship and acceptance with us. After her first Bible Camp, she began to seriously study the Bible with me and was baptized into Christ on September 4, 2004. Olya’s English was not very good when she first started coming to us, but this year she has taken on two classes at school to translate for us as well as helping with our Beginners Bible Club! She is very active in all our classes. She is one of our editors of our student newsletter “Life in Christ” that the kids put out every two months or so. She also loves to work with our orphan’s outreach that we do every Sunday afternoon. Thank God for Olya!

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Ukraine Campaigns Summer 2006

I talked to many of you, all across the country, about coming and working with our summer campaigns in July of 2006. I know that several members of the West Fayetteville Church of Christ in Fayetteville, Tennessee are planning on coming and I truly hope that you will consider coming and working with us this summer as well. We are planning to hold campaigns in 2 cities outside of Kremenchuk. The first is in Komsomolsk where a small congregation is already in existence, which was started last year. The second is in Svetlovosk, a city where there is no Church of Christ. Both of these cities have about 100,000 people in them. Date to arrive: Saturday, July 15 (leave States on 14th) Date of 1st campaign in Komsomolsk: July 17-22 Date of 2nd campaign in Svetlovosk: July 18-30 Date of departure: Monday, July 31

Costs:

Flight: (buy early, costs less!) \$1,200.00

Passport: \$75 (allow at least 30 days to process)

Visa: **Not required!!!**

Hotel for 2 weeks: \$375 (stay in homes - \$100)

Food for 2 weeks: \$300 (stay in homes - \$200)

Unexpected expenses & souvenirs: \$200

Total cost estimated high: \$2,150

Monday through Friday of each city campaign, we will hand out literature and invite people in each city. On Wednesday through Friday in the evenings we will have a lectureship or in American terminology, a Gospel Meeting. Saturdays will be a tour/shopping day and/or day off. The first Sunday will be a worship day and transition to the second city. The second Sunday we will also worship and prepare to leave. Monday the 31st you will fly out. If you wish to stay longer, you can help us with our follow-up of our campaigns.

If you think that you are interested in this at all, start planning now!

A Review of Oct and Nov

Our classes at the schools are in full swing now. James, Jared and Frankie have been working hard each week to make crafts and memory verse lessons to go along with every story that we teach from the Children's Bible Story Book to 5th through the 7th grades. Some of our classes at my home started slowly this year – we lost 5 of our regular students to graduation that left the city to go to other Universities. But now we are averaging over 20 people in my home every time we have classes and for special occasions we have 25 to 35 people at my home. For example, we had 32 for my birthday and 27 for Thanksgiving dinner in my living room!

Thanksgiving Dinner with 27 people!



We have to begin to plan on how we are going to grow for the future with new and better facilities for we are out growing my apartment! We could easily have over 40 people for our Christmas and New Year's parties this year!

Some options that we have are: first, to possibly buy a stand alone home, remodel it and add on (most older ones are small and very out of date) to it so we would have a large hall and other kitchen and class room space. Second would be to buy a vacated store and remodel it to fit our needs. This might be very difficult as most of these are only remodeled single apartments, but it is an option. Third would be to build a new building for our outreach needs. None of these would be "church" buildings but centers for outreach.

Please keep us in your prayers as we make plans to answer this most pressing need.

Prayer Requests

1. For continued open hearts to Christ's message.
2. For boldness to walk through God's open doors.
3. For the faithfulness of our new Christians and that they would be encouraged and strengthened every day.
4. For me to be the strong, faithful, loving leader, teacher, brother, and friend that I always need to be.
5. For several who are considering becoming Christians. Please pray that they would obey the Gospel and put Jesus on in baptism and live faithfully to God.

Romans 15:5-6

"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."