

Letter from John & Nadya Bokoeh

January 2008

Dear friends,

We would like to wish you a good 2008 year, many blessings from God and also want to invite you again to visit us :)

Nadya and I are doing well, busy as usually but loving it.

I would like to share with you a bit from the last few months of our life.

First of all, we are very thankful to all of you who participate in the "guesthouse" project, starting from the building itself everything else that is in it: furniture, decors, kitchen "tools" and all the love that we experienced from the last two teams we hosted, for the first time here, in October and November. As much as I was nervous and sad to leave our place, I do love it here now. It is such a great tool for us to reach out to others and show them God's love.



Ukraine Guesthouse Kitchen



Ukraine Guesthouse Dining Room

From the time we moved in, which was a few days before the October team from Canada came, till today, we have hosted people from our neighborhood (15) on two different occasions. Many of them are non-Christian widows and lonely babushkas. Nadya was a great hostess, preparing the wonderful meals and desserts...we visited for over 5 hours with them, just listening, talking, sharing God and praying for them. I have to tell you that one of those ladies shortly after started to come to church, very interested to know more about God and His love. God is at work! It is so exiting!

As I mentioned already, in October and November we had two teams from Canada, as well as a two-day stay of 12 people from Moldova between the teams. Shortly after the November team left, we hosted 22 Priazovje orphan kids for 2 days. They came to visit our church service and were a part of it, visiting with our kids here. Great time!

Kids from the Priazovje Orphan Home



We also had one 18-year-old boy staying at the house for 2 weeks, because his family abandoned him as he was "hard to handle." It took us awhile to realize, but after many conversations with him we learned that he has serious health depression problems. It was even harder to be dropping him off at the psychiatric ward on the day of his birthday. (Pray for us in this ministry as we've been dealing with few issues like this already and it is hard!!)

There are many people that had no families or friends to go to on New Year's Eve so we had church programs in the morning for kids and in evening for whomever. We had 120 kids for morning kids church, about 30 of them were non-Christian and at least one parent came with each of those kids. Praise God! There are more and more people that could hear of Him and get to know Him. After the evening church we had 25 people at the house for a meal and talking, sharing till about 3am. On New Year's Day we had about 15 younger couples come for lunch. It was very good to have them and to hear things that they struggle with, to pray with them, just to talk.



On January 3, Nadya decided to have lunch and little gifts for widows in the church. Many widows brought their non-Christian widow/friends (40). A few started to come to church now.

Nadya and a Bed-ridden Widow

As you know Christmas here is on the 7, 8 and 9th of January, so we had a chance again to have a supper with about 24 people here. A few days ago we had a pastors and deacons one-day meeting, which was here at the house. There were bigger group things that we could have hosted, but there were many one-night drop-offs of 1 or 2 people from the area that we are able to provide food and a bed for. Nadya absolutely loves her kitchen! She says it is almost too easy for her to host :)

Besides all these "parties," we have our regular life: church services, which I have about 20/month, home and hospital visits (7-8/month), 5 church member meetings and 7 funerals. We are also renovating/building onto our main church in Nikopol and I've been there almost every day since the new year. Thank you so much for all the funds that were given for this project. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. May God bless you richly with His peace and joy.



John working on the church expansion



Church Expansion

Nadya is doing her usual thing: hosting, cooking, cleaning, laundry for bedridden people, home and hospital visitations. She also put on 2 baby showers at the house this year, one for a young mom from our church and the other for a single non-Christian girl (thank you so much for all beautiful baby/kids clothes you shipped).

I am also doing all the paperwork for the church addition and renovation, and it has been extremely hard to get ahead with it. Please pray that I will finally be able to get it all done. I've been doing it for over 4 months now and they keep sending me from one office to the another.

Well, just a little update on our lives.

Thank you so much for your prayers and your support; we are all in it together, showing God and His wonderful, unconditional love to those around us. May God bless you and keep you.

We are hoping to see you again sometime soon!

Sincerely,

John and Nadya Bokoch

