



Ukraine Update Fall 2008

As usual, this fall has been a busy and exciting time for John and Nadia. They hosted two HFL teams, one headed up by Simplechurches in Vancouver, and the other from Greendale Mennonite Church in Chilliwack.

The first team consisted of 11 ladies from 8 different churches. Their main purpose was to begin a five-year urban development plan in a few of the villages surrounding Nikopol. The Greendale team had 12 people, and focused on the Priazovje Orphanage as well as ministry in Nikopol and the surrounding area.

Both of these teams raised far more project money than they set out to, and the total amount of project funds they brought with them was over \$78,000! Praise the Lord—Slava Bogu! It is continually exciting to see God provide for the widows and orphans of the Ukraine through so many groups and individuals. We can clearly see His heart for these people through the incredible provision of funds far more than we could ask or imagine.

John and Nadia were very encouraged with the results of these two trips. Below is just a glimpse of what was accomplished through these teams:

- Provided 10 banquets for 600 people
- Provided 600+ food and hygiene hampers
- Provided 94 widows with 3 months of hydro payments
- Provided medical costs for 100+ people
- Provided gas lines into the homes of 2 widows
- Provided Priazovje Orphanage with new windows, a heating system, cleaning supplies, food, a tractor, bathroom improvements and gifts for all the staff and children
- Shipped and distributed over 4000 lbs of clothing
- Provided 6-month stipends for various caretakers and elders
- And much, much more! For more details, visit www.hungryforlife.org and click the Trips tab to locate specific completed Ukraine trips in 2008.



It is always an encouragement to see God work in the lives of those that go on teams, as well as those who live in the Ukraine. Be encouraged as you read some testimonials of team members from this fall:

“I have had opportunities to obey God while on this trip and I did. Often if it is out of my comfort zone I will back away, but I didn’t and it felt much better to obey Him and I plan to continue with everything He asks.”

“Seeing the faith that the people at the orphanage had for their daily needs to run the orphanage was eye-opening; God does take care of those who trust in Him.”

“God has richly blessed me—only I can decide how those blessing/riches can be used—I have a responsibility to share with those in need.”

“[I have learned that:] God is faithful when we step out; God is alive and moving all around the world; and to continue to be God’s humble servant.”

“I was stretched ... stretched enough to know that I need God in ways I did not acknowledge.”

“I will show/share God’s love continually (maybe over and over to the same person) whether it is appreciated or not.”

“It was very impacting to meet one of the widows that we were able to directly help. It made all the fundraising efforts worth it.”

“[I have gained a] greater sensitivity to people in desperate circumstances, a greater spiritual sensitivity regarding the needs in the world.”



A Reason to Celebrate

After two Canadian teams came and left, John and Nadia celebrated the 100 year anniversary of their church. The preparations for this event started about five years ago. They began the process of numerous interviews of various pastors and members from the church, gathering as much history as possible. Church renovations began soon after, with work in the bathrooms and the sanctuary. The event in November was a great success with over 600 people celebrating the faithfulness of God, and how He has used this church to further His Kingdom and reach the people in Nikopol and surrounding areas.



Team members and Pastor John with Elena.

There is also an exciting connection between one of the teams and this anniversary event. Back in October, three team members visited a bedridden widow, Larissa, and her adult daughter, Elena. Two years ago Elena left her husband and two children in Russia to live with and care for her mother and mentally challenged brother, with only a few visits from home. Larissa had been a member of the Nikopol church, but Elena felt she did not have time to go to church. During their visit, one of the team members told Elena how she had inspired her to invest more time visiting her own disabled father. The team prayed with Larissa and Elena, left a small gift and said goodbye.

On the 100 year anniversary Sunday, Elena came to church for the first time. During the service God spoke to her heart, and she came forward and gave her life to Christ! She was filled with a new joy and peace that she had never known. The next morning, her 93- year-old mother went to meet her Savior, and Elena was so thankful to have the peace of Christ. Nadia thought that Elena would then return to her family in Russia, and the church would be left to find care for the handicapped brother. But Elena felt she should stay in Nikopol to continue to care for him. Her heart was bubbling with her new-found faith, and within a few weeks, she called John to come and talk with her brother. He had many questions for John, and after a few visits, he also gave his heart to Christ!



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