



Recent news from Ukraine

... Bruce & Natalie Tuttle

October, 2011

“... that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other” (1 Kings 8:60).

I'm writing this newsletter from Bila Tserkva, Ukraine. I returned to Ukraine only 11 days ago, and upon my arrival I grabbed a set of teaching notes, quickly completed some laundry tasks, and packed to head out for a 4-hour drive the following day. Last week was a great week at the Slavic Baptist Institute in Khmelnytsky, Ukraine. I had feared that jet-lag and teaching wouldn't mix well, but God graciously provided as much rest as necessary. The week culminated with the graduation of 8 students. SBI plans to be involved in the planting of at least 2 new churches next summer. We're hopeful that we can be of some assistance. Perhaps God will use one of the men whom we will graduate from the Pastors Training Institute this spring. Please pray with us for God's direction and leading.

At the end of our spring semester, and after the subsequent forays into Turkey and Georgia (the country), I returned to the States to be with Natalie. Our last newsletter detailed those activities and the wonderful fellowship and teaching opportunities. When I arrived in the States, Natalie was in fairly good health, but while there her condition suddenly deteriorated into a problem which was so serious that it necessitated emergency surgery. She was almost a month in the hospital, released for a week, and then readmitted for another emergency and the need to reopen the incision. I remained with Natalie for about 2 ½ months longer than anticipated, and only came back to Ukraine after her health was considerably improved. We have spent so many weeks and months apart over the last 2 years that I thoroughly treasure the time we can spend together. So there is a constant tension between the longing to be together and the ever-present passion to be fulfilling the ministry to which God has called us in Ukraine and beyond.

The fall semester of our Pastors Training Institute began the first week of September. This was made possible because some wonderful missionary friends were willing to leave their ministries in Istanbul (Turkey) and Simferopol (Ukraine) in order to bring seminars to our students. We are greatly indebted to them for this. Our student body comprises 4 returning students, all of whom will complete their studies by May. In addition, God has given us 3 more men; we've enrolled 2 of these men as students – Stas and Andrey. Please pray that they will be diligent, and that we might be a blessing to each other. The third man is from a church here in Bila Tserkva, a faithful believer and wants to study the Scripture and preach God's Word effectively. His wife is not yet saved. Since our purpose is to train pastors and



SBI student-choir and graduates

SBI's graduates with Director/Evangelist Neil Cadwell (center), and instructors Carl Lendermon and me



left to right: Andrey, Misha, Anjey, Gyenna, Pavel and Stas (Roma was ill and thus not in the photo)

help them to plant new churches, we cannot enroll him as a pastoral student. But he has been welcome to profit from our classes and do the required work. So he has been coming every day, and doing well in studies. Of course, we are praying that his wife will trust Christ and begin to grow, and that we may one day admit him as a regular student. His name is Pavel (Paul); please join us in this matter of prayer.

Normally we try to spread the courses I teach over the length of a semester instead of teaching them in blocks. But I'll be trying to teach 3 blocks of courses between now and Christmas: I am presently teaching eschatology, and will need to also teach a course on the doctrine of salvation and one on the historical books of the O.T. Our students are inquisitive and ever ready to engage in profitable debate, so it will require a tremendous squeeze to fit these courses into the remaining time.

At any time, Natalie might call and be in trouble. If it occurs, I'll fly home and take sufficient notes so as to finish the semester via Skype, using the internet. We did this last November when a sudden return to the States became necessary. There isn't an adequate internet connection at our institute, so the students met daily in my living room in Bila Tserkva. They enjoyed the sofa and stuffed chairs. They saw me on a projection screen mounted on the wall, and I could see all of them on my computer's monitor back in Pennsylvania. It's a helpful technology in that it still allows interaction with the students. The downside is 2-fold: (1) due to the time difference our normal schedule requires that I teach between the hours of 1 and 6 a.m., and (2) as I've told our students, teaching via the internet is about like kissing your sweetheart through a knot-hole!

Would you pray with us over 4 special requests?

1. Please pray for God's work in Natalie's health, to hold back the growth of new tumors and to restrain the blockages which have caused her so much misery.
2. Please pray that God would give us wisdom (and the personnel) so that we could know how to adapt the ministry to the limitations we've recently experienced.
3. Please pray that He who owns the cattle on a thousand hills will provide the additional support needed due to prices which have rapidly increased over the last 2 years.
4. Please pray that God would provide financial help for a graduate, Sergei, who purchased a car (1987 model) that is badly needed for his ministry. Sergei is pastoring a young church in the nearby village of Potivka, and doing evangelistic outreach in nearby villages, as well. He and his wife, Tamara, work in a tiny shoe repair kiosk to make ends meet. They don't have much, nor is that what they seek in life. We have temporarily loaned him \$2000 to pay the owner, but it will be a heavy burden for him to repay this over some time to come (plus about 500 he owes to friends). He was a very diligent student and has the reputation of being a very good pastor. He has a good heart and is easy to love. He seldom asks us for anything, and never presses us with any personal expectations. Right now we can't afford to just give him the funds, or I'd do it in a heartbeat. I'm praying that God has those funds in the pocket of someone who is looking for a place to invest it for God's glory and the joy and relief of a Christian brother and sister.

Thanks so very, very much for your prayers and continued kindness to us!

Your servants for Jesus' sake,

Luba & Natalie

Address:	Luba Gumenyuk (for the Tuttlés), 2a Kotsyubinskogo #20, Bila Tserkva, Ukraine 09108 E-mail: uabruce@gmail.com phone: 011-380-4563-64877 (EST + 7 hours)
Sending Church:	Victory Baptist Church - 1059 Victory Circle, Reading, PA 19605 phone: 610-376-9888
Sent through:	Baptist International Evangelistic Ministries - 121 Commerce Drive, Suite 50, P.O. Box 707, Danville, IN 46122 Website: baptistinternational.org