



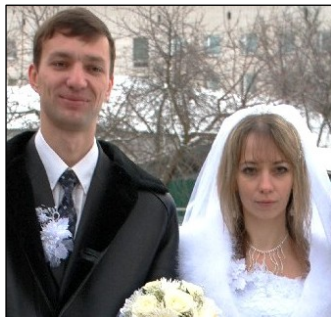
important news from Ukraine

... Bruce & Natalie Tuttle

May 21, 2009

Thank you so very much for your prayers! We'll condense much news into as brief a report as possible. If you haven't received any of the emergency prayer requests we've sent via email, we'll again ask you to please let us know how we may contact you when it's necessary to reach you quickly. Here are some of the recent blessings and concerns which are moving our hearts:

PASTORS TRAINING INSTITUTE (Bila Tserkva) - Tomorrow we'll complete a wonderfully rich semester of training. A week from tomorrow, we'll have our 5th graduation. Both Vladislav and Vitaly will graduate and go on to begin new ministries this summer. We've been laying plans for Vitaly to begin a new church in a place about 100 kilometers from Bila Tserkva; he'll be laboring under our direction and the authority and help of one of the churches here in our city. Vlad will begin a ministry in a village closer to Bila Tserkva, but some of those details are still in a state of flux. We'll report further in the next couple of months. Please pray for them and the churches which we will be planting through them. They are men with good hearts, well trained, having discernment and an earnest desire to serve the Savior.



Vladislav and Valya, recently married . . . now graduating!



Vitaly, now graduating to church-planting

Natalie and I will be in the States during the next two months, and will have little time this summer for recruiting new students. We are expecting to enroll a young man from Belarus - Alexei - who is graduating from Evangelist Neil Cadwell's Slavic Baptist Institute, and wants to go on for further training. We are also expecting to enroll Roma, a bright young man who has credentials to teach history in the schools, but wants to serve the Lord as a pastor. There have been other inquiries by prospective students. Please pray that God sends us men (the right men), gives us wisdom to make the right decisions, and allows us to stretch our resources to the maximum this next semester.



... a real Turkmen, but neither River nor Eagle

CENTRAL ASIA - During the last 2 years, and for brief snatches of time, we've been blessed to give a few months of training to some precious brothers (and a sister) from Turkmenistan. In recent months we have sent out many emails requesting urging prayer for these. River recently (albeit briefly) visited us, and related that an elder daughter of the village's Muslim mullah has become a Christian, as well as the son of the chief of police! He was hurrying back to Turkmenistan, to baptize 10 more believers!

Here is a quotation from news recently sent out by Tim Smith, a wonderful brother who is working among Turkmen immigrants in nearby Turkey. It contains matters for urgent prayer! In addition to that, it relates an obstacle which affects our plans to fly to Istanbul in early August to teach a small group of Central Asians. Tim's news is as follows:

Please continue to pray for our Central Asian workers as they are under heavy persecution. Eagle is going through a difficult time, and needs our prayers for his health, family, and protection from the secret police. He has a small group of believers in his home, but was forced to leave the big work that he started in a village an hour's drive from his house, due to the fact that the police have repeatedly arrested him there. River is doing well, but will soon be called to a meeting of the imams and village elders

where they will try to force him to become a Muslim before the village. He too has been repeatedly arrested, but during his arrests has been able to witness to the secret police. He currently has 4 churches, and they are growing rapidly. Pray for his health, family and that he could build his house back up. It is literally falling apart. In another country there was a meeting that was broken up by the secret police, they were all arrested and later released except the pastor, who is now missing. The police refuse to tell anyone his whereabouts. Pray for this small church that they would have faith to stand. Pray for this pastor to be bold. Pray for his family that is without daddy, and the wife who now has to try to provide for the family. In August we are planning a training seminar here and some of these couples were planning on attending, now we do not know if they will be able to. Pray for this training, we will be having a seminar on what a Godly family is according to the Bible and will be teaching how to share our faith by using the Old Testament prophets.

THE "INTERNAT" (ORPHANAGE) - Since moving to Ukraine, one of the toughest readjustments for Natalie has been finding her new "role" here. She has held classes for students' wives and other interested women, has a monthly women's meeting here at our home to teach them how to minister for Christ, and how to be godly wives and mothers. And often it feels like she is running a Christian hotel, ministering to the wonderful guests who come to visit or to teach at the pastors institute. But she has still been "itching" for something more. Recently, she has begun teaching 2 Saturday Bible classes at a nearby orphanage. You would have to possess a heart of stone not to fall in love with the children!

In Ukraine, the children institutionalized in these "internats" may be children who are truly orphans, having lost both parents. But they may also be children whose parents are living, but who are unable or have been judged unfit to raise their children. So the child ends up in an orphanage, to be reared by the government. This may be due to extreme poverty, or (more often) to the alarmingly high rate of drunkenness and drug addiction. The children who have a parent, or parents, wait for the weekends, longing to go home, often to have their hopes dashed to pieces by a parent or relative who cares too little to come.

By one estimate, there are over 100,000 orphans in Ukraine. Children graduate from the system at the age of 16, and go out into the world alone, homeless, and lacking adequate education and training to make their way in life. 10% commit suicide by their 18th birthday, 60% of the girls become prostitutes, and 70% of the boys engage in a life of crime. Is that enough to break your heart?! I pray that these statistics are grossly exaggerated . . . but what if they are accurate?

One young lady, Katya (15), handed a letter to one of our team. She related that she has recently repented and put her trust in Christ. She wants very much to live for Him, and not to live for herself and sin. She gathers 3 or 4 other girls every night, and they read the Bible together. On a recent holiday weekend, she had been praying so fervently that her father would come to take her home for the weekend, but she knew he wasn't coming.

Please pray that we could lead many more of these precious children to Christ, disciple them, and convey to them the abounding love of Christ! *"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction . . ."* (James 1:27a).

EVANGELIST NEIL CADWELL'S SLAVIC BAPTIST INSTITUTE - In February, at the invitation of brother Cadwell, I taught a one-week course at the Slavic Baptist Institute, in Khmel'nitsky. It's located about 4 hours to the west of our city. SBI is a 4-year course of modular training, with one-week sessions which meet 4 times yearly. The week was a great time of teaching, fellowship, and making new friends. I committed to working closely with Brother Cadwell in the training of his students, which numbered over 50 in the February and over 60 this month. The students come from all over Ukraine and Belarus. A week ago, we returned for the May session, in which Natalie taught the women students a course in the Christian education of children. We're excited about expanding this new opportunity to train men and women for service, and to broaden our contacts which may well result in men who complete that training and then come to our pastors institute for further training. Last week, a fellow from Belarus who is completing his training at SBI asked to join with us this fall! And this week, brother Neil and a team of SBI students are doing evangelism in a village and laying the groundwork for a new church there. It's another thrill, and more church-planting opportunities! We'll be relating more in subsequent newsletters.



Above: Natalie, Oksana, and Luda, teaching a Bible class
Below: some of the children; Katya is on the left, in the rear



Your very grateful fellow-laborers,

Bruce & Natalie

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