



# Important news from Ukraine

. . . Bruce & Natalie Tuttle

January 10, 2010

Thank you so very much for your friendship, your prayers, and your continuing support for this ministry! It is all the more significant to us at such a time as many believers and church families are reeling from the effects of an ailing economy. One of our desires and prayers is that this ministry in which we share might produce spiritual fruit which will abound to your account (see Philippians 4:16-19).



**I HAVE DELAYED TOO LONG IN WRITING TO YOU**, supposing that I should have something substantial to tell you about Natalie's health and treatment. Since her cancer was diagnosed in early August, it has been a frustrating journey to learn what we can about this rare form of cancer, to discover which doctors are best able to treat it, and to move in any hopeful direction. The past 5 months have been filled with medical tests, travel, and consultations. Since mid-December – about the time at which I returned again from Ukraine – Natalie has suffered more frequent bouts of pain, in more severity, and of longer duration.

This past week we experienced two events which are answers to prayer. Natalie began injections of a medicine which may slow the growth of her tumors. She should continue to receive these injections monthly, for the rest of her life. In addition, the doctors at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital (Philadelphia) have discovered what they are confident is the source of her pain. Hence, on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, Natalie will have surgery there to remove a small section of intestine in which tumors have created a blockage. This should provide great relief for her. They will remove some other organs in an effort to remove as many tumors as possible. Her problems with her liver, also filled with tumors, won't be affected by this surgery but will need to be addressed later.

We are excited to finally have a course of action which is both aggressive and medically hopeful. Medicine knows no cure for this cancer, but we continue to pray and to trust our gracious and omnipotent God with genuine expectancy; meanwhile we are pursuing a sane nutritional regimen and the best of medical advice.

We are also relieved to finally have a schedule which allows us to make tentative plans. I will remain here until early February, delaying the start of our spring semester in Bila Tserkva by about 2 weeks. The spring semester is usually a longer one, so we should still be able to give the fellows some substantial training between now and the end of May. We expect Natalie to be home (after her surgery) by the end of this month. If she seems to be doing well – and we are counting upon that – I will fly to Ukraine and begin the spring training there. We have family who can fill in for me briefly during my absence.

What is especially encouraging to us is that both the surgeon and the doctor who has begun to administer Natalie's injections seem to concur that it should be possible for Natalie to return to Ukraine. That has been a HUGE matter of prayer for both of us, and will continue to be until we jubilantly see it fulfilled!

Please pray that Natalie's health will allow her to endure the surgery, that the surgery will be helpful overall and will eradicate her pain. Pray also that she will heal quickly and surely.

**SO WHAT IS HAPPENING IN UKRAINE?** We concluded the fall semester in early December, which was somewhat "miraculous", with the additional travel in which I was involved. We owe a debt of gratitude to folks like missionary Tim Smith (Istanbul, Turkey) and B.I.E.M.'s seminary in Kiev for providing valuable training for our men during my brief absences. Our eight full-time students (5 of them new) did well in their studies, are refreshingly inquisitive concerning spiritual truth, and shared a great spirit. Sergey Borisov has now completed the required courses. In the spring semester we require him to come only if we will offer seminars which he has not had. He is already pastoring a young church in the nearby village of Potiivka. Please pray that God will prosper his ministry as he now has more time to devote to it. We will have a graduation ceremony for him in May.

Since mid-December, the fellows have had a vacation from studies, but are still expected to be diligent about ministry in their respective churches. We have delayed adding one fellow who had applied for enrollment last fall, but still expect that he will begin in September.

By some reports Ukraine has the worst economy in all of Europe. The nation is deeply indebted to the IMF, the World Bank, and to Russia. Still, Ukraine is seeking to borrow billions more to avert a complete collapse. We don't sense that our brothers and sisters there are living in perpetual fear; Ukrainians have learned throughout history to

be survivors, even under incredibly disastrous conditions. But our hearts are troubled for them. Please pray for God's continued mercies toward them and toward us. Though Natalie and my situation is less than ideal for the moment, please pray that this semester might be even more profitable, and refreshing, and exciting, and fruitful than the last!



**Students (etc.), left to right:** Roma, Alexey, Misha, Natasha (cook), Oksana and Zhanna (translators), Bruce, Anjey, Yura, Gyenna, Sergey, and Alexey

As ever, we are rejoicing in the Lord, and delighted to be your fellow-laborers in God's vineyard,

*Bruce & Natalie*

Bruce & Natalie

**Address:** Gumenyuk (for Tuttle), 2a Kotsyubinskogo #20, Bila Tserkva, Ukraine 09108  
E-mail: [uabruce@gmail.com](mailto:uabruce@gmail.com) phone: 011-380-4563-64877 (EST + 7 hours)

**Sending Church:** Victory Baptist Church - 1059 Victory Circle, Reading, PA 19605

**Sent through:** Baptist International Evangelistic Ministries, Danville, IN 46122 Website: [baptistinternational.org](http://baptistinternational.org)

