## Aug '02

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## **O'Brien's Prayers & News**

Howdy! from hot Arizona. With only weeks remaining before our return to Ukraine, we want to thank ALL who've continued to pray & support our work in Kharkov. Christ continues to pour out His blessings upon us this heated summer. God has given us a trailer to live in and a 2002 Civic to drive (with AC!) and we praise Him for that. PRAISES: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain..." Amen, Christ is worthy of all which we give to Him and more.

• Baptisms: We're now up to 16 folks awaiting this blessed ordinance, to become members of our church there.

- **Preaching**: Being invited to the East Coast for a series of meetings, the Lord raised up some needed support for our work. Thanks to New Test. BC & People's BC for committing their hands to reaching Kharkov. While preaching in VA, the Lord took me across Vasiliy - a Ukrainian man alone here in the US - and got him to church with me. I then preached bi-lingually (russian to Vasiliy & english to the church) and God blessed His word. Much conviction came across Vasiliy learning of salvation in his own language but no decision for Christ. It was all too new for him, but we're praying that the Spirit gives him no peace until he bows before our God and claims Christ as His Saviour.
- Actively **discipling** Heather, Krystal & now their Mom keeps Cathy very busy, as well as ministering to other saints in the church body. As often the Devil wishes to slander our Saviour's name, we endeavour to serve Him in any way He allows. Recently a young couple truly surrendered to the mission field, as well as a young "Phoebe" to come and help Cathy with homeschooling & working with our teens. PRAISE our JESUS! Y'all know we've asked for such a helper for many years. If Jesus burdens you towards the support of 'Phoebe', please contact us. Her hands will be used to distribute untold thousands of tracts & lips to reach untold hundreds of Ukrainians with the Gospel of grace thru Jesus. Isn't God's goodness towards us a blessing & encouragement? Oh, glory to God!

PRAYER REQUESTS: "Ye have not because ye ask not" - Jesus. "Call unto me and I will answer thee ..."

- **Registration:** No "official" word yet, but no rejection either. Continue to pray for Tanya to approve our papers.
- VISAS We're waiting with you regarding the registration, so we're still holding off choosing which kind of visa to apply for. We can use our tickets and return on Oct.1st with 6-month tourist visas or we can wait a few more weeks and prayerfully seek the much-preferred 3-year religious visas. Help us to seek God's discernment in this.
- Health: Both John-Steven & Kendon are doing good. Both of John-Steven's doctors have agreed that there is a problem, but also say it's not presently threatening to him so keep doing what we're doing: swimming exercises. How often our Lord chooses to blind the eyes of 'science' for Himself to receive all the glory due His holy name.
- Finances: Thank you so kindly for the extra love gifts so many have sent to offset our unforseen expenses.
- NOTES: All support must be made out to SUN & SHIELD BAPTIST MISSIONS & mailed to the address below, please.
- Our stateside phone: 520-682-7314. Also you can now email the church in Kharkov: luda@missions2ukraine.com

## Support: 8811 W. Avra Valley E-Mail: Cathy's Corner romans44@missions2ukraine.com Marana, Az 85653

God is so faithful! Newly saved Heather prayed for her Mother's salvation repeatedly. In August after meetings John & I had with Vicky (Heather's mom). Heather told me her Mother's heart was prepared for the Lord & asked me to go visit her Mom. I did. Vicky's heart was tender, needing the Savior's touch. She said she was saved as a young child but she had forsaken Him in her young adult life. She has now rededicated her life to the Lord & came forward in church to make this public. Praise to the Lord that He will leave the 99 to rescue even just one. Truly He will never leave thee nor forsake thee! I thank the Lord that Brittaini and Noelle were sensitive to the Holy Spirit and reached out to one and the Lord multiplied it into three! Vicky jokes now, "God had to bring missionaries ALL THE WAY FROM UKRAINE to find me & bring me back into the fold". I believe this is the reason God brought us to the US. Now mother & daughters are walking with Jesus, both girls got baptized & are very active in the youth group at our home church. We are anxious to return to our sheep in Ukraine. The time is drawing close. Many of our church children there need to be regathered as soon as we get back. The Devil sure has enjoyed dividing the flock while we've been gone. Young Lelah has been faithful to continue to walk with Jesus while we have been gone and I thank the Lord for that. Other's have been some-what faithful but kids are kids and it's not hard for Satan to get their eyes off Jesus and onto hurt feelings between one another. They will require a lot of TLC & teaching on forgiving one another when we get back. The deaf church has had several to prove themselves faithful & Slava from Simferopol has been coming up often to

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preach (he is the deaf deacon in brother Vansant's church in southern Ukraine). We had our people put together a love package for him & they had so much fun doing it. They agree, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Also several young preachers from Mike Ireland's church in Kiev have made the long trip to help feed our sheep. A big THANK YOU to all these men for standing in the gap. The Lord provided for our kids to enjoy a week of camp in NM. They made decisions there that will help them to walk closer to Jesus themselves. I thank the Lord for this. During this time we've been able to visit our families which we prayed for. Pray for our return to Ukraine & fruit to Baptist Missions abound.

Your servants in Christ: John, Cathy, Brittaini, Noelle, John-Steven & Kendon