

Grace & Peace to all the saints from chilly Kharkov! Another year has passed in our Saviour's service here & we praise Him for all who make it possible for us to remain in this vast field - great will be your reward, keep on for Jesus!

May God strengthen His churches back home so new labourers can come to His field. You've been so good to us!

PRAISES: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain..." Amen, Christ is worthy of all which we give to Him and more.

- ◆ **Religious VISAs:** We drove out to Poland & returned with Religious Visas. Though only for 6 months, we're busy preaching/teaching/regathering/evangelizing. City Officials stated that our next visa will be longer - continue in prayer for this. God worked numerous miracles through this lengthy process while the devil fought against it.
- ◆ **Faithful:** Our group is smaller but much healthier spiritually. The long absence of their preacher has caused some to fall away, & Jesus has wrangled a few back into the fold. Those here now (12-15) are again exceedingly faithful & it's a blessing to watch the Word take effect in their lives. Growth brings trials, but they're steadfast! PTL, amen
- ◆ **Provision:** Thanks to all who prayed & gave for us to refit the microbus before our trip to Poland with needed parts. 3 windshields later God provided one significantly less than the first. The new shocks, bushings, brakes, etc made the 2,500 miles roundtrip safer. Passing across both borders we encountered no problems with vehicle inspections.
- ◆ **VISITORS:** Thru evangelism, **visitors** are coming to church. 1 lady has asked for the Chronological Bible Lessons.
- ◆ **Language:** Cathy is progressing greatly learning **russian sign language**. Now sitting with the deaf, she "sings" with them & it's really opened up new opportunities. Cathy continues weekly lessons with Larissa & share a burden for our deaf believers. Deaf Deacon Slava from Simferopol comes monthly to preach & is such a tremendous blessing.

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

- ◆ **Repentance:** God would grant to those astray, causing them to return unto His house. How our hearts ache daily.
- ◆ **Health:** As winter passes, flu has settled inside our family. As God continues to protect us from serious illness, may these afflictions pass quickly. Many in our fellowship are out sick, some hospitalized, further hindering growth.
- ◆ **Passover Seder:** We're busily planning our annual Seder & need the blessings of Jesus upon us. Passover has been our biggest evangelistic meeting each year & a great challenge to our church folks. Much preparation is needed.
- ◆ Coming soon will be a **baptismal service**, as new believers are added unto Christ's church here. May others submit to this blessed Ordinance & become members of Faith Bible Baptist of Kharkov. Gotta find an indoor pool for this.

NOTES: *All* support must be made out to **SUN & SHIELD BAPTIST MISSIONS** & mailed to the address below, please.

- ◆ Kharkov phone: 38-0577-102718; Remeber we're +7 from EST. Visit www.missions2ukraine.com to see us, as over the winter, we uploaded pictures of the entire church membership, cultural stuff & family things. Visit today.

**Support: 8811 W. Avra Valley
Marana, Az 85653**

Cathy's Corner

**E-Mail:
romans44@missions2ukraine.com**

"...ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it." Joshua 1:8-11 On February 26th we received our new RELIGIOUS visas to work in KHARKOV, Ukraine and crossed over our JORDAN! We thank God above for bringing it to pass. Truly it was by His hand and counsel, Eccl. 10:4. We received six month visas. The religious officials said it is a "trial" period. Our next visa, they said, will be for one year. Please pray over us that they can find nothing to accuse us of during this period. We are focused on the work of the ministry and are trusting in God to watch our backs. We've spent a lot of time & money putting things in place to protect ourselves against another attack in the future. We are the wiser in the end, praise God. Our services have resumed and are growing in spirit and number. 18 in church, 12 in children's church. It is a precious time here with everyone rejoicing in this victory and OPENLY celebrating their faith again. Four folks are taking Bible lessons from John individually and we are searching for an indoor pool to baptize in next month. Things are in full swing with evangelism on Saturdays again. How great freedom is to have the legal right to evangelize! We can not thank you all enough for your prayers and hanging in there with us. Progress: My sign language lessons are going great, I have completed my book and am now going thru review. I am really excited about working with the deaf. The Lord has raised up the need of four hearing aids from the US that should arrive this summer. Please pray for our deaf, they need discipleship on a slower and more indepth pace then others due to the language barrier they have: written language, even Russian, is extremely difficult for them to understand, and that includes the BIBLE! Language: My tongue is most rebellious towards these Russian diphthongs(!) although I am trying to allow the Lord to accomplish this through many hours of study, study, study and practice, practice, practice. It is my desire to be able to teach without a language translator by the end of 2003 but this will take God's help in doing. Praises: Lina, our first church member, is expecting to add to our church family in August with our first baby in the church. 1 Sam. 1:27!

Rejoice with us in what God has done: opening Kharkov back up for the gospel's sake, & may fruit abound

Sun & Shield



Baptist Missions

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