## June '02 Vol. 8, Issue 2

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

Greetings in the most precious name of Jesus our Christ & Lord! With very humble apologies, we beseech your forgiveness regarding the lateness of this prayer letter. Though we've been silent - God's been busy! Here's a glimpse: **PRAISES**: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain..." Amen, Christ is worthy of all which we give to Him and more.

- Salvations: Krystal & Heather, 2 teen neighbors, were evangelized by our girls. After a few weeks of faithful witnessing, they both bowed their hearts and asked Christ to save them. What a change in their lives already! Cathy is now busy discipling them, giving them a greater understanding of God's word and their new Savior. Brittaini & Noelle praise God for these newly saved friends. FRUIT!
- **Baptisms:** In our absence, Luda has continued teaching the Teen group and 2 stated their desire to become a member of our church thru baptism. This brings to 16 the new believers awaiting our return for this Ordinance. All were saved over the winter, 14 John took through discipleship before having to leave. We felt like breaking the ice on the lake and baptizing them anyway (a few begged for it!), but



the events dictated that we wait till our return. Our tickets are bought for October 1st: pray God will perform it. **Preaching**: While Cathy continued to faithfully homeschool, John has been able to preach at area churches, encouraging the saints & giving updates of the work in Kharkov. This "furlough" wasn't scheduled & John's daily calls to Ukraine have thus far kept us tied close to Tucson. John weekly sends preaching via email for Luda to share with the church folks there. For the many we can't see, we trust to see you on our regular furlough late next year. We're confident that each church understands the extraordinary circumstances that brought us stateside.

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

- **Registration:** Under the guidance of Luda, our church is going thru the registration process in Kharkov. This is crucial to our return to Kharkov. Beseech the Lord of Glory to sovereignly move Tanya to approve our papers.
- VISAS To clarify, our ability to return to Ukraine hasn't been affected by the events we suffered but until our church is registered, we're not able to return to Kharkov. Join with us in asking God to keep Kharkov open.
- Health: during a routine physical, an abnormality discovered in **John-Steven's heart**. He will begin seeing a pediatric cardiologist for tests. Thanks to Jesus that it was found here in America where it's potentially treatable.
- Finances: the airfare, supporting both the deaf church & regular church AND living in the States is a great burden.
- NOTES: All support must be made out to SUN & SHIELD BAPTIST MISSIONS & mailed to the address below.
- Our stateside phone: 520-682-7314. Also you can now email the church in Kharkov: luda@missions2ukraine.com

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

Cathy's Corner

## <u>E-Mail:</u> romans44@missions2ukraine.com

Ps 37:7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. As John was finishing the Sunday morning sermon, ~2p.m., a knock came at the door. Five officials came in, stopped the service, taking John into another room, separating him from the saints. We all starting praying! They interrogated him, not allowing him to leave or receive food although it was late and he was ill from the stress of the situation and having not eaten that day yet. They detained him for **4+ hours** demanding he sign an admission of guilt to willfully and intentionally violating visa laws. It was not true and therefore he refused to sign the confession. Then the threats started, they got worse each time he refused. We demanded to speak with a lawyer and they became very angry and the threats got worse. Their "good person" masks were now changing to reveal the one who had sent them, Satan. They threatened to arrest John but still he refused and in a rage of anger & threats of "things-to-come", they left. Our believers understood what was taking place but they didn't run, they stayed, praise God!, showing their unity in the Faith to stand up for who's side they were on - God's! The threats were manifested but our Father's hand was holding back the enemies wishes — our permanent removal from Kharkov and the destruction of Jesus' little church. We hired a lawyer to restore sense and order to the events that were happening and for security measures. We were advised to leave ASAP to protect our new visa's from their threats to block them. Now in Arizona, via email, we are continuing the work there and getting legal protection for our return to Kharkov, them. Now in Arizona, via email, we are continuing the work there and getting legal protection for our return to Kharkov,

Sun & Shield



Ukraine in October. We know which American cult was funding the attack but what they meant for evil God used for good: Our son,John Steven, has been found to have a heart problem. At this time it's needful to be here for a diagnosis and prognosis. Ukraine is NOT the place to seek medical help. We discovered the problem after being in the States for only two weeks! Please pray for God to give the doctors wisdom and our sheep protection while we must be away. Here's mud is Satan's eye: two teenage girls here in Arizona were befriended by our daughters and have both now received Christ as their Savior! God brought fruit, Crystal and Heather, out of our return to the States. Praise God He is always in control! Thank

Baptist Missions you!!!

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