

**Jim Sherman's Mission Trip
Ukraine May 6-22, 2010**

May 6-7, Thursday and Friday

Jim Lucas picked me up at 10:00 AM EST and drove me to Charlotte, NC where I caught the plane to Munich and from Munich to Donetsk. All went well and Vlad and Oksana Pirizs picked me up at the airport and drove me to the church building in Kramatorsk where I taught a class on "The Fruits of Righteousness." At 8:30 PM Vlad and Oksana drove me to Lina's (I do not know her last name) where I stayed though Sunday. Vladia and her mother are not Christians. Vladia attends the youth gatherings of the Kramatorsk Church of Christ. Vladia is a fifteen-year-old who speaks English. Her mother Lina speaks very a little English.

May 8, Saturday

Two mosquitoes and jetlag kept me awake some of the night. The time in the Ukraine was seven (7) hours ahead of the Eastern Standard Time at home. When it was 8:30 PM last night here, it was 1:30 PM at home. When I get up at 5:30 AM EST at home it is 12:30 PM in the Ukraine. I went to bed at 10:00 PM or 2200 hours here in Kramatorsk, while it was only 3:00 PM at home and Doris was still at work.

Both Vladia and her mother were gone when I woke up. Lina came back about 9:00 AM and fixed some breakfast and cooked for the meal that afternoon. I used the morning to get ready for my class at 3:00 PM with the young people. I taught on "Young People of the Bible." Vlad drove me back to the flat for the night 5:00 PM. I had supper and went to my room. I heard other voices in the main room and relatives of Lina had showed up. They spent the night.

May 9, Sunday

In the morning I tried to be as quiet as I could, because there was someone sleeping in the main room. By the time I got packed and had breakfast the company were gone. At 8:30 AM I when to the church building and taught class, on "Paul's positive outlook in Philippians." At the worship service I preached on "Romans 7." At 12:10 I walked back to the flat where I had lunch and finished packing my bags. Vlad picked me up at 2:20 PM or (1420 hours). Terry arrived at the church building at 3:00 PM or 1500. We had Stas Kuropyatnikov, a student from Gorlovka, Sasha Rodnaev (my translator while in Krasnyj Liman) and his brother Dennis. Terry drove to Sloveonsk where we dropped Dennis off and picked up Howell and Mary Ferguson and their translator Elona ?. On to Krasnoarmeysk where Sasha and I were dropped off at Terry's mother-in-law's, Valentina's house where we spent the week teaching and uplifting the church. Terry continued on to Gorlovka.

May 10, Monday

We woke up this morning, had breakfast, went for a walk and returned back at our house and Irene from Slavyansk arrived to translate our classes. This was Sasha's first time to translate for anyone and was my translator outside of class. At 11:00 AM we had 9 people in attendance counting Irene, Sasha and me. We studied "What is Happiness" until 2:00 PM or 1400 with a short break. Valentina fixed lunch for Irene, Albert (her husband), Anna (her child) and me. Irene left about 4:00 PM or 1600 and we rested. At 5:00 PM Sergey (a member of the church living in adultery) came for a Bible study. We walked to a little lake and he tried to convince us that his second marriage was alright, using 1 Corinthians 7. He could not prove that verse 15 allowed his second marriage. At about 6:00 PM we walked back to Valentina's house and said good-by. We had a snack and I wrote this part of my report.

May 11, Tuesday

Ever since I arrived, I have tried to change my US dollars into grievnas. The banks were closed for the weekend and Monday a holiday. Today I tried to exchange money but the lines were too long in the morning. Our class was from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM with the regular braek. We studied "True Love" and had 11 people counting Irene, Sasha and myself. In the afternoon we went to the bank, but got there too late. They close at 4:00 PM.

May 12, Wednesday

I finally got some local currency. It made me feel a little more secure; I now could buy something or hire a taxi. Irene did not come today because of scheduling problems with her family.

May 12, Wednesday

We had class at the regular time 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM with a break. Sasha did well for his first time and a Bible class translator. He is the preacher for Krasnoarmeysk and has his Master degree from Bear Valley Bible Institute of the Ukraine. We had 10 people counting Sasha and me. Three were men from Krasnyj Liman; two of them are not members of the church. They told me after class, one was a trouble maker and only showed up when Americans were here. We studied "The Positive Thinking of Philipians" and "How the blood works. Lionid and Tatiana (members of the church), Sasha (a non-member who has been coming to church for five years) invited us to their flat. We left our flat at 4:00 PM after having lunch with Valentina. The public water went off for the whole city. We walked back to their flat and had tea and studied the Bible on "Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage." We also had great fellowship. A thunder storm came up and we had to catch a taxi with Sasha back to Valentina's flat. We arrived home at 8:00 PM. I called my wife at work in Mountain City, TN at 1:00 PM EST.

May 13, Thursday

The water was still off. We had our class from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We finished up the class on "The Formula for Happiness" and went through the study of "Why Miracles Cannot Happen Today." We had 10 in attendance with Irene, Sasha and me. Later that evening we had tea and Valantina said that the congregation had been resurrected from depression and wanted to get busy again. They have had some major problems the last few months.

May 14, Friday

The water was still off. We finished our classes for the week. We answered questions and studied "Why Suffering Exists?" We had 9 in attendance and after class we had a meal and were joined by Albert and his daughter. Terry showed up to pick me up and take me to Donetsk. Due to scheduling, Terry brought me to Gorlovka for the night.

May 15, Saturday

Gorlovka had a youth rally from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Ukraine. At 3:00 PM Dennis Sopelnik (an instructor at BVBIU) took me to Victor Tretiakov and Lynn Alison Tretiakov's flat in Deonetsk. We arrived at 4:30 PM and I visited with Lynn and Vieta (an orphan boy they have into their home almost every weekend). We were picked up for services that night and arrived at the church building at 5:45. We had about 25 in attendance and I spoke on "The Age of a Christian." After services we went to Ola Babich (a diabetic we have visited on other trips) for fellowship and a meal. She is now blind and has had one leg amputated. We caught the trolley back to the flat and walked the rest of the way.

May 16, Sunday

We had Bible class at 10:00 and worship at 11:00. I taught 2 Peter 1 for the class and "Righteousness" for worship service. We had 45 in attendance. I had lunch with Victor and Lynn and the taxi picked me up at 1:45 PM for my trip back to Gorlovka. We arrived back at the institute at about 3:00 PM.

May 17, Monday

Classes for me at Bear Valley Bible Institute of Ukraine started. My subject for the week was "Preacher and His Work." We had class from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM, chapel from 10:00 to 10:45 AM, class from 10:45 to 12:00 noon, lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 PM and class from 1:00 to 3:15 PM. I had three students who will graduate with their Bachelor Degree in Bible at the end of next week. Steve Hollister from Montgomery, Alabama taught the "Gospel of John" this week and the following week 1, 2, 3 John.

May 18, Tuesday

We had classes from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The chapel was joint with the school and church. It lasted an hour so we had to extend class until 3:30 PM. After class Steve and I walked to the grocery store and back. The young people wanted to sing with all the parts at 5:00 PM. We sang until 5:45 and then went to the youth get-together where I spoke on "Young People of the Old Testament." It was over at 9:00 PM.

May 19, Wednesday

The class schedule was changed after chapel. We went from 10:45 AM until 1:00 PM, because Dan Owens from Paducah, Kentucky telecasts a Bible study from Paducah at 3:00 PM. At 6:00 PM Terry picked Steve and me up for supper. The evening meal was provided by the Harmons and the Fergusons provided the place to eat. Steve and I went along as guests. We arrived home at 9:00 PM.

May 20, Thursday

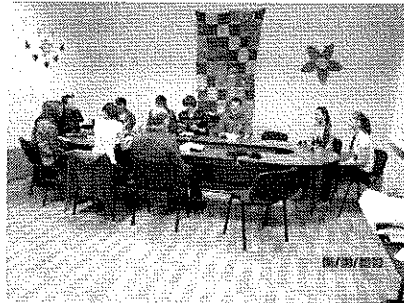
Our classes were on schedule and we finished by 3:30 PM. At 3:45 Egor Kramarenko picked the Fergusons and me up for supper at their flat. Ira Kramarenko is a member of the church and an English teacher at the local language institute. Her husband is not a member. We had a wonderful time and I arrived back at my room at 8:00 PM. Dennis Curd and one of his elders were there and Terry was making arrangements for them for the night.

May 21, Friday

Friday was test day. Each of the three students had an oral, one hour, test with me and my translator. They all passed and will graduate with a Bachelor degree next Friday. The tests were over by 10:30 AM. At 5:00 PM Sasha Unkovsky (one of my students last year and preacher for a local church) picked me up and we went to supper at a restaurant. Lira (last name unknown) a teacher of translators, translated for me. There were 12 people in attendance and we went until 8:00 PM.

May 22-23, Saturday and Sunday

We left for Donetsk at 10:30 AM. Terry, his family and Steve Hollister went shopping and eating before they took me to the airport. My flights were on time, with a stop-over in Munich. Jim Lucas picked me up and we were home by 7:30 PM.



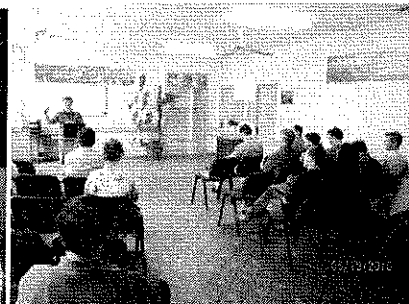
Youth Gathering Kramatorsk



Krasnyi Laman Bible Class



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Chaple at BVBIU