

Dear Friends and Family,

Christy has two notes taped to the top of her desk at home that encourage both of us when we need it. One is a computer printed note our friend and ministry co-worker, Rick Ingle, sent to us in an anniversary card. It reads, *“Trust me, I have everything under control, Jesus!”* When we received that note, we had no idea how prophetic it would be. Our lives drastically changed when Bro. Rick passed away last year, but that note is his continuing message to us. The other note taped to her desk was received from one of our ministry partners. It reads, *“God is NEVER finished with someone who wishes to serve!”* Since then, we have seen God’s mighty hand as He has directed our path and given us new opportunities to serve Him. From November 1st until April 3rd, the Lord gave Paul the opportunity to serve as interim worship leader at NorthPointe Church near Joshua, TX, and Christy was able to spend a month in Ukraine, teaching English and sharing Christ. We are so thankful for our ministry partners who pray for us and support this ministry as we walk through God’s open doors. We are thankful for the 2,550 students that attended the English schools in Kiev and Kherson, where over 1,000 of those students wrote in their own hand on a commitment card that they had prayed to receive Christ as their Savior!

Recently the new president of Ukraine declared 2016 to be the “Year of English” in Ukraine. His public challenge to the Ukrainian people meant that enrollment in English schools in both Kiev and Kherson exceeded expectations. In Kiev, the school was held at Dom Evangelia Church, which is the largest Baptist Church in Kiev. It seats around 1,000 in the sanctuary and has a large complex for classes and housing for the teaching team on campus. Normally their enrollment is about 1,000; however, this year 1,450 students registered! Christy taught students from 16-29 years old in Kiev. She taught high school and university students along with lawyers, doctors, professors, businessmen, a police investigator and even a professional ballerina! One of the things we always ask our prayer partners to pray about is the student who will come into class and become God’s “special project” for Christy. In Kiev, it was a 17-year-old young man named Max. Max has carrot orange hair and a vibrant personality. He is very smart, but struggled to communicate in English as quickly as some of the other students. Because of that, he felt embarrassed and would give up or at times be disruptive in class. God gave Christy a plan to patiently and constantly engage Max during class. God’s plan paid off, and Max progressed and became a leader in the class. He even began to help other students who struggled as he had. By the end of the school, Max checked YES on his decision card to becoming a serious follower of Jesus Christ. In Kiev, Christy had 57 students who graduated and 12 other students joined Max in saying yes to Jesus. PTL!



The team left Kiev for an overnight train ride to Kherson, which is located 60 kilometers from the “Russian controlled” Crimean border. Kherson is a port city on the Dnieper River that wears the marks of many years of “Soviet influence”. Most buildings are made of gray concrete and void of any architectural beauty. It is a drab and depressing place to live. 500 to 600 students were expected to attend, but over 1,100 showed



up to register. The church where the school was held was not large and could only seat 250 to 300 in the auditorium. It was a challenge for the staff to find places for all the classes to meet. From the very outset, the teaching team was aware of the spiritual darkness that seemed to engulf the students. In Kiev, the team experienced the luxury of having many Christians attend classes. They brought the light of Jesus to the school and paved the way for teachers to share their faith through questions or comments during the class periods. In Kherson, Christy taught 16 to 24 year-old students in her classes, which included young sailors still attending the academy, young moms just starting their families, many computer programmers, a professional soccer player and 2 professional boxers, one of which is a beautiful young woman who is the National Champion of Ukraine. As the school progressed, Christy found that there is a significant Muslim population in Kherson as well. The first week of school, the staff teaches English with little mention of spiritual things. On the first day of classes, evangelist Michael Gott tells the students that the team is not there to get them to join a religious organization. However, he does explain that all of the teachers are followers of Jesus Christ. Then nothing more is said about “religion” for the rest of the week. The first week is spent teaching English in a fun and relaxed atmosphere as each teacher builds relationships with their students. As their hearts are won over by warm and caring teachers, they become more open to the Gospel. Michael invites the students to write questions for him in English, Ukrainian, or Russian which he will begin answering on “Super Sunday”, a large evening rally held at the end of the first

week of school so the students can bring their family and friends to meet their teachers. Throughout the second week, the students are entertained by the funny questions that are placed in Michael's "Question Bag". He also spends time answering questions about obtaining visas or temporary work permits to the U.S.A. and Canada. However, many are heartfelt questions about life that opens the door for him to speak on subjects about God, Jesus, and his own personal salvation experience. Christy usually shares her personal testimony with her students on "Graduation Day". By the end of the school, 20 of her 70 students attending class surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ!

Christy teaches "Crossover Level" English classes, which means her students are classified as being between beginner and intermediate level English speakers. They speak it slowly, but well enough that she doesn't require an interpreter in the class. Eldar is a 16-year-old young man who loved coming to Christy's class and always attacked each lesson with great enthusiasm. His father, Artem, was also in the school taking a beginner class. On Monday of the second week of school, all the teachers offer a gift of a New Testament in Russian/Ukrainian and English to their students. Christy then explains how her students can use their New Testament to read and compare the Russian and English translation, which will improve their English. She also shares what the Bible means to her personally and how she reads it every day. Christy writes their name in the front cover and signs her name with a scripture reference marked in both translations so they can compare them. ***Because it is a gift, students are not required to take it and some may refuse. Although she does have a few who refuse the gift, Eldar was NOT one of those.*** On Tuesday and Wednesday of the second week after the New Testaments are given out, Michael begins to share the Gospel to the students in the large group sessions. On the day Michael shared his testimony and the praise team introduced songs that mention the name of Jesus, Eldar became very uncomfortable. While Michael was speaking Eldar slipped into the seat next to Christy and asked why Michael was talking about Jesus. Eldar explained to her that it made him feel very uncomfortable because he is Muslim. During the session, they went into the foyer where Christy explained that what Michael said at the beginning of the school is true in that none of the staff were there to trick him into joining a religious organization. However, Michael was only answering questions the students had placed in the "Question Bag" and that those questions could only be answered by expressing his and her beliefs as serious followers of Jesus Christ. Eldar's father, Artem joined them in the foyer, but did not enter into the conversation. Christy was able to temporarily appease Eldar by introducing him to Michael after the session was over for a personal conversation. Michael showed him the questions he received from students asking about God, about the unexplainable warmth and kindness of the teaching staff, and about his beliefs. Christy walked Eldar and Artem to the door, shaking their hands and reassuring them of the respect and care she felt for them; however, the turmoil on Eldar's face was heart wrenching! Although Artem never uttered a word during the whole ordeal, mainly because he didn't understand most of what was being said, Christy knew they would go home and talk about it. She didn't expect them to come back, but was so excited to see both of them at school the next day! Meanwhile, Christy had done a little "detective work" and discovered from Artem's teacher, that he had also accepted a New Testament in her class. The next day, Eldar's demeanor was much more subdued, but at least he was still coming to her class and hearing the Gospel. On Graduation Day, both father and son showed up and wanted pictures taken with Christy and we truly believe the Holy Spirit is working in that family. We pray that the seeds planted there will be nurtured by the Holy Spirit in Ukraine.



God has led both of us to return this summer, June 7-25 with Michael and Jan Gott, to teach English in Rivne, Ukraine. Paul has made 2 previous trips to Ukraine with the Singing Men of Texas, and this will be Christy's 7th trip there and her 5th English school to teach on the Gott team. She is excited, but Paul is still a little nervous, since it will be his first time to teach. ***Our round trip airline flights will total \$3,600.00 for both of us. In addition to that cost will be expenses for our room and board, which will be \$2,000.00.*** Thank you for helping us stay faithful to His call on our lives through your prayers and financial support! ***All gifts to this ministry are tax deductible under I.R.S. guidelines, but also a blessing multiplier for all those who give and to those who will hear of the life giving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!***

*Love,
Paul & Christy*