

Julie's Missionary Allmanac

January 2009
Rivne, Ukraine

A thousand words is worth a picture...?

I accidentally left my camera in Kyiv over the holidays, so this *Allmanac* will be picture-less. The good news: it will be a LOT easier to paste into a regular email for those of you who have trouble with attachments. The file size will be smaller too. SO, if you receive this newsletter, but you HAVEN'T been receiving previous newsletters, you may need to mark my address as 'safe' so that even the bigger ones (with pictures) come through!

Catching up

If you didn't receive my December Allmanac, and would like me to send you a copy, let me know! My last Allmanac contained an overview of our ministry here.

Holiday world tour

I had the great opportunity to celebrate Christmas (Dec 25) in the US, New Year in Kyiv, and was back in Rivne for Ukrainian Christmas (Jan 7), Old New Year (Jan 14), and Vodokreshenye (Epiphany- Jan 19th). Finally, I think it's ok to stop singing carols and take down decorations!

Starting anew

It's a fresh, new year—time to reassess priorities and start again. Before the holidays, I mentioned a new group I'd be starting just for the young women in our fellowship. We had our first meeting last week, and I was encouraged. There is potential for discipleship and real spiritual growth—please pray to that end for us!

What's the weather like there?

People ask me this question all the time when I'm in the States. So, I'll give you the answer right now: ick! The snow has melted, there is mud EVERYWHERE. The upside is that it's not too cold (nor did we lose much heat during the whole Russia-turning-the-gas-off scandal. Twas worse for central Europe!). But I shouldn't complain—maybe we'll have lovely snow covering the mess by the time you read this newsletter! ☺

How do you make a disciple?

"Making disciples." This is a (if not 'the') primary goal of our mission here in Ukraine—to make disciples. Better yet—to make disciples who make disciples. There's not a great way to translate this phrase in Ukrainian without making it sound like you are fabricating them in a factory. And we all know, it's not that simple. If only it were that simple!

So how is a disciple made? One thing we have noticed, and I'm sure all of you who serve in churches notice, is that disciples aren't magically made by worship services—though worship services can certainly help. Nor are they made automatically through small groups. They certainly aren't made when our ministry consists only of 'us' (the ministers) giving something to 'them'.

So how do you make a disciple?

I share this because this is a driving question for me, for all of us, right now. We have some ideas: first to make one—you gotta be one. That's pretty clear! But it can be hard to remember at times. Also, to make one, you have to allow other people to experience the same growing pains, responsibilities, challenges—that formed you into someone more mature in Christ than you were last year, or last decade.

It's a start. But so hard to figure out the day by day choices that help others grow. Pray with me that I will learn this—that we will all learn this. Pray that I will sit at Jesus' feet and teach others' to sit there too.

Thank you for your prayers and support! You are part of the 'team'.

**Blessings in Christ,
Julie**