

Julie's Missionary Allmanac

December 2008
Rivne, Ukraine

Good news!

Recently, we had some great news to share with you! I sent out my last newsletter just before Greg & Brenda Hendrick, sent this out—which I'll share with you just as they wrote it:



A new light shines in Ukraine! We now have an officially registered mission! Its name is "Mayak Nadii" which means Beacon of Hope. The fact that we are registered allows us the freedom to carry out a multitude of religious activities anywhere in Ukraine. Pictured are board members and key leaders Yaroslav and Olga (husband and wife) and Sveta. God put in their hearts a common passion for leading people to Jesus Christ, developing disciples who follow Him, and starting new churches. (Is this good news or what?) Many of you know how long we have waited and prayed for this day. Many of you have prayed for the same. THANK YOU! REJOICE WITH US! GOD BE PRAISED!



Who are we and what are we doing here?

I wanted to include a newer picture of our mission team—now that we are reunited in Rivne! Seated left to right are Greg Hendrick, his wife Brenda, and me. We have worked together in Ukraine since 2001. And we are excited to be joined together in mission with Sveta, Yaroslav and Olga (pictured above). Saturday morning we hope to meet all together to talk about direction and vision. Pray with us!



Each Sunday evening, our small church meets at Greg & Brenda's for worship and discussion of Scripture. It has been exciting to see the mix of older and younger generations—and to help each other understand God's Word as it applies to our lives!

We are practicing church in its simplest form and trying to make disciples who understand that they each can learn, and teach, and witness to their families and friends.

Here are some of the young adults who come to a youth group Sveta has been heading up. Last Friday I had them over for a movie and to talk about starting a group for girls only—to discuss the nitty-gritty of relationships and healthy boundaries. This is one of several opportunities to reach out to existing members of our fellowship as well as potential new people. I've also started an English club on Thursdays at my place. Holidays and trips break up the brand new momentum of this kind of ministry—but we pray it will start up well again in January! Pray for Sveta—she and the rest of us are planning a big St. Andrew's party on Saturday which will involve the preparation of a LOT of verrenikiy (that's pierogies for you Polish Pittsburghers ☺).



Special Guests

A few weeks ago we had guests from America, Dick and Darlene Viele, who have come to Ukraine a few times with teams from their church—but this time wanted to catch up with the Free Methodists, since we have a shared church background. We had a great time with them and took the opportunity to enter into the lives of some of our folks here.



Some highlights were a visit to the village and to a home for older folks in Tuchen (where we used to visit a children's orphanage), and listening to the twins Ira & Natasha teach bandura to young girls who were really gifted!

And over Thanksgiving, I got to be the guest on my first trip to Bratislava, Slovakia, to visit my friend Lynette and her husband Josef and little son Simon. It was great to reconnect and see their 'new-to-me' place! Lynette was the only person I knew when I came as a VISA worker to Ukraine and Hungary back in 1999. We've come a long way! ☺



This month, please pray especially for...

→ Unrest and rioting in Greece to end! Though I've not told about it here, we've seen on the news and in reports from the Longs that things are bad in Athens as well as Thessaloniki where they live. Keep them and the nation in prayer.

→ Our Sunday church meeting: This weekend we are meeting in a larger space and taking extra time to discuss what it means to be the Church as the Bible describes it. It will be our first presentation of our newly registered mission - and a chance to share our stories and vision with our group. Please pray that God would guide all plans and accomplish his purposes!

→ A Bible handbook: "Light for our Path" that we are getting printed in Ukrainian. Ukrainian Bibles usually contain no concordance and few or no helps to guide the new reader. This handbook will include an abridged concordance, introductions to books of the Bible, help finding the 'Great Stories' of the Bible, description of what 'church' means, and exhortation on letting God write your story. Pray that the editing and finishing process would produce a useful and beautiful booklet that would draw Ukrainians deeper into the Word!

Thank you!

A huge thank you to all of you who gave toward my support and to Ukraine Country Shares this year. Your giving and your prayers give us the ability to remain here to follow the Lord's leading in Ukraine.

**Blessings in Christ,
Julie**
