

Julie's Missionary Almanac

March-April 2009
Rivne, Ukraine



Life trots on in Rivne, Ukraine where you are likely to see a horse cart stopped at the same intersection as a new Mercedes.

Pray for many Ukrainians who are out of work or underpaid during the economic crisis—hitting Ukraine as hard or harder than many other countries in the world.

What was your spiritual high point?

This past weekend, Scott Dunn (missionary in Romania) came to Ukraine accompanied by Drew Walter to lead us in Appreciative Inquiry meetings.



We were together all day Saturday going through this process designed to draw out a common understanding of our strengths and vision for the future. Spiritual high points were the topic of the first round of interactive questions. Though challenging



and very unusual for most, we were blessed to see our folks take on the task and begin to reflect on how God has been leading them. Pray for us that we would keep learning to trust God with the future and follow wherever he leads.

Answered Prayer

Dima's surgery in St. Petersburg was successful! Yaroslav and Olga thank you for your prayers and financial support!



Dreaming Big...

Praise the Lord for the young women who have been meeting at my flat every Friday. The last few weeks, Sveta (at left) has been encouraging

them to dream big and entrust their dreams to God. Pray with us on Fridays during your lunchtime! ☺

“Speak to one another with . . .”

One of the key principles of simple church is an emphasis on ‘participatory gatherings’. This means the prioritized form of learning the Word, hearing from God, getting the ‘vision’, etc., is working together in a flexible way that allows each member to participate.

There are many Scriptures that tell us what the church is, but none that clearly dictate how to plan a church worship service. Nowhere does it tell us when to collect the offering or how to pick special music. What we do read is “when you come together, everyone has a hymn, a word of instruction... (1 Cor 14:26 and see similar passages in Eph 5:19-20 and Col 3:16).

It's interesting to me, looking back at my time at Roberts (college), that the classes that stuck with me were the ones where we were to come prepared to discuss what we'd read (rather than listen to the professor pour knowledge into our ears). We were a community formed around a text, or a set of questions really . . .

Perhaps discipleship (and even worship!) happens more effectively in the same way. A group of people bound together around the Word, listening to the Spirit, and growing up through the challenge to meet life's questions together.

I have a new blog site; though it is not dedicated to mission updates, it will occasionally feature stories from Ukraine. Feel free to check it out at: <http://allmanack.blogspot.com/>

Thank you so much for your prayers! God bless! -- Julie