



...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

Dear friends,

We're sitting in a nice little bungalow in central Holland, out in the country. This YWAM base, Heidebeek, is nestled among farms and well-to-do country homes, pretty as a picture. Fresh from our time in Ukraine, the contrast is remarkable.

We left Minneapolis as scheduled. On our arrival in Kiev, we were met by Julia and Alexander. Julia spoke some English, and was to be our second translator. We were supposed to meet Marina, who had travelled from Perm, Russia to be our primary translator, but alas...she was not to be found. We had to board the train that evening without her. The next morning we arrived in Krivoy Rog, and were taken to pastor Gregori's house for breakfast and a change of clothes. There we got a phone call from Marina— she couldn't find us in Kiev, but had come on the same train as we had! We were taken to the palace of culture by 10 a.m., where six hundred people had gathered — a standing room only crowd. In addition to Gregori's congregation, people from many of the 20 daughter churches were there. It was a 11 hour meeting. The high energy praise and worship almost lifted the roof! Jackie and I and Bev were given a great welcome and flowers, and I preached. Twenty some came forward for salvation. People pressed us for prayer after the meeting. Food was passed out to everyone in their seats at noon and supper time. The ladies of the church had used flour from the humanitarian aid to make "pirogis", and wrapped them in some of the thousands of multicolored dental bibs sent the aid container. (any kind of wrapping is hard to come by!) In the afternoon Bev, Jackie and I spoke about family, and we prayed for more people (including a woman who said she was a vampire), and soon it was time for the evening meeting. I preached on healing, and we and pastor Gregori continued to pray for the sick, anointing them with oil. It seemed that hundreds were prayed for. By the end of the day, it was hard to believe we had just arrived that morning!

The next morning we were able to rest, and in the afternoon had a long conversation with pastor Gregori for the first time! In all previous trips, we have had unsaved and poorly skilled translators. Marina (who tutored Jennifer in Perm last year) is excellent in her translation and filled with the Spirit. Julia is young and not so skilled in English, but having two believers as translators made this time much less frustrating than in the past.

Two translators meant another thing: we would be split up and sent to different places! Jackie spoke in village churches each night (Bev accompanied her). Monday

night I spoke at the pastoral training institute. 25 men and women jammed into an apartment living room. They are future pastors and church planters. There are 50 more waiting to be trained to be pastors, but there is no place to hold them! One night I spoke to the pastors (men and women) of the twenty young churches. Actually I mostly answered questions. Many of the questions related to family life, which has been severely damaged through the communist years. People coming to the Lord tend to all have severe family problems.

One day we went with Gregori to bring to two hospitals the medical supplies that we had shipped in the container of humanitarian aid. At the first hospital, the head nurse and anesthesiologist came out with Gregori to look at the trailer load of supplies. They assured us they needed everything! (But they said to take the orthopedic braces and crutches to the other hospital, which needed them more.) Dr. Bev pulled out the three blood pressure cuffs and meters, and gave one to the anesthesiologist. His eyes were wet with tears! He said that the last working blood pressure device had broken the day before, so that he could not do his work.

We were taken into the hospital and asked to pray for several patients with severe infections. The head nurse said, "This is a hospital with no food and no medicine!" (We verified the fact that they had no antibiotics and no pain relievers.) One man was scheduled to lose his arm because of infection. He was a believer with three small children, and had come for prayer in the meeting two days before. We prayed at his bedside. Dr. Bev had a small amount of a special life saving expensive antibiotic with her, and she and Jackie went back that night to inject it. We were given the report later that his blood had cleared of infection and his arm was better!

We spoke at a youth meeting of several hundred. Eight or nine came for salvation, and we called for all those who knew that God had called them to spread the gospel. Perhaps one hundred young people came down, and we prayed for God's purpose to be fulfilled in them. Again, we prayed for many sick people.

We visited pastor Gregori's new church building under construction. It will seat perhaps seven hundred or more, with a fellowship hall, offices, and classrooms. It is being built by unpaid volunteers. We saw the humanitarian aid which we had sent, or what had not yet been distributed. Some of the food is being used to feed the workers on the building. In recent months, several beggars have come to the building for help, and one homeless family. They have been clothed, fed, and

*"Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession."*

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housed in the new church, now are saved, and are helping to build the church.

All the churches are trying hard to find property and build. A law is being passed that says if a church has no building, it will not have a legal right to exist.

We ministered in as many new village churches as the time permitted. One was under a tree. Several were healed. One meeting was held in the "red room", where the communist party used to meet. Many received prayer for healing. In another village, full of alcoholics, sixty or more people jammed into a small room. Some were saved, many filled with the Spirit, and most received prayer for healing or other problems.

Jackie and Bev had an all day meeting with the women's council for the twenty churches. They talked of women, family, children, medical problems, etc., and left a large supply of medications for the churches. That evening they ministered in another village church.

Our last day in Krivoy Rog was a "Celebration of Jesus". Praise, music, testimony, drama, pantomime, original poetry, all combined for us to see the creativity and life of these believers. I preached on Jesus, and they showered love and blessing on us, since our departure was at hand. In the afternoon was a water baptism. I helped Gregori baptize 68 new believers.

Suddenly, it seemed, we had to go. The night train brought us to Kiev several hours before our flight to Amsterdam. So we had time to see some sites. We observed an ancient and highly ritualistic service in one of the orthodox churches, and we took a prayer walk through Babin Yar. Babin Yar was a ravine on the edge of the city during WWII. There, one hundred thousand people were slaughtered and buried, mostly Jews, but also the disabled, the homosexuals, and many women and children. It is said that the ground moved for three days due to the number of people buried alive. We prayed there for God to forgive the atrocities and heal the wound in the land, and bring a great revival to the

nation. We boarded the plane with a great mixture of emotions.

And now here we are in the rural beauty of Holland. Our work this week is to teach and minister to twenty DTS students of various ages from several nations. Some of them need a spiritual breakthrough, and need to be filled with the Spirit. We hope to see God do some wonderful things in them before we leave!

A sad note: on our first stopover in Amsterdam, we were robbed of a large portion of our cash — hundreds of dollars. This was for expenses within Ukraine, where travellers checks aren't used. We are very careful about our belongings, and this has never happened to us in twenty years of travel. Overtired, we briefly neglected our own routine of security, and someone pickpocketed us. Though we were able to get this amount in cash by use of our visa card, so that we could continue on to Ukraine, it is a large loss, and now a debt. Will you pray with us for this loss?

We have been asked to return to Ukraine in late winter, for a first charismatic pastors conference in Krivoy Rog. Perhaps 100 pastors will come from various parts of Ukraine. It seems to depend on our coming, if it is to happen. Please pray, since we need to send word soon after we come home.

As always, we are immensely grateful for you. Thanks for praying, and to those of you able to support us financially — we thank you. And a special thanks to you who gave sacrificially for us to carry out this ministry in Ukraine and Holland!

May the blessing of the Lord rest on you!

John and Jackie

p.s. please pray for the Chantik Prayer Summit in Denver, Dec. 6-10, and for the Lord's provision for us to go. Jehovah Jireh!