

OVERSEAS FIELD REPORT

A publication dedicated to making known the ways in which God is showing Himself strong on the behalf of those who serve Him.

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www.OFReport.com

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A Big Year Ahead

The 2011 ETO staff team. From the right: Denise Hutchison, Jessie Beal, Teresa Beal, Katelin Day, Nathan Day, Kelsie Steele, Joshua Steele, Patricia Rebsch.

In the last month, 33 new Ukrainian students have joined *Bible First!*, our evangelistic correspondence course. Some sign up via paper fliers, and some online, but most (45%) actually enroll through the recommendation of existing students. Our historical enrollment now stands at well over a thousand, and we are more excited than ever about the fruit God is giving as we involve Ukrainians in the study of His Word. As you may recall,

one of our big goals for 2011 is to make *Bible First!* available in English to other churches and believers who would like to use it in ministry, and to that end, we have been working very diligently.

A Team Effort

We've been mailing out little paper Bible lessons for many years now. In the early days, our student base was much smaller and the workload was quite manageable. But as our course has grown, we've found ourselves in-

creasingly challenged to maintain the delicate balance between ministry to our students and the development of new materials. On average, each time we release a new lesson there are between 50 and 60 students already waiting for it! This is one of many reasons why we are so grateful for the team God has given us here. It would be utterly impossible for one person - or even a married couple - to keep pace alone.

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BUT AS WE WERE ALLOWED OF GOD TO BE PUT IN TRUST WITH THE GOSPEL, EVEN SO WE SPEAK;
NOT AS PLEASING MEN, BUT GOD, WHICH TRIETH OUR HEARTS. I THESSALONIANS 2:4

Our Ministry...



at a glance



A Growing Family

As you likely know by now, our third daughter was born on November 15, 2010. Hosanna Joy has blessed our family beyond words, charming us continually with her smiles. Of course Abby and Rebekah are thoroughly enjoying their new roles as big sisters! As our family grows, we find that our schedule is getting more and more full. Abby has begun homeschooling this year, and both of the older girls are now taking violin lessons once a week. With a full-time ministry and three small children, life can seem overwhelming at times. Nevertheless, we are grateful for all that God has given and we appreciate your prayers as we move forward.



Religious Visas

At long last it appears that we have found a solution to our immigration problems. In the past, all of our team members have held cultural visas lasting 3 - 5 years. About a year ago, the Ukrainian government made a policy change and decided they would no longer extend registration of cultural visas beyond the initial 90-day period. This effectively meant that we were all forced to leave the country every 90 days. While this was doable, the costs were beginning to add up. To make a long story short, the Lord has now opened the door for us to get religious visas instead. The main benefit of these new visas is that they allow us to stay in Ukraine for a full year without having to cross the border. Once our first year is up, we are hopeful that we will be able to apply for three-year visas. We are grateful to all of you who have prayed for us about this matter. God has answered!



Monthly Video Reports

Beginning in February, we've been attempting to produce a new video report from our ministry every month. So far, it seems to be working! The February and March reports are available on YouTube, and by the time you read this, the April report will likely be out there also. If you haven't already done so, I would encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel. That way, you'll receive an e-mail every time we post a new video. You can find our videos on the YouTube site at <http://youtube.com/euroteamoutreach> or on our ministry web site at <http://euroteamoutreach.org>.



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Keeping in Touch

If you compare the date on this newsletter with that of our last issue, you may well react like I did: "Wow. It's been a while!" So what's the deal? The short answer is this: most of our ministry reporting is now done online instead of in print. Digital communication is faster, easier to publish, and more up-to-date. While we certainly intend to continue the publication of our paper newsletter, we are directing our reporting efforts more and more towards electronic media. Twitter, blogging, YouTube, and even e-mail are far more efficient means of communication in our day, and with a growing ministry we have to be very careful about how we spend our time. So if you're not a computer person, don't worry. We'll still be sending out paper newsletters as we always have. But these will not be nearly as frequent - or as current - as the other outlets I have mentioned above. Bottom line: if you want to keep in touch with the Steele family and ministry on a regular basis, we'd recommend that you visit our blog regularly. You can find us online at <http://OFReport.com>.

A BIG YEAR AHEAD
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Next Steps

Once upon a time, we thought it would be nice to have a Bible correspondence school with a couple hundred students. But over the past several years, God has grown not only our student roster but also our vision for what He wants to accomplish. The following is a brief look at a few of the doors that God is opening to us in Ukraine and around the world.

Launch in the U.S.

In addition to maintaining our Ukrainian ministries, our major focus right now is to publish an English version of *Bible First!* in the United States. We strongly believe that this tool could be a great blessing to churches all over America who are seeking to advance the Gospel and find those whose hearts are open to Christ. As advertised on our web site, our goal is to make *Bible First!* lessons available in the U.S. sometime this summer. Stay tuned for more updates. We're getting closer all the time!

Distribution in Ukraine

Recently, the Lord has opened several doors for me to speak with various Ukrainian Christian groups about *Bible First!* Most have responded very excitedly to the idea of implementing the course in their own churches, and they all ask that same magical question: "When can we get the materials?" Hopefully, very soon. We believe that if our ministry is to have a long-lasting effect in Ukraine, we need to get *Bible*

First! into the hands of Ukrainian believers and teach them how to do what we are doing. Imagine the impact of multiple *Bible First!* ministries spreading God's Word all over Ukraine!

Bible First! Online

Technology is quickly changing the way people communicate. Right now, most of our students are quite content to receive paper lessons in the mail. But a growing number are asking a very relevant question: "Can we get *Bible First!* lessons electronically?" Already we have seen great benefit in leveraging the internet for ministry purposes. As an example, for a few years now we have maintained a Ukrainian web site where people regularly sign up for our course and also request other materials. In the not-too-distant future, we would also like to make our entire correspondence course available on the internet. Rather than sending and receiving physical booklets by mail, students could set up an account and work through the course via a web-based app. This would reduce costs greatly, and as more and more people gain access to the internet, the scope of our potential impact would increase exponentially.

So Little Time...

These days, I come to my office, sit down at my computer and wonder what I should work on first. Should I write a few more paragraphs of Lesson 18, or maybe proof the translation for Lesson 16? Or maybe I should read another chapter on Ruby, the programming language I'm using to

How YOU Can Pray...

- ◆ Pray that God would multiply and accelerate our ministry efforts for His glory. Time is short!
- ◆ Praise God for protecting Kelsie during a difficult birth. She is doing much better now.
- ◆ Pray that God would continue to draw Ukrainians to Himself through *Bible First!* and our other ministries here.
- ◆ Pray that we would be able to meet our goal of launching *Bible First!* this summer in the U.S.

write our new web applications. Perhaps I should place that next order for a batch of Lesson 10's, or maybe I should finish putting together my slide presentation for the youth conference I'm speaking at next week.

It seems the trail of ministry opportunities is endless! Though still in my early thirties, I often find myself wondering if I'll have time to finish all that God wants me to do before He calls me home. Right now, if I could ask you to pray for one thing in regards to our ministry, it would be that God would multiply our efforts and accelerate our progress so that we can take full advantage of the few days that He has given us on this earth.

***"So teach us to number
our days, that we may
apply our hearts unto
wisdom."***

PSALM 90:12

To God be the Glory