



Joshua & Kelsie Steele

June - August 2014

Overcome Evil with Good



At a recent film showing in the village of Ilemnya (pronounced ee-LEM-nya) we had over 40 kids in attendance. Each of them received copies of Good and Evil Short plus starter packets for our Bible course.

Carpathian villages, though beautiful in photos, can be surprisingly dark places. Entrenched in centuries of religion and superstition, the people who live in these mountain communities often embody a sad yet all too common paradox: *"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him..."* (Titus 1:16)

Consider the children pictured above. The Bible literature they were given has the potential to lead them to salvation through faith in Christ. Yet some may never even have the chance to read the material or consider its claims. There is great likelihood that parents and grandparents, misguided by the deception of false teaching, will snatch

away the books with a stern warning to avoid accepting propaganda from sects. Anyone from the outside who talks of God or the Bible is not to be trusted.

As the boys reach adolescence and slip into drinking and other destructive habits, the parents shrug their shoulders and point to hard economic conditions. As the girls enter puberty, often lacking the protection and guidance of their fathers, they seek attention from the boys through seductive dress, sometimes bearing more resemblance to prostitutes than country dwellers. All this and more is tolerated as an unavoidable reality, blamed on anything and everything except

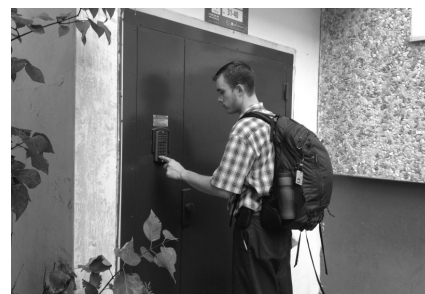




Rebekah (age 6) joined us for a recent camping trip - her first ever. She loved every moment!



A film showing in the village of Myslivka – one of our first showings of the season.



James Slice requests entrance to an apartment building. His Ukrainian skills are improving!

personal choice.

Bound by sin, people turn to the priest to appease their consciences. They attend mass and confession regularly, repeating empty prayers to idols while their lives and the lives of their children slide ever more quickly towards the blackness of hell.

I write these things as one who has been visiting the Carpathians for nearly a decade. I've often asked myself the same question that is no doubt pressing your mind also: *what is to be done?* Is there nothing that can turn back this tide of evil? Yes, there is. The simple Gospel of Jesus Christ "... is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..." (Romans 1:16)

As modern American Christians, we tend to be easily discouraged when we don't see sweeping revival in response to our evangelistic efforts. But Christ's redeeming work is focused on the individual. The village as a whole may continue its march to destruction, but all the while God is quietly calling out His elect, those who choose to believe the Word preached to them.

"...And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14) We go to these places because we are sent; we preach because we are commanded to preach. We are called to hold the line as good soldiers, to shine Christ's light in the darkest corners where hope seems lost, to proclaim the Gospel message until the day our Lord calls us home. This is the essence of our ministry in Ukraine, and of Carpathian Mountain Outreach in particular.

Please don't stop praying for our team as we minister. God knows every heart in every village, and His Word is not bound. Every weekend camping trip brings our team into contact with new faces, new opportunities to preach the Gospel and distribute Bible literature. Pray that God would strengthen us and that He would use our efforts to

turn many to repentance.

If you'd like to keep up with CMO 2014 as the project progresses, be sure to subscribe to the ETO eReport at www.euroteamoutreach.org.

New Bible First! Lessons

We've recently released Volumes 3 and 4 of our *Bible First!* course in English. These two volumes add an additional seven lessons to those already available. As our local *Bible First!* course in Ukraine continues to grow, we are excited to see more people using the English version of these materials in their own ministries.

To learn more about how you can use *Bible First!* to reach the lost in your own ministry, please visit our web site: www.biblefirstcourses.com.

Baby Update

As you likely know already, we are excitedly anticipating the arrival of our fourth child in late December of this year! After much prayer and consideration, we've decided to have the baby in the U.S. For that reason, our family will be coming back to Texas in mid-October to prepare for the birth. Please pray for safety and health as we travel.

How You Can Pray

- Pray for open doors to preach Christ in the Carpathians and throughout Ukraine.
- Praise God for the many new responses we are receiving as a result of literature campaigns!
- Pray for health and safety for our team as we minister.
- Pray for health and safety for Kelsie and our new baby.

To God be the Glory