

# OVERSEAS FIELD REPORT

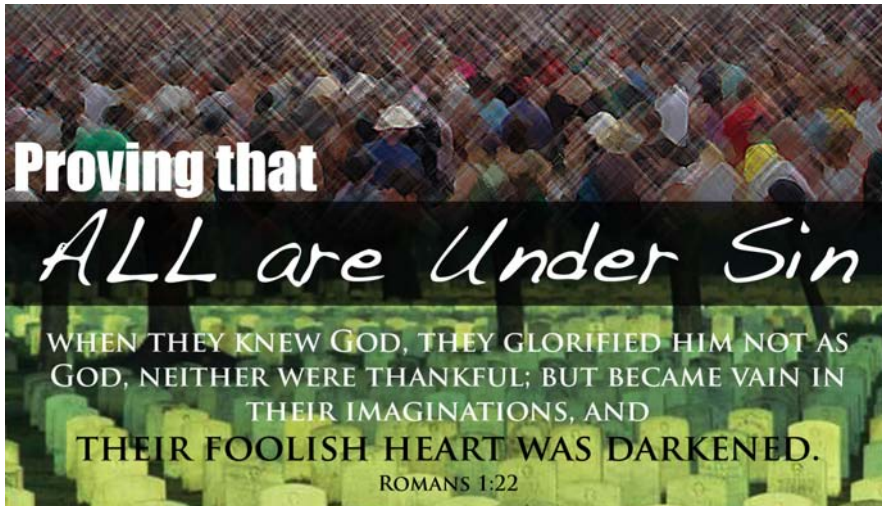


A publication dedicated to making known the ways in which God is showing Himself strong on the behalf of those who serve Him.

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www.OFReport.com

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*The Lord continues to bless our Audio Bible Study ministry (ABS). Having recently finished our series on the Gospel of John, we are now teaching through the book of Romans. The following is a brief account of our first few weeks in Romans, examining Paul's arguments that all men are under sin. This article is taken from our April 10th blog update.*

In the first three chapters of the book of Romans, Paul provides us with irrefutable evidence that all men are indeed under sin. A firm grasp of this concept is foundational in understanding the Gospel. Contrary to what is commonly taught, Paul does not point to a birth defect as the basis for the sinner's blame. Rather, he points out that God judges men who *hold truth* in unrighteousness. (Rom. 1:18) That is, those who understand good, embrace it as a worthy standard of conduct, even judge others by it, and yet still commit sin by violating their own standard. (See Matt. 7:1-2)

Beginning with Romans 1:18,

Paul invites us into the courtroom to observe the sinful acts of the wicked: failure to glorify God, ungratefulness, murder, fornication, homosexuality, deceit, envy, idolatry, disobedience to parents, etc., etc., etc. Then, as we point our fingers in agreement with God and condemn those who have committed such evil, Paul points right back at us: *"Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things."* All men stand blame-worthy before God, condemned by their own mouths. As the mas-

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## How YOU Can Pray...

- ◆ Pray that God would open doors to the Gospel during our upcoming summer outreaches.
- ◆ Pray for the salvation and growth of the many Ukrainians who are now receiving full versions of the book Good and Evil. (see page 2)

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## CARPATHIAN MOUNTAIN OUTREACH



# 2009

Learn more online at:  
[www.euroteamoutreach.org/cmo](http://www.euroteamoutreach.org/cmo)

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 THESS. 2:4

# Our Ministry...



## at a glance

### CARPATHIAN MOUNTAIN OUTREACH 2009



#### Carpathian Mountain Outreach 2009

The summer is almost here! Soon our team will begin making scouting trips to the Carpathians to set up film showings. Please pray that God would give us favor in the eyes of the people in the villages, especially the local government officials. This year we will again be showing *The Light of the World* film, and also distributing copies of *Good and Evil Short*. If you haven't already done so, be sure to sign up for the ETO eReport. Once CMO begins, we will be sending out weekly e-mail updates, which will include ministry news, testimonies, pictures, etc. In addition to the eReport, you can also get real-time ministry news by following ETO on Twitter. ([twitter.com/eto\\_ukraine](https://twitter.com/eto_ukraine)) Because Twitter updates can be sent from a cellular phone, we will be able to post ministry news and prayer requests to the ETO web site even while in the mountains. ETO's Twitter feed is visible on the main page of the ETO web site. We appreciate your prayers for our team as we minister this summer!

<http://www.euroteamoutreach.org/cmo>



#### Audio Bible Studies (ABS)

ABS continues to grow, and we are encouraged to see the Lord blessing this aspect of our ministry. New people often visit our group, and several have become regular attendees. We recently finished our series on the Gospel of John, and have now begun teaching through the book of Romans. Currently, we are examining the early chapters of Romans where Paul proves that all are under sin. (See main article for more details.) As usual, every lesson is recorded in digital audio. Soon we plan to post these lessons on our Ukrainian web site in MP3 format. They will also be sent on CD to our correspondence students. <http://www.euroteamoutreach.org/abs>



#### Chronological Bible Course

Bible lessons continue to pour into our tiny PO box in L'viv. At times, I wonder if we will need to start searching for a bigger box! God is blessing this ministry in ways that I never expected. When we began writing these lessons four years ago, I honestly wondered if they would ever be read by any significant number of Ukrainians. Now, we can scarcely keep up with the volume of mail we are receiving every week. Not only are students completing and returning their lessons, but many write us letters, asking questions about various Bible topics. We are still developing new lessons, trying hard to keep up with our students. Please pray that God would give us strength and the capacity to manage the work load effectively. <http://www.euroteamoutreach.org/cbc>



**Bryan Shufelt carries a load of Good and Evil's to the post office in his backpack.**

#### Good and Evil

At long last, we have finished mailing out over 100 copies of *Good and Evil* to those on our mailing list who have been waiting for them. As you may recall, there was a big delay in our initial printing due to a paper shortage in Kiev. Now we have nearly 5,000 copies on hand for use in the ministry, and already we are seeing very positive results. One man, who recently received his copy of *Good and Evil*, wrote us this letter: "Peace to you, dear brothers and sisters! I am immeasurably grateful to you for the book *Good and Evil*! The quality illustrations are helpful in visualizing major [Bible] events. Such an account of the Bible is a good guidebook not only for children, but also for people of the older generation. For example, my mother really liked your book. She's 78 years old. She says that the illustrated format makes it much easier to understand. Again, thank you so much for your wonderful gift! I wish you success in your very beneficial work. May God bless you generously. Respectfully, Sergiy P.N."

<http://www.euroteamoutreach.org/good-and-evil>

*ALL ARE UNDER SIN*  
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ter said to the servant in Luke 19:22, “*Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant.*”

Often, when preaching the Gospel, we fall short of presenting the whole counsel of God. We tell a sinner that he was born lost, and that he needs to believe on Jesus or face eternal damnation. While this is certainly true, it’s only part of the message. Paul on the other hand writes nearly three chapters with no Gospel whatsoever. His message to the wicked begins by pointing out their personal offenses against God. They’re not guilty because they were born that way; they’re guilty because, having known and embraced righteousness, they consciously chose evil. No one is excluded. All have failed. Finally, in the latter part of Romans 3, having proven beyond all doubt that the human race is depraved by choice, Paul brings us to his conclusion: “*Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*” (Rom. 3:20)

At this point, when the self-righteous have been humbled, when the religious and the philosophical have been exposed for the fools they are, when all human hope has been taken away, the audience is finally ready to hear of Grace: “*But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even*



**Several of our Bible students attending an ABS session.**

*the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:”* (Rom. 2:21-22)

For the past three weeks at ABS, we have been teaching through the opening chapters of Romans. Last week, we made it up through 2:16. As we examine these passages on man’s depravity, we get lots of silent, sober looks. Some just sit and stare at the floor. People are hearing, perhaps for the first time, irrefutable proof of their personal guilt before God. Ukraine is full of various religious groups, all claiming

## How YOU Can Pray...

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- ◆ Pray that God would continue to bring new people to ABS, and that they would come to know Christ.
- ◆ Pray for the men who will be joining us this year for CMO.
- ◆ Pray for our growing Bible correspondence course. At times, it seems that we are receiving more mail from students than we can handle. PTL!

to be the way to heaven. Ukrainians have all heard the message of “You have to join our church/denomination/sect or be condemned.” They hear that taught by everyone from the JW’s to the Catholics to the Baptists. But now they’re hearing something different. They’re not condemned because they failed to join the right group or denomination, but because they have knowingly rebelled against their Creator. They have judged others to be sinful,

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**After our Bible lessons, most people stick around to chat and ask questions. We have many open doors right now for sharing the Gospel.**

# Family Update

SPRING is finally arriving in Ukraine, and we are all so thankful to see the sun again! Joshua has been taking advantage of the beautiful weather to do some more outdoor rock climbing. Recently, he took Abby on her first all day outing alone with Daddy! They went to an outdoor nature area where Abby ran all around playing with sticks and rocks, and loved every minute of it. Abby is three and a half and is rapidly learning, especially phonics. We hope to start some official school lessons and music training soon. Rebekah (15 mos.) is the delight of our days. She loves helping mommy in the kitchen by dragging out all of the utensils, pots, pans, and spice packets. Of course, she loves doing anything her big sister is doing. Kelsie tries to keep up with both of them in between language lessons, house upkeep, and team activities.



Heading to the woods with Dad



Working a puzzle



Snuggin' with Daddy



Mommy and her girls

**ALL ARE UNDER SIN**  
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and then transgressed their own standard. These are hard realities, difficult to hear and not pleasant to preach. But as stated before, *they are foundational*. Farmers don't plant precious seed in hard earth, and God does not give grace to the proud. (Jas. 4:6) We still have a ways to go through Romans, but when we get to the Gospel, our hearers will be ready.

As I teach through these passages, I am again reminded of my own great need of Christ. When I read the opening chapters of the book of Romans, I am left just as hopeless as the murderers and fornicators. I am under no illusions as to the frailty of man's

righteousness. Christ alone is my hope. Were it not for His sacrifice, I would be condemned right along with the men and women I preach to. I often recall Paul's words from Philippians 3:8-9, "*Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.*"

Make no mistake: there are no sinners in heaven (I Cor. 6:9-10), and no good men in hell (Prov.

17:15). Only righteousness can deliver the soul from condemnation (Prov. 11:4). I rejoice that I have *Christ's righteousness* on my account (Rom. 4:4-5). I dare not trust my own. When you stand before God, *whose righteousness will you have?*

**"FOR HE HATH MADE HIM TO BE SIN FOR US, WHO KNEW NO SIN; THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM."**

II COR. 5:21

*To God be the Glory*