

# 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.

Joshua and Kelsie Steele

www.OFReport.com

December 2008



## ABS Restarted

*After taking several months off during CMO, our Audio Bible Studies project is back. We are continuing our teaching through the Gospel of John, recording all the messages in digital audio format.*

The postal worker's eyes widened as I handed her my 3 large stacks of business envelopes. "So many lovers to write to, eh?", the gray-headed gentleman next to me teased with a twinkle in his eye. I don't usually enjoy trips to the Ukrainian Post Office, but this one was important. Joshua and I had spent all weekend preparing this mail-out for those of our Bible Correspondence students who live in the L'viv area— 228 in all. As I sat and licked each individual stamp, (no self-adhesive here!) my thoughts ran in a continuous cycle: Will this person come? Lord, draw their hearts to you. I wonder how many will be there.

Will they come? Bring those who are ready to hear, Lord!

Not long ago, an acquaintance named Roman approached Joshua and asked the worn out question that missionaries hear quite regularly, "Do you teach English?" Joshua gave him his usual answer, "If you can find a group of ten dedicated people who want to learn, call me and we'll talk about starting an English club." While most who ask never call back, it wasn't long before we heard from Roman again, saying he had found 8 people who would come.

About this same time, our missionary team had been mak-

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## How YOU Can Pray...

- ◆ Pray that God would bless our efforts as we continue to develop new lessons for the correspondence course.
- ◆ Pray for our Bible students, and especially for those who have begun attending ABS.
- ◆ Pray that God would continue

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## CARPATHIAN MOUNTAIN OUTREACH



# 2009

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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 THESS. 2:4

# Our Ministry...



at a glance



## Carpathian Mountain Outreach 2009

Once again, our team is laying the plans for our biggest outreach of the year: Carpathian Mountain Outreach. Our fourth CMO project is set to begin June 1 of 2009. Right now, we are in the process of recruiting the men who will make this outreach possible. Please pray with us that God will raise up a strong team of missionaries to go with us into the mountains. In the last three years, we have reached thousands of people with the Gospel, but many thousands more have not heard. If you or someone you know is interested in applying for CMO 2009, please visit our web site for details. <http://www.euroteamoutreach.org/cmo>



The full version of Good and Evil in Ukrainian

## Good and Evil

They're here!! After many long months of waiting, we finally have 30 copies of the full Ukrainian version of *Good and Evil* in our hands. The remainder of our first printing of 5,000 copies is still being packed into boxes and should be arriving soon. We are very excited to have these books, as we have a growing list of Ukrainians waiting for them. *Good and Evil* is an excellent evangelistic tool which we would like to distribute to as many missionaries and churches in Ukraine as possible. If you are interested in purchasing copies of *Good and Evil* in Ukrainian, please visit our web site.

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



## Chronological Bible Course

Over the last few months, it seems God has really been blessing and expanding our correspondence course. We gained many new students as a result of CMO 2008, and every time we go to the PO box, we find stacks of lessons waiting to be graded. Many of our students write letters to us, asking various questions about the Bible or just telling us how excited they are to be learning God's Word. One person who recently enrolled through our Ukrainian web site wrote the following note: "Finally, we have a Bible study course in the Ukrainian language! I am grateful to you all for this opportunity." We appreciate your continued prayers for this crucial part of our ministry in Ukraine.

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



ABS students listen to the teaching of God's Word.

## Audio Bible Studies

Now that CMO 2008 is behind us, we have resumed our Audio Bible Study sessions (ABS). We are now on chapter 15 of the Gospel of John. From time to time, we are also recording topical messages such as, "Why does God allow evil in the world?" or "Biblical Types of Christ." In the future, these messages will be mailed to our existing Bible students on CD, and also made available for download on our Ukrainian web site. In the meantime, all our students from the L'viv area have been invited to attend the recording sessions live. Several have chosen to do this, and we are grateful for the opportunities God is giving to develop more personal relationships with these people. Please continue to pray for this ministry and that God would open the hearts of these Ukrainians to understand the message of the Bible. <http://www.euroteamoutreach.org/abs>



## Family Update

It's hard to believe that our little Rebekah is nearly a year old! Abby too is getting bigger all the time - she's now three. As we look back over 2008, we are once again in awe of our Heavenly Father, who has showered so many blessings on our family. As you may recall, we had to move to a new apartment this summer. While that seemed like a trial at the time, this new place has turned out to be much better in many respects, not the least of which is a park right across the street where Abby can play. We are grateful for the continued opportunity to serve Christ here in Ukraine. If you haven't already done so, be sure to subscribe to e-mail updates on our web site. <http://www.OFReport.com>

**ABS RESTARTED***(continued from page 1)*

ing plans to resume the Audio Bible Studies that we had carried on over the past fall and winter.

**A little history**

We began the Audio Bible Studies (ABS) project in 2007. The idea was to teach through various books of the Bible (we started with John) and record the lessons in digital audio format. Then, the individual messages could be sent to our Bible students on CD, cassette, or even made available for download through our web site.

During our first season of ABS meetings, we recorded nearly 30 messages from John, Ephesians, and also a few topical messages. Some of our Bible students attended the sessions live, while others would pick up the discs and listen at home. This spring, we had to discontinue the ABS sessions temporarily due to CMO. We also had to change the location of our ministry center at that time, and we felt that it

would be better to restart ABS in the fall.

**Back to our story...**

With Roman's call, the decision was made to initiate "An Evening of Christian Fellowship", combining both the English Club and the Audio Bible Study (ABS) into one effort. Through the mail-out, we invited all our local students to come to one or both of the teaching times. First we would gather for English teaching and discussion; immediately afterward would follow Bible teaching on various themes or from the book of John. The invites were taken to the Post Office and sent. We waited and prayed.

Tuesday, December 2nd came. That night we had 8 people join us for the English Club! We discussed topics such as terrorism, why bad things happen, and how much governments should be involved in prevention. This led right into the message Joshua had prepared for that evening: Why does God allow evil in the world? All but one stayed to hear the

**How YOU Can Pray...***(continued from page 1)*

to bring new people to ABS, and that they would come to know Christ.

- ◆ Pray for the health of our family and the ETO team.
- ◆ Pray that God would raise up men to serve with us during CMO 2009.
- ◆ Pray for Bryan Shufelt, who will be joining our team in January.



**Jessie Beal (right) hands a discussion card to Roman during English Club.**

teaching of the Word! Everyone enjoyed coffee and tea afterward and seemed at ease interacting with us. Many were anxious to practice more English. One man in particular, named Taras, told Joshua that the reason he came was because he was anxious to

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**Joshua teaches from the Gospel of John during a recent ABS session.**



**Taras (center) enrolled in our correspondence course in September, and has begun attending ABS.**

Joshua and Kelsie Steele are missionaries currently serving in Ukraine. To learn more, visit us on the web at [www.OFReport.com](http://www.OFReport.com).  
Sending Church: Fairpark Baptist Church, 6000 Crowley Road, Fort Worth, TX 76134



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**Abigail Hope, 3 years old**



**Rebekah Praise, 10 months**

**ABS RESTARTED**  
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study the Word of God.

### **Good and Evil in action**

One of the tools that we have been using a lot in this ministry is *Good and Evil* by Michael Pearl. Because we have this book in English and Ukrainian, it makes a great conversational tool. A couple of weeks ago, we sent everyone home with the story of the brass serpent from *Good and Evil* (Numbers 21). The students were given copies of the English as well as the Ukrainian versions of the story. They were told to read the story and be ready to discuss it the following week. The next week, we started off by going over several of the less familiar words in the story, like “condemnation.” Next, the students took turns explaining in English what was happening in each frame. I started off with, “OK, in this frame we see Moses holding the Ten Commandments.” The Ukrainians also got involved, telling the story as best they could. “Zuh snake hez bite heem...” We also asked the students lots of questions about the story such as, “Why did God send the snakes?” and “What did the people have to do to be healed from the poison?” Then we had them turn over to the story of Christ and Nicodemus (John 3). *Good and Evil* provides an excellent illustration



of this story, and we showed the students how Jesus had described Himself as being like the snake in the wilderness. Just like the poisoned Israelites could look at the image of the snake and be healed, so we look to Christ and are given eternal life.



**ABS attendees share tea and cookies after the Bible lesson**



**Kelsie chats with Irina, one of our Bible students. Irina shared with Kelsie how much she has learned from studying the correspondence lessons.**

### **Conclusion**

Please continue to pray for ABS and for those who are hearing the Word of God. Whether they come for English or to study the Bible, these Ukrainians are hearing the message of salvation and the teaching of God’s Word every week. Our group is growing, and we are excited to see what God will do in the coming weeks and months. Thank you for your faithful intercession on our behalf.

*To God be the Glory*