

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.

Volume 2, Issue 1

Written by Joshua & Kelsie Steele

January/February 2005

“COMPEL THEM TO COME IN...”



...THAT MY HOUSE MAY BE FILLED...”

LUKE 14:23

Kelsie and I study the Bible with Andriy (front) and Vitya (second).

Kelsie and I sat huddled together on the hard wooden train bench, trying to stay warm during another four hour return trip from Volodimir Volinskiy. The air was bitter cold and a heavy snow had covered the vast Ukrainian countryside as far as the eye could see.

We had traveled to “Vova Town” the previous day by bus for our weekly English club as well as the Bible study with Timothy and his mom. Although things seemed to be going fairly

well with our ministry there, we had been up late, and we were quite tired.

As we bounced along towards L’viv, it didn’t seem like one of those bright and glorious moments on the mission field that “makes all the hardship worth it.” But just then God did something that made us realize that He had a purpose for us being on that particular train at the particular time.

We were nearing L’viv when two teenage boys entered our

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How YOU can Pray...

- Pray that God would send more laborers into His harvest fields.
- Pray for the salvation of Andriy and Vitya as we study the Bible with them.
- Pray for Kelsie and the birth of our new baby in September.
- Pray for the salvation of Timothy’s mother Lyuba, as she has now joined our Bible study.
- Pray for our growing English Club in Volodimir Volinskiy.

ENGLISH CLUB



Our Ukrainian English students

“**A**ndriy, are you sure these have?” I asked as more and more people pressed into the tiny room where we have our weekly English Club. “That’s it,” came the reply.

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Bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those under the power of darkness and proving to the world that God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.



Our Ministry *at a glance*

Discipleship



Timothy is growing in the faith and we continue to study the Bible together on Friday evenings after the English Club. We are nearing the end of Genesis, at which point we will probably move on to Romans. We are also very encouraged about Timothy's mother, Lyuba. Though not saved yet (as far as we know) she has a growing thirst for the Word of God. Every Friday she has new questions and we are able to point her to answers in the Bible. It seems she is very close to finding the Lord. We are also continuing our work with other young men in L'viv, such as Andriy and Vitya. They come to our home once a week for Bible study.

Christian Films

We recently showed an evangelistic film in the town of Pyatihoriy (about 3 hrs from Kyiv) and afterward preached the Gospel to the audience of about 100 people. Another missionary by the name of Michael Ireland is continuing the work there as he has an ongoing ministry in that area. As warmer weather approaches, we hope to arrange many more such showings. Please pray that God will open the doors for us to make the necessary arrangements to rent auditoriums, print invitations, etc.



English Club

We are continuing our English Club in Volodimir Volinskiy thus far. We have recently completed arrangements with the director of a local middle school who has invited us to hold our club in one of the school's auditoriums. He immediately assigned 30 students to attend our club! During our club meetings, we discuss various topics with the students, which gives them a chance to build relationships and introduce Christ. Ukrainian Easter is celebrated in early May, and we are planning to show the Jesus Film. Pray that God will open the hearts of these students to the Gospel.



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Euro Team Outreach

As we have said before, God has given us a vision to train young men in active, hands-on foreign missions. Several different young men have come to minister with us thus far, and we are praying that next year God will expand our team and send more laborers into the harvest fields. We have decided to call this ministry Euro Team Outreach, inasmuch as our desire is to disciple young men to minister not only in Ukraine, but in Europe and eventually around the world. If you are a single young man, and would like to learn more about overseas ministry opportunities here, please visit our web site at www.OverseasFieldReport.com and click on **Euro Team Outreach**.

Bible Correspondence School

We are continuing the development of our chronological Bible course. The English versions of the preliminary lessons are completed, and are now being formatted and translated into Ukrainian. In the meantime, our students are continuing with our existing lessons. Please pray that God will multiply our labors as we strive to complete these new lessons and expand our ability to teach the Bible all across Ukraine.

This newsletter was written by missionaries Joshua and Kelsie Steele, currently serving in Ukraine. Sending church: Family Bible Fellowship, 211 Old Steele Creek Ct., Azle, TX 76020 Subscription is free upon request. www.OverseasFieldReport.com

COMPEL THEM TO COME IN...
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train car, stood at the front and began singing a Ukrainian folk song. Having finished their song, they walked slowly down the crowded aisle collecting coins from whomever was kind enough to give. This sight in itself was not unusual for Ukraine, but today was the third train trip during which I had seen these particular guys. For some reason, as I looked at them, the thought came that maybe I should have a chat with them. Maybe it was God who had brought us together these three times. Maybe we could win them.

As they passed our bench I handed them some coins and let them go. When they reached

the end of the car, they stepped through the main doors and into the exit area.

I followed, and found them standing together counting their money. I introduced myself, explaining that I was an English teacher, and we chatted for a few minutes. They told me their names were Andriy and Vitya, and I learned that they were also from L'viv. They had been friends since childhood, and apparently singing on trains was now their main source of income.

I led them back to our seat to meet Kelsie, and we ended our conversation by inviting them over for dinner the following week.

I wasn't sure exactly what to expect as it's not normally my

custom to invite singing train beggars home for dinner, but since God seemed to be leading this thing, we decided to follow Him.

As the agreed upon day approached, I wondered if they would really show up. Kelsie and I prepared our evening meal, set the table, and heard the bell ring right on schedule. In walked Andriy and Vitya: very shy, but very polite and obviously wondering what in the world would happen next. (Well, so was I!)

As we ate I explained that although we do teach English, our main goal is teaching the Bible. I made it clear that we were not offering them money or other humanitarian aid, but were simply interested in teaching the Bible. Would they like to come once a week and study with us? They surprised me by saying yes.

That night we finished dinner and spent the rest of the evening just chatting, playing games, and trying to get to know the guys a little. When the time came for them to leave, we agreed that they would come back the following Tuesday at 6:00pm.

Once again they arrived punctually, and we started our Bible study in Genesis 1. We read through the chapter verse by verse, and at the end I asked if they had any questions or comments. There was a brief discussion and we went on to chapter two.

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Say hello to Baby Steele!

We are very pleased to announce that God has blessed us with our first child! Kelsie is due to deliver around the 20th of September. We praise the Lord for this opportunity to begin the forging of our first "arrow." It is our prayer that this child will grow to be a mighty overcomer for the Lord and that he will walk in righteousness all the days of his life. May God give us grace and the wisdom that comes from above as we train up this little one.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

Psalm 127:3-5



Update on Edwin Paye...

In our last newsletter, we printed a notice about Edwin Paye, a believer from Liberia who was imprisoned in Thailand. God has answered our prayers and the money was sent to purchase Edwin's ticket home. He has since found his family in war-torn Liberia, and has taken them to safety in Ghana. Edwin has written me to express his gratefulness to all of you who prayed and/or contributed to this cause. May God bless you for your kindness!

ENGLISH CLUB

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Our small group of students was growing so quickly in Volodimir Volinskiy that we had outgrown the apartment where we were meeting. Although we had made some attempts at finding a larger place, even renting our own apartment, nothing was working out.

Then one of our students named Oleg came up and asked if he could help us at all. As we explained our desire to find a larger meeting place, he said that he had a friend who was the director of a local middle school and thought that this friend would be willing to let us meet in his auditorium.

The following week the arrangements were made and we met with the director to discuss our desires. "Will it be a problem if a lot of people come?" he asked to my surprise. I assured him it would not, and he said that to start with he would like to assign thirty of his students to our existing group.

We believe that God is opening the doors for us to build new relationships with the people of this city, earn a hearing, and thus pave the way to introduce them to Jesus. Please pray that God will continue to bless our club, and that He will open the eyes of sinners to the Gospel.

COMPEL THEM TO COME IN...

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Every Tuesday night since then, they have come faithfully and we are making our way through Genesis. A couple of weeks ago, Andriy began telling me how he had read the Bible at times before, but said that he would always stop reading after a week or so. "I start getting scared," he said. "I know that the more I learn of God's Word, the more I am obligated to live by it. I know I don't live like I ought and I'm afraid."

The Bible says, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*" I am always glad when I see sinners understand the danger of being guilty before a just God.

We were able to explain to Andriy that while God is just and righteous, He is also merciful and has provided a way of salvation for all who believe. We went on to point out the error of trying to prepare oneself for God by reforming bad habits. Rather, God desires that the sinner acknowledge his hopeless state and turn for mercy right where he is.

When we said that, Andriy got a sort of far away look in his eyes, thought for a moment, and said, "Ah...that is really good!"

We rejoice that God has given us the opportunity to teach these



Having dinner with Andriy and Vitya in our home.

young men and others like them here in Ukraine. I have found no joy so great as that of introducing contrite sinners to the Lord Jesus. It is an awesome thing to see these guys read the Bible and thus come to know their Creator.

In addition to Andriy and Vitya, there are other people who are now studying the Bible with us, and still more who have expressed an interest. Please pray for us that we will be faithful teachers and that God will use us to win these men and women to Jesus.

To God be the Glory