

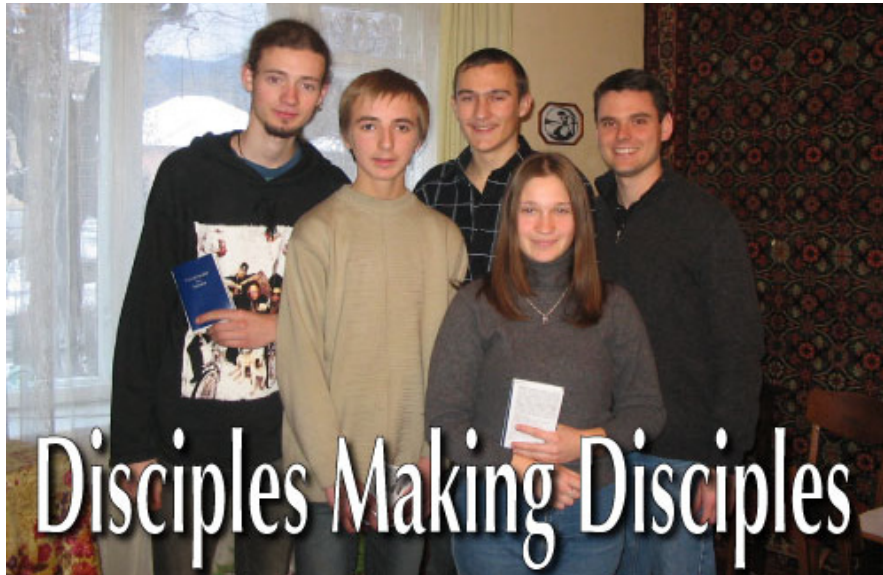
OVERSEAS FIELD REPORT

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

Volume 3, Issue 1

Written by Joshua & Kelsie Steele

January/February 2006



A "divine appointment" with several young people who have a desire to learn God's Word, and how to share it with others. From left: Romahn, Yura Sergiy, Vika, Joshua

Sergiy and I exited the bus in Skole [pronounced skol-eh], Sergiy's home town, after traveling together nearly three hours from L'viv. Skole is located near the northern edge of the Carpathian Mountains, and while the town itself is a bit shabby, the scenery is breathtaking. This trip was one I had looked forward to for some time since it meant the possibility of beginning a new Bible study with a group of young people.

A couple of months prior to this, Sergiy had told me about some childhood friends whom he had won to the Lord. Based on his report, they sounded like genuine converts. After some

time had passed, Sergiy told me that he would like for me to come to Skole and teach these young men the Bible. So we made the arrangements.

Now, as we walked from the bus stop towards Sergiy's home, he called one of the young men on his cell phone. "Romahn? Is that you?....Yes this is Sergiy.... How many guys do you have? ...OK....Well round up as many as you can. We'll be there in about five minutes."

As we walked, I asked Sergiy what exactly he would like me to tell these guys. "Well, tell them whatever you want. You know, just teach them the Bible like you

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How YOU Can Pray...

- Praise the Lord for the new applications we have received for CMO 2006! (see page 2)
- Pray that God would continue to bless our ministry as we gear up for CMO to begin in May.
- Praise the Lord for the wonderful, and very productive time we had in the States! (see page 2)
- Pray that God would bless the completion of The Light of the World film project. (see page 2)
- Pray that God would bless the translation and production of The Illustrated Bible. (see "Picture This")

Get updated prayer requests on our website!

www.OFReport.com

PICTURE THIS



The story of the Bible...

LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE!

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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.

See this section in full color on our website! www.OFReport.com

Our Ministry...



at a glance



Discipleship

During our time in the United States, our discipleship ministry was perhaps the one we missed the most. The young men who study the Bible with us are truly growing in the Lord. Their light is shining brighter and brighter for Jesus in the darkness of Ukraine. We are continuing to study the Bible with them, and also involve them in ministry. One of our major goals for CMO 2006 is to open the door for these young men to reach their own people for Christ on a large scale. Please pray that God will continue to bless these men. They are the next generation of missionaries in Ukraine!



Carpathian Mountain Outreach 2006

More and more applications are coming in from young men who want to get involved in Carpathian Mountain Outreach 2006. We are very excited about the work that will be accomplished this summer in the Carpathian Mountains, and we appreciate your prayers as we make preparations for this important operation. Know, too, that Satan is doing all he can to thwart this effort. As you pray for our team, don't forget to pray for these young men who are coming - some for the first time - to minister the Gospel with us in Ukraine. Pray that God would give them wisdom, support, courage, understanding in His Word, language ability, and a vision for advancing His kingdom. If you would like more information about CMO 2006, visit our ministry website: www.EuroTeamOutreach.org



The Illustrated Bible

This is one of the most exciting ministry projects we've been involved in yet. Michael Pearl, founder of No Greater Joy Ministries, has now completed his *Illustrated Bible*. This 360 page storybook covers all the main events of the Bible using beautiful comic-type pictures to present God's Word. Our team has already begun work on a Ukrainian translation of *The Illustrated Bible*, and our goal is to complete it sometime this summer. Most Ukrainians have never read more than a few pages in their Bibles, and some do not even own a Bible. *The Illustrated Bible* will be revolutionary in getting the truth of the Bible into their hearts.



*The Light of the World Film Project

Just before our departure for America in December, our team completed the recording of *The Light of the World* sound track in Ukrainian. Mr. Lomilkin (pictured left) graciously donated his time and his voice to this project. After spending over twelve hours in a studio, the sound track is almost ready. The last step will be to synchronize the individual sound clips produced at the studio into a single audio file. Once this is done, we will be ready to send our material to Chick Publications in California where 200 copies of the Ukrainian DVD will be produced. We appreciate your continuing prayers for this project.



Our trip to America

So what did we do for six weeks in the United States? One of the greatest benefits was a time to see our families and recharge. Because our daughter Abigail was born in Poland, this trip was her first to America, and consequently her first time to see her grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. We also obtained some very needed documents including a five-year visa for Abigail. In addition, God used this time to resolve a major prayer request of ours: a new sending church. The church that originally sent us to the field, Family Bible Fellowship, has disbanded. It was a great church and we will always be grateful for the believers that we grew up with there. But now God has led us

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*The Light of the World film is produced by Chick Publications. For more information, please visit their website: www.chick.com

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3 "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."

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

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teach me." So that's what happened.

We arrived at Sergiy's home, and a few minutes later we were joined by two young men in their late teens: Yura and Romahn. "Is this everyone?" I asked. Romahn looked disappointed. "There were supposed to be more," he said, "but I guess they aren't coming." I was impressed. Here was a new convert who had never met me in his life, and he was already trying his best to bring his friends in to hear the teaching of the Word of God. What's more, he was genuinely disappointed when they didn't show up. Now I knew I had two guys who were serious about learning something. There had been no promise of material gain whatsoever: no games, no music, no girls. Just Bible.

We started with testimonies. They related to me in their own words how Sergiy had shared the Gospel with them, and how they had believed on the Lord Jesus. But now they had a problem: they were isolated in this little town of Skole in the mountains. They had a desire to witness to others, but no one to show them how. They had a desire to get deeper into God's Word, but no one to teach them. And they were the ones telling *me* these things.

So we started out. We went through John 1, and at the end we discussed what we had read. Following this I explained to them

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As we have talked with more and more Ukrainians over the years, we have found that the vast majority have very little knowledge of the Bible. They may have read a few pages here and there, and most *do* respect the Bible as God's Word, but in the final analysis their problem can be summed up in four words: "I don't understand it." And because of that prob-

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lem, they stop reading it. We hope to change that by using an exciting new tool produced by No Greater Joy Ministries. It's called *The Illustrated Bible*.

The Illustrated Bible is not a new version of the Bible. It's a storybook companion to the Bible which illustrates in comic-form the main events found in Scripture. It's one of those books that you pick up intending to "flip through it," but two hours later you're still en-

(continued on page 4)



EXODUS 14:5-13

↓
Ukrainians will soon be reading *The Illustrated Bible* in their own tongue; seeing the truth of God's Word presented as never before!
↓



Вихід 14:5-13

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OUR TRIP TO AMERICA (continued from page 2)

to a new home base in North Texas. On January 15, 2006, we were again sent out as missionaries to Ukraine - this time from Fairpark Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Brother Kevin Hymer is the pastor at Fairpark, and in the very short time we have known him, we have seen the hand of God on his life in a very evident way. We are convinced that God has led us to Fairpark, and we look forward to a growing relationship with the believers there as we work together over the coming years to advance God's Kingdom.

PICTURE THIS

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grossed in the story, hanging on every word.

The Illustrated Bible was completed only recently, but already



missionaries are translating it into various languages around the world. One of those is Ukrainian. Our translation of *The Illustrated Bible* is well underway, and,

Lord willing, will be completed by mid-summer. Once the translation is complete, we will then face the task of placing the actual Ukrainian letters inside the speech bubbles. This is done in a vector graphics

program which allows us to manipulate the size and placement of each bubble to accomodate the text.

So how will this all be used in ministry? We plan to integrate *The Illustrated Bible* into our Chronological Bible Course. New students will be made aware of it upon enrolling in our course, and if they complete a certain number of lessons, they will receive a free copy.



Please pray
for the success
of this project.
God's Word

does not return void. If you are a foreign missionary and would like to translate *The Illustrated Bible* for use in your ministry, please contact Michael Pearl:

www.NoGreaterJoy.org

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

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how to study a passage, using cross referencing to let the Bible define itself.

At the end of our meeting, I told them that our team would love to supply them with tracts, or even go out with them on the streets to minister if they desired. Their response was enthusiastic.



Plans were made right there to begin a Bible study as soon as I returned from the U.S. In addition to these two men, a young lady named Vika is also interested in joining our group.

This event was certainly a “divine appointment.” Please continue praying for Sergiy, Yura, Romahn, and Vika. They are growing in

the Lord. They are studying His Word, seeking His will for their lives, and doing what they can to turn others to repentance. Kelsie and I are overjoyed that God has given us the chance to disciple these young people and to assist them as they disciple others.

To God be the Glory

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