

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 1, Issue 4

Written by Joshua Steele

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TRAIN UP FAITHFUL MEN

How God is bringing a new generation of laborers to the field...

Jessie Beal, Nathan Day and Joshua Steele: three generations of discipleship in missions, now working together in Ukraine to build churches and disciple young missionaries.

I can still remember the apprehension I felt as we drove along in the van that day in Kyiv, Ukraine. It was the summer of 1997 and our team, led by Jessie Beal, was en route to yet another “yard meeting,” as we called them. These yard meetings were actually one of our best outreach ministries in Ukraine. We would go to a residential area and pass out flyers at all the apartments, inviting people to attend an outdoor meeting the next day in the “yard” near their building. Then, at the scheduled time, our team would come and sing gospel songs, do a flannel-graph presentation for the children, and lastly preach the gospel. Often we had Ukrainian men preach, but occasionally one of the Americans would preach through an

interpreter. On this particular day, it was my turn.

At the time, I was only 18 years old, and while I had lots of zeal for evangelism, my preaching experience was next to nothing. I had only preached once or twice to small groups of Christians, and had NEVER stood on a soapbox outdoors preaching to sinners. It seemed like a horrifying, and at the same time exciting experience. And yet, afraid as I was, I decided that one had to start somewhere, and that God would get me through this.

We arrived at the designated place, set up the sound system, and the program began. These yards made good spots for open-air preaching and singing, because in the eve-

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How YOU can Pray...

- Pray that God would send out more laborers into His harvest.
- Pray that God would give us wisdom as we develop our new chronological Bible course.
- Pray that God would bring revival in Western Ukraine and that He would use us to plant indigenous New Testament churches.
- Pray for Nathan Day, Mark Hovik, and the others laboring with us in Ukraine.
- Pray that God would use us in mighty ways to turn sinners to repentance.

A NEW LABORER IS SENT OUT



Meet Mark Hovik, 17. Mark read about our ministry in *No Greater Joy* magazine (published by Michael and Debi Pearl), and wrote to me expressing his interest in overseas missions. He has already been

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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.

A NEW LABORER IS SENT OUT (continued from page 1)

to Mexico on mission trips, as well as being involved in various ministries at home.

Mark will be coming over to Ukraine this summer to work with us in spreading the Gospel. The following is an excerpt from one of the letters he wrote me describing his goals as a missionary:

"I got saved when I was about eight years old at a revival meeting at a Baptist church in Yankton, S.D. One morning when I was nine or ten years old, I was studying in Matthew about the great commission and I heard GOD say in my spirit, 'Will you go for me?' I have known since that moment that I have been called to the mission field. And after seven or eight years of searching, I know I am called to the area of the old Soviet empire, especially Russia and Ukraine. My reason for going on this trip is to test the waters so to speak and set up contacts for my future ministry. I have been actively involved in missions to Mexico and

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Hank Thompson, Nathan Day and I spend an afternoon in Krakow, Poland, while waiting for our Ukrainian visas.



MISSIONS TRAINING IN UKRAINE

Are you a young man with a desire to win the lost overseas? Then read on, and learn about the possibilities of short-term missions in Ukraine!

Our vision is to provide young men with an opportunity to pursue the call of God on their lives by serving alongside established, experienced missionaries in a foreign country as they propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Beginning this summer, we will be facilitating short-term training and discipleship for young men 17 years of age and older, in order to equip them to be successful as full-time foreign missionaries. These young men will live and work in western Ukraine for a period of approximately six months and will be involved in hands-on, practical ministry on a daily basis.

If you would like more information about this training, please contact me immediately by e-mail at joshua_m_steele@yahoo.com, or write to:

**Family Bible Fellowship, ATTN: Ukraine Missions,
211 Old Steele Creek Ct., Azle, TX 76020.**

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nings, people would come out to let their kids play, go for walks, or even just sit around and visit. Thus we had a lot of traffic, and often people would stop and listen to us.

On this day, as my time to preach drew closer, all I can remember was a really big guy dressed in camo, watching skeptically from the back. Nervous as I was, when the time came I stood up and preached my short little message, one sen-

tence at a time, as my Ukrainian friend Yura translated for me.

After the meeting ended, we passed out tracts to the people standing around, and those who could speak Ukrainian or Russian talked with different ones, sharing the Gospel.

I was so excited to have had the opportunity to publicly proclaim the Gospel in Ukraine, that I soon started asking for more opportunities. By the time our five-month trip was over and I returned to the States, I just couldn't wait to find a good spot to go street preaching.

I can remember taking groups of young people to a market in a town near our Texas home, and standing by the side of the road, preaching to any who would stop and listen. Later, our church began going to a

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park in downtown Ft. Worth, where we would do chalk art presentations. People walking through the park would gather around to see the picture being drawn, and listen to the message being preached. In this way, we were able to reach hundreds with the Gospel.

The Making of a Gospel Preacher

So what does it take for a young man with a calling from God to become a young man who *follows* that calling? It takes discipleship. Timothy became a successful missionary and church leader because he had the opportunity to work side by side with the Apostle Paul. Paul later told him in II Timothy 2:2: "*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*"

The job of a missionary is not only to preach to the lost, but also to teach the saved. Our greatest need

on the field today is for laborers: men of God, who will go forward and bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the farthest corners of the earth. And so, as we continue to minister in the country of Ukraine, we are inviting young men who have a call to overseas missions to join our team in Western Ukraine in laboring to turn sinners to repentance.

Job Description

So what can these young men accomplish in Ukraine? After all, they are young, inexperienced, don't know the language, and will only be there short term, right? I faced the very same problems when as an 18 year-old, Jessie Beal invited me to



Nathan, Jessie and I plan the development of a new chronological Bible study course.

come serve on his team in Ukraine for six months. As a result of that time, I learned what it takes to be a missionary. I am on the field today largely because of people like Jessie, who worked with me, taught me, and mostly just let me tag along and learn the ropes.

Here are a few of the things in which a young missionary-in-training can expect to participate in Ukraine:

Literature Distribution

We have several good tracts translated into the Ukrainian language which we use regularly. Young men will be shown how to handle translation, printing, effective distribution, and how to use tracts in conjunction with correspondence courses.

Language and Culture

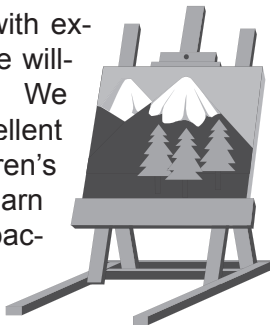
All young men who come over will be housed with Christian Ukrainian families. This way, they will pick up the language quickly, and will also learn what it means to bond with the local people.

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Chalk Artist Needed!

Are you a young man with a talent for art? Would you like to use that talent to win souls for Jesus Christ?

We are looking for a young man with experience in chalk art, who would be willing to minister with us in Ukraine. We have seen that chalk art is an excellent tool for open-air evangelism, children's ministry, etc. If you would like to learn more about ministering in this capacity, please contact me by e-mail at joshua_m_steele@yahoo.com. Thank you!



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...speak medium Spanish. I have been as far south as 1/2 hour from the border of Central America. Also I have been very involved in teaching children's church for the last four years. In five years I hope to be established in Russia or Ukraine, speaking the native language fluently and reaching the lost for CHRIST."

Mark will be flying to Ukraine in late June. Please pray for him as he travels and ministers in that land. ♦

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Open-air Preaching

When done appropriately, open-air preaching is a thrilling and effective means of evangelism. All young men who serve in Ukraine will be taught how to preach open-air, and be given plenty of opportunities to do so through an interpreter.

Correspondence Courses

Perhaps one of the most effective means of teaching the Bible to people who are spread over a large geographical area is through correspondence courses. This is also a very good means of church planting.



A group of Ukrainian believers gathers in the woods for an evening worship service.

We have a correspondence school in place and many students located throughout Western Ukraine. Young men who come to serve with us will be taught how to start a correspondence school, how to keep it going, how to manage the printing and mailing of materials, and most of all, how to win the people on the mailing list.

In Summary

One of the young men that I have been privileged to work with this year is Nathan Day (19). I first met Nathan in Thailand, and we are now working together in Ukraine. The following is his testimony about what God has been doing in his life and ministry:

"Dear God, lead me to a man spreading your gospel who can teach me to do the same.' This was my prayer as of early 2003. I was a framer on a construction crew at the time and had little experience in evangelism of any sort. However, I wanted to learn. Not in a classroom, but on the street by the side of an experienced minister of the gospel.

God answered my prayer in an unexpected way: by leading me to Thailand in September of 2003. It was in Thailand when I heard about Joshua Steele and Jessie Beal's plan to start a team of missionaries who would work together to plant churches in the cities around L'viv, Ukraine. The team would hold Bible studies, pass out tracts, preach in parks, run a Bible correspondence course, and at the same time involve young men from the States who wanted to gain experience in overseas ministry.



Nathan Day

I have been in Ukraine for a month now. When I first got here, I jumped right into Ukrainian life. Since my second day here I have been staying with Anatoly, a Christian Ukrainian man, and his cat, Leopold. Within a week I was taking language lessons and figuring out the local transportation system. Telling Bible stories to kids, moderating English clubs, sharing from the Word in church meetings, studying Ukrainian, and making new friends have filled my days. Filled them right up to the top, I might add. Also, by the time this newsletter gets out, Jessie, Josh, and I will have started working on a new chronological Bible course for the correspondence ministry.

I am not sure how things will work out, but as of now I am seriously thinking and praying about staying in Ukraine for several years or longer.

Pray for us. There is much to do and Satan would like to hinder our efforts as best he can. Pray for more laborers. As Jesus said, 'The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few!'"

To God be the Glory

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