

# 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 2

Written by Joshua & Kelsie Steele

March/April 2005

## UNDER THE *Law* ...



## OR UNDER *Grace*?

*Our Bible study in Volodimir Volinskiy. Tonight's topic: Are believers still under the law? What do the Scriptures say?*

When we finally arrived at Timothy's home in Volodimir Volinskiy, it was nearly 8:00 in the evening. As usual, his mother Lyuba greeted us at the door with a huge smile, hugs all around, and the repeated assurance that we were to be fed dinner. She has all but adopted Kelsie as her own, and supplies me with never-ending reminders to watch out for her. "You know I worry about Kelsie," she says. "You have to take good care of her, Joshua." (Never fear, gentle reader: between Mrs. Lyuba and

me, Kelsie's care level has never enjoyed such attention in all her life. I dare say that amongst the ranks of guardian angels assigned to Kelsie, lay-offs are a genuine concern.)

We all gathered around a small table in their one-room apartment, and as we ate dinner Mrs. Lyuba recounted to us the details of her recent trip to her home town. Of special interest was an unexplained pain in her right arm which had caused her considerable discomfort. It turns out that Mrs. Lyuba had been helping her

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### *How YOU can Pray...*

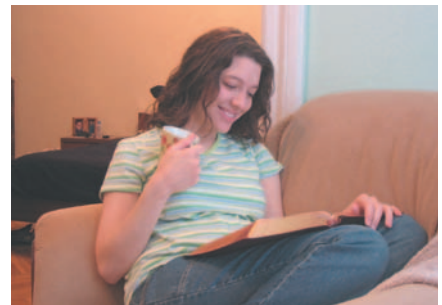
- Pray for the Carpathian Mountain Outreach project planned for 2006. Pray that God would send young men from the States to assist with this project. (See pg. 2)
- Pray for Kelsie and the birth of our daughter in September.
- Pray for God's blessing as we work towards a Ukrainian version of The Light of the World. (See pg. 2)
- Pray for our Bible students: Sergie, Andriy, Vitya, and Timothy.

**Get updated prayer requests on our website!**

[www.OverseasFieldReport.com](http://www.OverseasFieldReport.com)

## Reflections

*from Kelsie*



I drowsily reached for the cheery yellow mug painted with red roses that Joshua had given me for Christmas, pouring steam-

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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

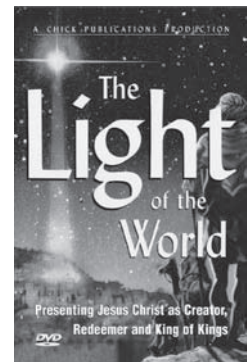


## Discipleship/Bible Teaching

This summer, we are planning our first Bible Camp in the Carpathian Mountains. This one week event is specifically intended for those young men who have studied with us through Genesis and Romans. During the camp we will teach on several different topics including how to study the Bible, how to win souls, and the meaning of Biblical discipleship. In addition, we will teach a chronological overview of the Bible with special emphasis on the lineage of Christ and His coming as the promised Messiah.

## The Light of the World Project

Recently, our team previewed a new film by Chick Publications called *The Light of the World*. Using 360 beautiful oil paintings, this powerful film takes viewers on an unforgettable journey through the story of the Bible. The creation account, Adam's fall, Abraham, the children of Israel, and finally the life and death of Christ are all beautifully portrayed as the foundation for presenting Jesus as the Savior of the world. We believe that *The Light of the World* could be a powerful tool for winning souls in Ukraine. Currently, we are working with Chick Publications to produce 200 DVD's with Russian and Ukrainian language options. (Both languages are spoken widely in Ukraine.) The script is being translated right now, and soon we will be checking into studio options here in Lviv to record the sound track. Please pray that God will bless and guide this project. If you would like to learn more about this film, you can order it directly from Chick Publications. For more information, check their website at [www.chick.com](http://www.chick.com).



## Carpathian Mountain Outreach 2006

Next year we are planning a summer outreach to take the Gospel to the villages of the Carpathian mountains. These mountains are home to thousands of people living rather isolated and yet seemingly peaceable lives. These people are also one of the most unreached groups in Ukraine. Very soon, Nathan and Joshua will be departing for a two week scouting trip during which they will visit these villages, make contacts, and document information needed to finish planning this project. Please pray for their safety as they travel, and for God's blessing as we prepare to take the Gospel to the Carpathian Mountains.

## English Club

Recently, we had the opportunity to show a segment of the *Jesus* film to our students in conjunction with the Ukrainian celebration of Easter. In addition, we have discussed such topics as Creation vs. Evolution, and challenged the students to consider the claims of the Bible. We are excited about the doors God is opening to us to witness to these students and teachers through English language instruction. Please continue to pray for us and our club as we strive to make Christ known in the world of education.



*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](http://www.OverseasFieldReport.com)*

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."

UNDER THE LAW OR UNDER GRACE?  
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family with some cleanup at their village house, and had worked on a Saturday. She told us that when her sister, a devout member of a Seventh Day Adventist church, had heard of this, she told Lyuba that this was God's judgment on her for working on "the sabbath." Having heard this idea, Lyuba anxiously awaited our next Bible study to see what we would say. Was God judging her for not keeping the sabbath?

The Biblical answer to her question is extremely relevant for all believers, and I encourage you to read the following account carefully.

\* \* \*

Soon after Timothy's conversion last summer, he was invited by his aunt to the Seventh Day Adventist Church. He soon began to see marked differences in the Gospel he had received, and the "gospel" preached by the SDA church. Questions soon arose regarding sabbath-keeping, circumcision, abstaining from certain foods, etc. In response, I pointed Timothy to the book of Galatians, which deals specifically with these issues. In this book, Paul writes to the church and gives a clear, unwavering answer to the question: are believers under the law?

### Seventh Day Adventism

The SDA church teaches that obedience to the law is a requisite for salvation. The following is a quote from an SDA publication: "So we have clearly outlined the steps that we need to take in order

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# WEBSITE ADDITION!



Interested in more frequent updates from the field? Be sure to visit [www.OverseasFieldReport.com](http://www.OverseasFieldReport.com) and check out "This Week." Find new pictures, as well as a synopsis of the week's news from our ministry in Ukraine.

### REFLECTIONS FROM KELSIE (continued from page 1)

ing hot coffee into it. Ever since my feet had touched the floor that morning, I had been looking forward to this small but highly prized daily treat, marveling that so much joy could be found in such a small thing.

But I had yet to run across the real treasure of the day as I snuggled in with my Bible and flipped over to the book of Ruth. Reading over the four short chapters, I was struck by two significant things I had not noticed before. The first was that Ruth was a foreigner. "Thou hast left thy father and thy mother and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore." (Ruth 2:11)

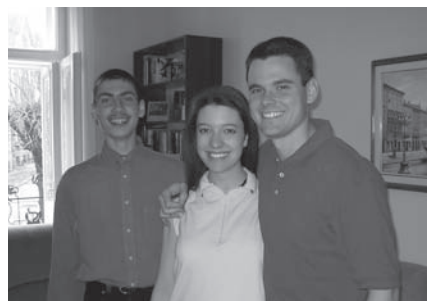
Foreigners are seemingly the most limited, naïve, out-of-place people there are. They don't know

the language, the customs, the lay of the land, or the ways of the people, just to name a few things. They simply don't fit; they're foreign. Interesting that all foreign missionaries must start out in this most unusable state. =)

Learning the language, for example, seems like the official entrance into "dorkdom". Like the time you tell your friend that the doctors are nine-hundred and ninety-nine percent sure your baby is a girl, when you should've said ninety-nine percent. She smiles and says she understands. Or worse yet, when you tell her you've just found out you're going to have a woman! Oops.

I don't know if Ruth had to learn a second language, but I know she had to adapt to cultural differences. Try being told to lie down at a man's feet and suggest that he marry you! This makes coping with the sometimes rough, unhelpful attitudes of people in Ukraine a mild thing in comparison. Taking my shoes off every time I go into someone's house is an absolute breeze. Even the shock of discovering that Ukrainians don't prepare or shop for

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to become a Christian: to believe in God, to repent of and to confess our sins, to be baptized, and to obey all the commandments of the Lord." (New Life Voice of Prophecy Guide, #12 as cited by Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible and Christianity, pp. 451) In other words, the sinner is told that Jesus died for him, BUT in order to be saved he must add his own works (obey the commandments).

**What the Scriptures teach**

Paul tells us in Romans 3:28, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith **without the deeds of the law.**" And in Ephesians 2:8-9 we read, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**" Now it is quite apparent that Paul is not offering us license to sin (see Rom. 3:8) Paul is talking about what is required of the sinner to be saved. His conclusion is that salvation is completely separate from any



work of the sinner, and is based entirely on the sinner's faith in the finished work of Christ.

While Christians are definitely called to walk in holiness, and the Bible gives many clear directives regarding do's and don'ts, it is unscriptural to add ANY work as a requirement for salvation. Romans 4:5: "But to him that **worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.**"

**Christians under law?**

The question then arises: "Are born-again believers under the Mosaic Law after salvation?" The Biblical answer is an emphatic "no." Romans 6:14: "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye **are not under the law, but under grace.**" Notice the connection between bondage to sin and a position under law. Why? Because the strength of sin IS the law (I Cor. 15:56) The Bible is clear that one under the law is also under the *curse* of the law. Galatians 3:10: "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that **continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.**" Why is he cursed? Because he has failed to fulfill that which he acknowledges to be right. The only chance for justification under law is perfect, 100% adherence to righteousness. But the Bible says



Timothy and I study the Bible at our home in L'viv.

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REFLECTIONS FROM KELSIE

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anything before their babies are born, doesn't seem like such a big deal. (Many believe that if they shop for baby things early, their babies could die, or labor could be more difficult.)

Back on the couch with my coffee cup, I realized that like myself, Ruth was a small, culturally clumsy, out-of-place foreigner. But the significance of this lay in the fact that she had gained for herself great honor as a virtuous woman. "...For all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman," Boaz had said to her. (Ruth 3:11)

Ruth hadn't preached the gospel to anyone, or read all five books of the Pentateuch. There is no record that she made long prayers during the hours of gleaning in the fields. But she was known as an extremely hard worker, and one who had chosen obvious hardship in order to serve her widowed mother-in-law. Loyalty, and willing hands: two striking



Kelsie chats with some students after English Club

characteristics of the Proverbs 31 woman. God honored Ruth with a godly husband and son, and a place in the lineage of Christ.

The moral of the story is not that we must all travel to foreign places in order to attain great virtue. The moral of the story is that God greatly honors the smallest, most insignificant people when they obey His simple commands. As I drained the last of my coffee to get up and face the ordinary tasks of my day, I was encouraged.

\* \* \*

What do I do everyday? Well, I spend quite a lot of time cook-

ing meals for the guys who join us throughout the week for dinner and Bible study. (As I shop the supermarket, I thank the Lord that I am not in Papua New Guinea. Adapting all my recipes into "Ukraine friendly" formats is really not too bad.) Correspondence and e-mails are always piling up, and I give English lessons three times a week. And when I am not doing dishes, buying bread for lunch, or helping my husband prepare for English club, I get out my Ukrainian books and put my nose to the grindstone.

The greatest times are when the two of us play a game or read a good book together. We spend a lot of time laughing at crazy things, and playfully harassing each other until we end up in a tickle fight on the floor. Josh is the instigator, I promise! He's even threatened to name our baby Ursula Pam so that her initials will be UPS! In short, we love being married, and we're grateful to be together serving in the place to which God has called us. To God be the glory. ☺

UNDER THE LAW OR UNDER GRACE?

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that there is "...none righteous, no not one." (Rom. 3:10) So what is the answer? The answer is Jesus. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" (Gal. 3:13) Jesus is the only one who fulfilled the law perfectly. Having done so, He offered His pure blood on the mercy seat before God, providing atonement and eternal redemption for

all who come to God by Him.

**Liberty**

With this in mind, Paul challenges believers: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." (Gal. 5:1) In other words, if you have believed the Gospel, and thus stand in grace, don't try to go back under the bondage of the law. Why? "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

(Gal. 5:4) You cannot mix law and grace. If you are under one, then you are NOT under the other. "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." (Gal. 5:5-6)

**A New Law**

Jesus taught that the law must be fulfilled and that it would not pass away. (Matthew 5:17-18) And it has not. However, if you are

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in Christ, then YOU have passed away. Galatians 2:19-21: "*For I through the law am **dead to the law**, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*"

So where then is our standard of living? How do we find our basis for morality if not from the law? The answer is that we are now under a *new* law. Romans 8:2-4: "*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*"

God loves righteousness and He hates iniquity. It is his desire that all men would walk before Him in holiness. The question is how. Under the old law, this is impossible. God's solution then is not to change the sinner, not to help him do better, or somehow empower him. God's solution is to destroy him, and then RECREATE him. Ephesians 2:10: "*For we are his workmanship, cre-*

*ated in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*" This is also called being born again. "*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*" (John 3:3)

#### A Warning

The Bible teaches that there is ONE true Gospel. Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven, and salvation though Christ is received by faith alone. But there are many false teachers in our day who are propagating a false gospel. They preach Christ + baptism, or Christ + obedience to law, etc. Be aware that Christ + *anything else* = damnation in the fires of hell. Yes, if you add *any* work as a requisite for salvation, then Christ is of no effect to you. You remain under the curse. *Salvation is through Christ alone.* This issue is so serious, that Paul gave a grave warning to the Galatians regarding those who might offer them a false gospel: "*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ **unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.***" (Gal. 1:6-8)

Friend, God has made the ONLY perfect sacrifice for your sins. It is done. Jesus died in your place to take away the curse of the

law. Believe on His name alone for salvation from hell, and you will find that His deliverance is complete. Have you trusted only in Jesus? He is calling you to repentance. Believe on His name, and He will save your soul.

#### Questions & Follow-up

The subject that I have addressed in this article is broad and warrants much more detailed attention than I have been able to afford it here. For this reason, I would like to offer some resources for further study.

Read through the book of Galatians carefully in your King James Bible. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to the truth of His Word, and He will teach you. Also, No Greater Joy Ministries has published an excellent Bible teaching series on the book of Galatians. I highly recommend this series which can be ordered directly from NGJ via their website: [www.NoGreaterJoy.org](http://www.NoGreaterJoy.org).

In addition, if you have any questions regarding this article, I welcome you to write me at [two4ukraine@yahoo.com](mailto:two4ukraine@yahoo.com). May the Lord bless you as you study His Word.

*"Where the Spirit  
of the Lord is,  
there is liberty."*

*(11 Cor. 3:17)*

*To God be the Glory*