

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.

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Written by Joshua & Kelsie Steele

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The remote village of Oprets in Ukraine's Carpathian Mountains where part of the following story took place.

Nathan Day and I chatted and enjoyed the beautiful Western Ukrainian landscape as our train rumbled through the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. Peering out the windows of our little first-class birth (which had cost us an extravagant \$2.58) it seemed that we were entering some type of storybook land.



Having dinner with the village head (far right) and his family in Oprets.

Rolling hills, beautiful tall pine trees, little cottages with neatly planted gardens, and an occasional stream trickling by were all part of the scenery which greeted us as we began our ten day scouting trip in preparation for next year's evangelistic outreach. It seemed that a person dwelling in such a place would live his life without a care in the world. And yet, upon closer examination, even the casual observer begins to see that these people from Storybook Land live in the vice-grip of fear. Fear of the government. Fear of evil spirits. Fear of the "Church." Fear of change.

Our goal is to introduce them

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How YOU can Pray...

- Pray for our upcoming Bible Camp August 8-13. (see page 2)
- Pray for Kelsie and the birth of the baby in Poland at the end of September.
- Pray for our Bible students: Timothy, his mother Mrs. Lyuba, Andriy, Vitya, Sergie, and Igor.
- Pray that God would send young men to join our team for Carpathian Mountain Outreach 2006 (see pg. 2)

Get updated prayer requests on our website!

www.OverseasFieldReport.com

GOSPEL PREACHED IN BELZ



Ukrainians in Belz view one of our Gospel films, after which they heard a salvation message.

Recently our team had the opportunity to show an evangelistic film in the city of Belz. This town is located about

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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.OverseasFieldReport.com

Our Ministry...



at a glance



Timothy, Joshua, and Igor

Home Bible Studies

Recently, a young man from a village in the Carpathians joined our Bible study. His name is Igor. He makes the two hour train trip to L'viv about once a week to study with us. It is our prayer that soon we will be able to establish a Bible study in his village. Please pray for Igor and the other Bible students God has given. Thus far these are Timothy, his mother Mrs. Lyuba, Andriy, Vitya, Sergie, and Igor. Timothy received Jesus last year and is growing in the Lord. Several other students also seem close to salvation.



Summer Bible Camp

Our Bible camp in the Carpathian Mountains will be held from August 8-13. This event has been planned specifically for those men whom God has brought to us to study His Word. All of them have been with us for some time, and all have shown a genuine interest in knowing the truth about the Bible. During our camp, we will be teaching several key topics including how to study the Bible, a chronological overview of the Bible, and imputed righteousness.



*The Light of the World Film Project

We have now completed the Ukrainian translation of the script for this film. Our next step is to record the sound track. Please pray that God will provide Ukrainian believers for the various vocal parts. We have already met with the director of a sound studio here in L'viv, and will begin recording as soon as possible. It is our goal to complete the production of *The Light of the World* DVD (containing both Russian and Ukrainian languages) by next year for use during Carpathian Mountain Outreach 2006.



Nathan Day chats with one of the locals in the village of Kamyanka.

Carpathian Mountain Outreach 2006

Enclosed in this issue of *Overseas Field Report*, you should have received a full color brochure detailing our plans for CMO 2006. Please read this brochure carefully. We need your prayers as we make preparations for this very strategic outreach. Please pray that God will send laborers into His harvest fields, and that souls will be saved as we take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the villages of Ukraine's Carpathian Mountains.



Euro Team Outreach

Many successful foreign missionaries are on the field today because someone gave them the opportunity to serve short-term with a veteran missionary who "showed them the ropes." We work with a team of missionaries here in Ukraine, and one of our primary goals is to provide training opportunities for young men with a call to the foreign field. Short term evangelistic projects, such as Carpathian Mountain Outreach 2006, are organized and hosted through ETO. For more information on Euro Team Outreach, please visit our new website:

► www.EuroTeamOutreach.org

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

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

GOSPEL PREACHED IN BELZ

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an hour north of L'viv and very close to the Polish border. Another missionary we know named Koye from Nigeria has a small church there. Earlier this month, he asked if we would come to Belz and show one of our films as a means of presenting the Gospel to the people of that town.

During the week, we printed some invitations, which Koye's team distributed in advance.

On a Sunday afternoon, we



Setting up the video equipment

all traveled up together in Jessie's van, arriving about 45 minutes before the film was to begin.

God has blessed us with some excellent multi-media equipment, including our own video projector and a large screen. We also have a good sound system with a mixer and two large speakers.

As we completed our setup of the equipment, people began to arrive. Koye gave some opening announcements, and the presentation began.

This film portrays various scenes from the life of Jesus, including His death and resurrection. At its conclusion, I stood up and preached the Gospel. The entire crowd stayed and heard the call to repent towards God.



Joshua preaches the Gospel at the conclusion of the film.

We are very grateful for this and other similar opportunities to share Christ with the lost. Thank you for remembering us in prayer as we minister. ♦

TO WHOM HE WAS NOT SPOKEN

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to the only One who could release them from fear forever, "...and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." (Hebrews 2:15)

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Several days had now passed since we arrived in the Carpathians. Our plans were going well so far, and we had been able to meet personally with the heads of several villages. Our purpose in doing this was to make arrangements to rent halls in the villages where we would show *The Light of the World* film next year.

The weather however, had now taken a nasty turn. The nights were bitter cold, and rain fell almost constantly.

On the eighth day of our trip, we came to the village of Lavochna. As we exited the train, our first goal was to locate the city

council building, and then the village head. In less than two hours, we had found both and were ready to depart for Opolets, our final village that day. Although the weather had improved, we had learned that it could be very unpredictable and we hoped to find some type of lodging before it turned nasty again.

We headed for the train station in Lavochna where we would have to wait about three hours for the next train to Opolets. As we approached the station, Nathan noticed a young man whom we had already seen twice that day. "Must be our next divine appointment," he said jokingly. However, as we entered the waiting area and set down our things, the young man approached us and asked if we would join him for a beer. We declined, but he was insistent and finally consented to bringing his beer over to join us while we

drank Pepsi's.

Over the next two hours, we were able to share the Gospel with this young man. We learned that his name was Igor. He listened very intently and at the conclusion of our conversation he asked us if we had an address where he might visit us in L'viv. We exchanged information and soon boarded the train for Opolets. (For more info on what happened to Igor, see page 2)

The trip was very short, and in a few minutes we arrived at our destination. Opolets does not have a train station, just a platform at the crest of the hill where the train passes by. As we stood on this hill, we could not only see most of the village below, but due to the natural amphitheater created by the surrounding mountains, we could hear the people talking in the streets. The picture on page

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TO WHOM HE WAS NOT SPOKEN

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one was taken as we stood there surveying the layout of the village and searching for possible camping spots.

As we descended the hill and entered the village, we were immediately spotted and asked where we were going. We explained that we were looking for the head of the village, and minutes later were being led up to his house.

It turns out it day was his birthday and the whole family had come over to celebrate. We briefly explained our errand, and as we expected he received us very well, promising that he would allow us to rent their hall and show our film. He then asked where were staying the night. We said we didn't know, but that if we couldn't find someone who would rent us a room, then we would sleep in the forest. Thankfully, his wife was appalled at this idea and quickly offered to rent us a room at their house for \$5 each. In addition, we were warmly welcomed to join the birthday party. (see picture on page 1)

We had brought along our family photo albums for just such an occasion, and they all very much enjoyed seeing our homes and relatives and hearing our strange explanations about America. We were well fed, given the best room in the house, and were on our way bright and early the next morning.



Packed to go! On our trip we carried sleeping bags, bed rolls and a two-man tent in addition to our clothes.



A young boy waits with his horse and buggy in the village of Volosyanka.



The village council building in Hrebenev.



A typical Catholic church in the Carpathians.

When at last we returned to L'viv, we compiled all the information we gathered during our trip to the mountains. In addition to a large list of names and phone numbers, we had gained something very valuable: the friendship of the people. We also learned that these people, though seemingly very religious, are devoid of knowledge about the Bible. They have been told all their lives that the Bible is for priests, and that Jesus doesn't have time for them.

The Bible says that the way to life is narrow, "...and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14) Thousands and thousands are missing that way in the Carpathian Mountain villages. Everything from the government to organized religion has kept them from meeting the Savior and reading His Word. We are so thrilled that we now have the opportunity to point these precious souls to Christ. All of them know His name, but they don't know Him. All have heard about Him, but they haven't heard His voice. Please pray for us as we prepare to return to these people and introduce them to Jesus.

"AS IT IS WRITTEN, TO WHOM HE WAS NOT SPOKEN OF, THEY SHALL SEE: AND THEY THAT HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND."

ROMANS 15:21

To God be the Glory