

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 7

Written by Joshua & Kelsie Steele

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Making Students of God's Word

by Joshua Steele

Nathan Day distributes gospel tracts, each with an invitation to receive our Bible correspondence course.

Darkness had fallen in L'viv, and although it was only about 5:00 in the afternoon, it seemed like midnight. I was on my way home, hoping to spend a quiet evening with my wife, Kelsie. However, as the over-crowded tram brought me closer to my destination, my thoughts drifted back to a meeting we had held with some fellow missionaries that afternoon regarding the starting of a student ministry in L'viv. These missionaries had begun an English club in their home, which in time had blossomed into a Bible study for students from the nearby state university.

Now, as I pondered the vari-

ous possibilities for reaching local students with the gospel, a young man boarded the tram right in front of me, and I heard him ask for the student rate as he purchased his ticket. "Well," I thought to myself, "why not start now?"

I was getting off at the last stop, and decided that if he got off at the same stop, I would approach him. Finally the last stop came and he was still on the tram. As we all flopped off the tram like so many sardines out of a can, I saw that a light rain was beginning to fall. The weather was chilly, and people were hurrying home. I moved quickly to keep

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How YOU can Pray...

- Pray that God would send more laborers into His harvest fields.
- Pray that God would give wisdom to Kelsie as she studies Ukrainian.
- Pray for our ongoing work in Volodimir Volinskiy, and that God would start a church there.
- Pray for God's protection and guidance for Timothy as we continue to disciple him.
- Pray for the preparation and printing of our new chronological Bible course.

First Impressions

by Kelsie Steele



Agray, foggy mist lowered over the city as I made my way through the streets. I watched my steps carefully so as not to trip over the uneven cobblestone pavement. The street was busy—old women tottering by, laden

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with bags and parcels, smart men in black leather coats and hats, tall slender young women in high heels and long elegant coats. I almost felt sloppy by comparison in my sporty blue and white Columbia winter wind jacket, but I hugged it tightly around me against the cold and hurried on.

Old buildings towered over me on every side. Their crumbling stonework and twirling balcony rails, although now in disrepair, still retained a hint of the elegance and beauty they had possessed some two or three hundred years ago. I stopped at the foot of one of them and turned in, taking the stairs two at a time until I reached Apt. #5. This was it. Small and unassuming as it was, I was happy to see it. This was my

new home in Ukraine.

* * *

At least, it will be soon. Joshua got a remodeling job started there before we were married. But by a series of events, it has been delayed, so that after three months in Ukraine we still are not moved in. Once we do move, however, this small one-bedroom place will be ours, and it will be home. We can't wait.

In the meantime, we've



Our kitchen under construction

stayed in several places, one in particular that afforded a variety of memorable adventures. Large and cave-like, with old red carpets and dusty furniture, this apartment was the first place where we really unpacked and settled in. Every morning Joshua lugged buckets of water back and forth from the kitchen faucet to the bathroom tub until we had enough hot water to take a bath. We ran the blow dryer only after checking to make sure it was safe. Too many lights on, or just one other appliance going at the same time would flip the breaker. I don't know how many times Josh had to climb precariously on top of a wardrobe to reach the breaker box, some twelve feet off the ground. We played games together in the poor lighting and

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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



Our Ministry at a Glance

In publishing the Overseas Field Report, it is never possible to report all that God is doing in four or five pages. Thus we have put together this summary page to give the reader a quick overview of our work as a whole, and the various categories of ministry in which we are currently involved.

Discipleship

Timothy Koval is a young man who came to Christ not long after we showed *The Passion* in his town of Volodimir Volinskiy. Timothy has shown genuine fruits of salvation, and continues to study his Bible with us when we travel to his city.



Bible Correspondence School

Although we currently have a Bible study course that we have used with many students over the past three years, we have seen the need to develop a new course better suited to our needs. We are currently in the process of formatting and translating these new lessons. (See sample at left) We hope to begin using them with our students in the next few months. For continuing updates on this project, please check our web site: www.OverseasFieldReport.com.



Christian Films

After we showed *The Passion of the Christ* as well as Kent Hovind's creation seminar in Volodimir Volinskiy, we began making arrangements in other towns as well. These arrangements, however, are currently on hold due to the political crisis here in Ukraine. Once the elections are settled, we should be able to finalize our plans and continue the public showings of various evangelistic films.

English Ministry

Because of the great demand for English language instruction, we have found English clubs and the like to be an effective means of starting relationships with students. We have recently begun an English club in Volodimir Volinskiy, and hope to begin another soon in L'viv.



Literature

We recently printed 50,000 copies of the tract pictured to the left which is called, "Where are you Going?" The tract includes an invitation to join our correspondence school. In the near future, we also plan to print our new chronological Bible lessons.



Team Missions

Here in Ukraine, we minister along with several other missionaries as a team. Pictured to the left is our 2004 team, which included Jessie and Teresa Beal, Nathan Day, Mark Hovik, and Joshua and Kelsie Steele. Some of our members, such as the Beal family, have been in ministry for many years, while others serve in a short term capacity. Mark Hovik, for example, recently returned to the United States after spending six months with us in L'viv. It is our prayer that God will open the doors for new members to join our team in 2005 as we continue to spread the Gospel. If you would like information on joining our 2005 team, please check our web site and click on "Euro Team Outreach."

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read Sherlock Holmes mysteries under the cracked ceilings of that old place.

Personally, my most treasured memory from our few weeks there was cooking on the rusty old black and red stove. It hunkered on the floor more like a parallelogram than a square. The knobs and stovetop had grime



Kelsie spends an evening on the couch studying Ukrainian.

and grease all over them from past usage. I laughed the first time I slid a cookie sheet inside. The tray touched the oven on all sides, and the door barely closed after it. The oven had a crusty old rack that was missing two or three of the middle bars, and one in the back was falling down on one side. Everything had to be very carefully balanced or else it might be dumped into the bottom. I prayed nearly every time I baked something in that thing, and by some miracle I actually turned out some good meals.

We moved out of that apartment last week—our curious experiences there have come to an

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MAKING STUDENTS...

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from losing my target. Walking up to him, I said in English, "Excuse me. Do you speak English?" He blushed and replied in the negative. I quickly switched over to Ukrainian and explained that I was a private English teacher and was considering starting a free English club in town. Would he be interested in getting some

conversational practice? At first he said that he was studying German, and made as though English was not a goal of his. However, after offering him my business card, and attempting to politely end the conversation, he seemed intent on learning more. He introduced him-

self as Sergie, and explained that he was not from L'viv, but lived in a local dormitory during the week while attending classes at one of L'viv's two state universities.

"Why are you doing this?" he inquired skeptically. "Well, it allows me to get to know people," I explained. "I am a Christian and I like to talk to people about the Bible."

The rain was falling more heavily now, and having already given him my contact information, I was eager to head home. However, Sergie seemed quite anxious to secure our next meeting. "How will I find you again?" "You have my number there. Just call me." "But I don't

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have a phone," he persisted, "and I'm afraid that if you leave now I'll never find you again." Feeling this must indeed be a "divine appointment," I invited Sergie to come home and have tea with Kelsie and me.

And so it happened that on a rainy night, at the last stop of tram #2, we started our student ministry.

* * *

Kelsie was quite gracious in accepting this unexpected guest, and we spent a wonderful evening getting to know Sergie. Since that time, he has come to our home about once a week. We spend some time teaching him English, and we are also able to speak with him about the Lord. Sergie has had some limited Bible teaching in the past, and has read a good portion of the Bible on his own. Just recently, I have begun studying Romans with him.

In addition to our work with Sergie, we have also recently started an English club in Volodimir Volinskiy. It is our desire to continue developing this student ministry, knowing that students are the future of this or any nation. These young people are typically more open to new ideas than the adults, and almost all of

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Kelsie and I spend an evening with our new friend Sergie.

"REMEMBER THEM THAT ARE IN BONDS, AS BOUND WITH THEM..." (HEB. 13:3)

When I was ministering in the Thai prisons, I taught Bible to a man from Liberia named Edwin Paye. After studying and fellowshiping with him for several months, it was evident that this man was a true believer in Jesus Christ. The two of us became good friends and had many wonderful conversations about the Lord.

Edwin came to Thailand in search of work, and in his absence civil war broke out in Liberia. When he overstayed his Thai visa, he was imprisoned. Edwin and I have kept in touch since my return to Ukraine, and I have recently learned that he has been released. However, he must purchase his own plane ticket back to Liberia, and until he does so he is being kept in a sort of "illegal immigrant holding pen." As far as I know, the war in Liberia has ended, but Edwin has lost contact with his wife and children. He is trying now to return to Liberia as soon as possible to search for them.

It is our conviction as missionaries, that we make our personal financial needs known only to God, trusting Him to provide for us. However, as Paul gathered an offering from the churches to assist suffering saints in Jerusalem, so we felt that God would have us to make this man's situation known to our readers. If you are interested in helping Edwin get home to Liberia, please contact us via e-mail at two4ukraine@yahoo.com, or write to us at Family Bible Fellowship, 211 Old Steele Creek Ct., Azle, TX 76020, USA.

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them are enthusiastic about getting to know Americans. We hope to use this to our advantage in beginning more relationships with students like Sergie. Please remember us in prayer as we strive to win these young people to Jesus Christ. ♦

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end. But the adventures of missionary life are only just beginning.

The other day I went out for coffee with a Ukrainian friend, Tanya, and in the course of the conversation she asked how Joshua and I met. With a good will I began upon the task of explaining to her in Ukrainian (very broken, believe me) the process of our courtship. I made some statement about how Joshua had really wanted to get married, and so had begun to pray a lot about it. I was surprised when Tanya began to laugh uncontrollably at this remark. It turns out that what I had really said, was that Joshua wanted to get married, and so be-

gan to bathe himself a lot! I had a good laugh over it, not knowing that the worst part was yet to come. The next day, Joshua and I saw an acquaintance from church, and he came right out and said how funny it was that Josh had to bathe so much to be able to snag me. It seems half of the church had already heard about my faux pas!

Life certainly isn't boring around here. I didn't even tell about the time Josh and I went down with his guitar and sang songs to some teenagers in the underground walkway. There is much to learn, see, and do here, and not all of the experiences are funny ones. This is a dark place, and it is easy at times to get discouraged. But amidst the ups and

downs, vexations, and triumphs, a word from Scripture has especially stood out to me. "...*Be ye stedfast...*" Scripture reveals that someone who is steadfast entertains no thought of giving up, no matter what may come against him. His purpose is determined. Period. "...*Be ye steadfast, unmovable...*" The faith of Christians is to be steadfast, so that nothing, no one, can move them from continual trust in Jesus Christ, or from abounding in His work. All of us, including the lost people of the world, can be assured of trouble in this life, times that are less than encouraging. But as Christians we have the assurance that our work is not in vain in the Lord, that our trials work for the greatest good in our lives. In all the many goings-on here in Ukraine, I want to live in steadfast faith.

"...Be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:58

To God be the Glory



Kelsie and Teresa edit text from one of our correspondence lessons

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