



# Ferguson Report



Vol. 6 No. 6

*“Go ye unto all the world”*

June 2009

## Reporting From Ukraine

This newsletter began to be created on the first day of a VBS in Gorlovka—a day after Mary, Elvira, and I returned with our small youth team by train on Monday from Kiev. But I’ve added to it as the days passed by. Unlike Mary’s and my flight, the kids’ went according to schedule. It’s been a very tiring day after having meetings, classes and running to the local stores to get supplies needed for a group totaling about



*Having tea and cake at the home of a Gypsy Christian family in Illovaisk.*

40 including children from the community, translators, teachers and helpers from the Central church. Only one band-aid was needed as far as I knew.

As you may recall from last month’s newsletter, the first campaign was in the small town of Illovaisk. We stayed with a sweet older couple by the name of Julian and Galina. They basically gave us the “run” of the house and made our stay very enjoyable. The church is served by a BVBIU graduate and talented man by the name of Andrew Zhuravlev and his wife, Veronica and their son, Elijah. All the classes—my lessons and Mary’s ladies and children’s classes were well attended each day. For the first two mornings we handed out flyers, Russian Bibles, and other Bible literature. On Wednesday of that week we visited a group of Christians who were Gypsies. The father, Demetry has two sons and one daughter who are all Christians; his wife is deceased. However, one of his sons and daughter-in-law had been negatively influenced by their friends to stop attending. But after

our visit, they attended the remaining lessons with their three small daughters. We counted it such an honor to visit their humble home.

When we arrived in Artemovsk we were greeted by a group of children gathered together on the steps of the church building who gave us a warm surprise welcome in the Russian language. Each day consisted of Bible classes and fun activities for children, and an evening Bible lesson I gave with PowerPoint. On Thursday of that week, the preacher, Alexander Seliverstov, baptized a young lady named Julia into Christ.

Our third week was spent conducting a VBS in Gorlovka. We averaged about 25 children each day beginning at 2:00 each afternoon and ending at 5:30 for an evening lesson for the adults. On the first day



*Artemovsk preacher, Alexander standing next to Julia, our new sister in Christ.*

some of the older children challenged our teachers concerning belief in God; however, by the end of the week their adamancy seemed to weaken. You have to realize that most of these children have been indoctrinated by a state promoting atheism. They now have something to challenge their doubts.

One of the opportunities of service that were given to us in Gorlovka was visiting a local orphanage called “Sasha’s Home.” This was a home designed and built by an American, Patricia Barnes as an attempt to create a home atmosphere for orphaned children instead of the typical “institution” atmosphere that characterizes many orphanages. The first little boy that

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met us at the gate had been found abandoned in a sack  
in a forest; now at the age of three he's in a loving  
home. We sang songs with them, taught short Bible



*A group of ladies who attended the Saturday ladies' class at the  
home of Victor & Natasha Parackhina.*

stories, and sometimes just played with them. We  
visited with them shortly for three days.

There is so much that could be written about  
every place we conducted a campaign. The adults we  
worked with could not have been more cooperative.  
And the Children became so endearing to our hearts. In  
next month's newsletter, I'll try to give an overview of  
the campaign/mini-camp we plan to have in  
Krasnoarmeysk.

Before ending this newsletter, I want to say a

special word about our translators. Without them our  
lessons would be but “sounding symbols” with little  
meaning since most of the people we taught did not



*Children at the Summer VBS at Gorlovka.*

know English. These special people include Elvira  
Akzhigytova, Lera Kramarenko, Pasha Pankratov,  
Victor and Natasha Parakhina; a couple of very  
helpful ladies named Aliona and Lena from  
Artemovsk; and Ilona Bobrun from Gorlovka. Not  
only did they translate lessons for Mary, me and the  
rest of the team, they also translated food orders, bus  
& train tickets, and conversations between groups of  
people. I simply cannot adequately express my  
appreciation for their tireless and demanding service  
on our behalf.

Howell