



Ferguson Report



Vol. 6 No. 8

“Go ye unto all the world”

August 2009

Another Report from Ukraine

It seems it is becoming a more common thing that I find myself writing these newsletters in locations away from home in western Tennessee. A couple of months ago I was writing this newsletter from Gorlovka, Ukraine; and again at the present time I'm writing from Terry Harmon's office at the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Ukraine in Gorlovka. But I can't think of a better perspective from which to write about the progress of these extension schools than from their actual locations.

Bob Turner, our new extension director, is here with me in Gorlovka. Our purpose for being here is



Students of BVBIU in Gorlovka, Sept. 2009.

two-fold: first, to welcome the new incoming students and participate in their first day of orientation; and second, to acquaint Bob with the extension school here in Ukraine. Over the next few months, Bob plans to visit each of the extension locations to give him an “up-close-and-personal” knowledge of mission works that have been up to this point only strange names and places to him. Afterwards, Bob will head to Nepal to look at a potential opportunity to begin a new extension school.

Yesterday, (Monday, 31st) Bob and I had the privilege of meeting the new students – two women students, and seven men students. With the existing three second year students, there are now twelve students total. Bob and I had each had an opportunity to say a few words of encouragement to the students,

and we will each get to speak in chapel in the next couple of days. It was really exciting seeing the increased number of students and how the relatively new facilities are being more fully utilized.

My visit here will also include a few days in Krasny Luch where I've had the opportunity to



Howell Ferguson-BVBIU extension coordinator, Terry Harmon-BVBIU academic dean and director, and Bob Turner-BVBIU extension director at Gorlovka, Ukraine.

participate in campaigns for the last three years with North Jackson members, Paul Norris, Frances Jones; and last year with my wife, Mary. This is also the home of one of our translators and dear sisters in Christ, Elvira Akzhygitova; and also one of the new students, Grisha Seriyakov. My plans are to have some Bible studies and worship with the church there Sunday.

Many prayers have been answered as the BVBIU is now in session with a great teaching staff (most of whom are graduates of BVBIU), and an excellent student body. The future is bright and our expectations are high. Please continue to remember this work in your prayers.

Howell

Chimala Matters

Also during this time of reporting Donnie Bates and Cy Stafford are at Chimala teaching short courses at the Chimala Bible College. Donnie is our stateside coordinator for the extension school in Danli,

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Honduras. And Cy is the director of the TZ2000 mission effort in Arusha, Tanzania where we worked for three years as missionaries. Cy and his wife, Stephanie and a co-worker, Elly Martin, drove from Arusha to meet Donnie at the Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar-es-Salaam; and then they traveled together the remainder of the way to Chimala. If I'm not mistaken, this is Cy's first time to return to Chimala since he and his family lived there as missionaries in the early '90s. Donnie and Cy will be teaching Synoptic Gospels, 1, 2, 3 John, Church Leadership, and Marriage & Family.

The next set of short courses will be offered later this year in November and the first part of December. Garry Hill, extension coordinator for the new BV preacher training school in Ghana, and I will be traveling to Chimala to teach this set of four courses. In the meantime, please keep Donnie, Cy, Stephanie, and Elly in your prayers during their travels and stay at Chimala.

The Chimala Mission continues to be a strong presence in southern Tanzania. As an established mission work for approximately 50 years, there have been a large number of men who have been trained to preach the gospel. Continuing in that tradition in November, CBC will have its third graduation class. Seven men are scheduled to graduate with a bachelor's degree in Biblical studies awarded by the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver. These men are a part of a

grand vision of preacher training all over the world. In fact we project that in a year we will have over 250 students training in the Bible all across the globe. This is really an exciting thought as the extension program continues to expand.

As the Chimala Bible College attempts to develop and grow, there are specific areas where we are trying to become more efficient. One of those areas is in course scheduling. Bill Stinson, Chimala Mission administrator, is working toward condensing the CBC school year which will help cut costs of operation by reducing the number of days students are actually required to be on the mission without compromising the actual class hours of instruction. This will help CBC continue to operate cost effectively in view of Tanzania's high inflation.
Howell



First year students in class in May, 2009 at the Chimala Bible College, Chimala, Tanzania