



# Notes (& requests) from Ukraine

Bruce Tuttle

June, 2016

## Dear friends and fellow-laborers,

It's summer - no classes - so our students are ministering in camps, Bible studies, evangelism, missions trips, and in other ways as God opens door. I'm preaching in churches and making contacts and new friends. I'm also making plans for the fall semester and trying to organize notes I'll need. Recently, my garage was rebuilt, so we're trying to build storage and a workbench. Meanwhile, we've launched some long-delayed rehab projects on my house, and I'm tending a small (and so-far, flourishing) garden.

Next Wednesday (the 29<sup>th</sup>), I'll fly to the States for a brief visit, for a number of purposes. I need an annual physical exam (a little later than annually), and I want to preach and report in at least 3 supporting churches and hopefully visit with other supporting pastors and at least one of my children.

When I return to Ukraine, I'll have about a week here before flying to Tel Aviv. The Israel trip will allow me to preach in a couple of Russian speaking, Jewish churches, and visit some drug and alcohol rehab ministries. I'm excited, too, that I'll finally have a long-awaited visit with my former interpreter, Zhanna, and her husband, Benjamin, who are missionaries in the Ashdod-Tel Aviv area. Potentially, I'll also try to teach a mini-seminar in sermon preparation.



Maxim and Denis, preparing for our end-of-semester gathering

## We finished last semester with 10 students,

. . . and we're prayerfully contemplating adding a couple more for the fall semester. That's a major uncertainty, as 2 more students would be a considerable financial strain. But that's not the only issue: in addition, we'd need to somehow make provision of more room for our teaching. What's more, the classes I teach normally involve a lot of discussion and friendly debate. It seems to be the way our fellows are accustomed to learning, and it often directs us into very interesting and practical subjects which wouldn't be a planned part of our curriculum. It seems, in hindsight, that this manner of teaching was a little more effective before we expanded 8 students into 10. So I'm wondering what we might "lose" if we add a couple more men. Please pray for wisdom! Of course, it would be great to be able to train more men. And right now, there are 6 or 7 who have asked about enrolling for the fall. It's a "problem" we've never encountered before.



2 sides of a rope course, built at a nearby camp by Zhenya, one of our intrepid and creative students

## Two more matters require your help in prayer.

1. Our new interpreter, Katya, is bright, passionate about serving and pleasing God, musical, and developing rapidly. I enjoy working with her, but especially when preaching in the churches. But, this last semester, she has had difficulties sustaining good health. And her doctor thinks that the tensions of interpreting for me for 5+ hours daily is a major factor in depressing her immune system. So Katya is contemplating whether or not she will continue to work with me when the fall semester arrives. Please pray that she will prosper physically, as her soul prospers . . . and that she will be enabled to continue with this ministry. I'd hate to lose her!
2. My own health was challenged at the beginning of this last semester. God has so remarkably blessed me with good health. If I get one cold per winter, that seems to be all I might expect. But I guess I was greatly stunned and humbled to come down with pneumonia. I recovered well, but don't want to be presumptuous. So please pray that I remain healthy. I'm not much good if I'm reduced to lying about and absorbing antibiotics!



Miraslava Solod (the young lady with the flowers) was baptized last Saturday . . . in a soaking rain. Her family has pretty much adopted me; though I'm far older than the children, they say I'm their big brother. The Solods claim to be concerned that I will either be too lonely, or that I will die of starvation (they've tasted my cooking). Igor is one of our graduates, and pastors a church in the nearby village of Severinivka. These folks are an immense help and encouragement to me!



**Looking forward to the fall semester,**

8 of our men have now completed half of the training we will be giving them, and the other 2 have completed 1/3 of the same. I want to meet personally with each of the men before the semester begins, in order to review the strengths and weaknesses I've perceived in them . . . hopefully, to challenge and encourage them. Beside that, it's not too early for us to be considering each fellow's post-graduate ministry. Please pray for wisdom, both on my part and theirs.

**Ah, and if you would, the moment you receive this, please pray that my next, 1-year, temporary residency visa will be approved in good time!**

The government offices seem to be late in dealing with this, and we're now only expecting to pick it up as I head to the airport on Wednesday. Would you say that's calling it a little too closely?

**Thanks again for your love, your financial support, and your prayers for us!**

**Your servant for  
Jesus' sake,**

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