

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Tyachiv, Ukraine! I wanted to start off this letter by saying “Thank you”. We are truly thankful and so blessed by all of the support that our Christian brothers and sisters have shown us these past years. God has been so good and so faithful. We also pray that God would by His grace bless each of you abundantly. Praise Him for His unchanging and never ending goodness!

The summer was a very blessed one for us. We had a wonderful three week visit from our grandma/mom, Mary Hoogland. That time ended way too fast. After she left we had our VBS. That went very well with even now us seeing the harvest. After our VBS, we had our amazing eight-day family vacation at the Black Sea. This was our first every vacation and it was so wonderful. The sound of the wind and the waves and the peacefulness of not hurrying anywhere were so restful. We also enjoyed just being together as a family. We hope to have another such vacation in a few years down the road. In the end of August, we had our youth outreach camp. God blessed is abundantly. There were 42 youths and around 15 people put their faith in Jesus. We are really pleased to see the changes in their lives. While not all of the 15 people are coming to church, there has been such a change in many of them that they themselves are starting to serve in the church. Praise God for His salvation that continues to save and changes lives!



Above is a picture of us at the Black Sea and a picture of our youth outreach camp

We have again started up the ministry programs that we do throughout the year. This includes the kids outreach club, Alpha Course for adults, Alpha course for teenagers, Feed the Hungry program, music lessons for youth, and two home Bible studies. The Alpha courses are three month courses teaching and explaining the basic Christian foundation truths for non-believers and new believers. The Feed the Hungry program is a meal with a Bible study for homeless and poor. The kids outreach club is a time of games, fun, a Bible lesson and discussion groups for kids ages 6-12. Please pray with us that all these ways of sowing God’s word will bring forth a harvest for His kingdom and glory.



Here are pictures of your youth and adult Alpha Courses

Marina, a lady that started to come to church through the Feed the Hungry program, and has been already seven months at an alcoholic rehab center, has since become a believer of Jesus Christ. Marina had a baby boy about two months ago and has now been relocated to a rehab center for mothers with children. Please join us in prayer for her because we are concerned that she sometimes shows herself to be incapable to take care of her son Bogdan. She loves him very much and is trying hard but she needs prayer. We are not sure as to the reason why she shows herself to be incapable – maybe slowness of mind and maybe due to living on the streets the last how many years. I was raised in a good home and had good examples of parents, and still how often I need to ask God for wisdom in being a parent. How much more Marina! She did not have such a blessing! Please pray that God would grant her wisdom to be a good mom.



Above is a picture of Maranda with Marina and her son Bogdan

Although we see a lot of positive answers to prayer, there are difficult things we deal with as well. Please pray for the alcoholic people we work with. It is such a discouragement to see that after months of not drinking, families fall right back into the same addictive sins as before. Morika and

Volodya—people I wrote about in the past letter, are again drinking. They had both been coming to church for a quite a while and they had changed so much. Morika asked in church to pray that God would bless her with a job. She had not worked for over six years. The very next day God answered that prayer. She was so ecstatic. She told me that she wanted to testify of God's goodness that next Sunday meeting. By Friday, a lady at work and already convinced her to have a drink after work. Volodya, Morika's husband lasted another two days before he started drinking. Olena and Vitya Osiski, had stopped drinking for a long time. They were active in coming to church. Olena was a confessing Christian and praying for her husband for many years. When Vitya started again to drink, he would hit Olena with a glass beer bottle until she would drink with him. Olena started to drink and has not stopped. Now Vitya wants a divorce. He beats her and calls her names even in front of the kids. Their family needs a miracle. And now the Feed the Hungry program is starting up. All of the people that come are on and off drinkers. How we long for the victory over sin for these people!! Please be praying with us especially against the addition of alcohol.

I want to share with you of God's grace and His work in the life of Natasha, a 28-yr. old mother of two. She and her children fled the war in the east of Ukraine and came to Tyachiv two years ago. Although she had become a Christian as a teen, she had gone away from the Lord when she married a non-Christian. Her husband refused to let her come to church and often drank and beat her. When she came to Tyachiv, she was divorced, scared, and lonely. She arrived in Tyachiv with her two children and all their belongings were in two bags. This summer, we met Natasha personally when her son came to our summer vacation Bible school. The last day of the camp, Natasha asked about if there were other church services that she could attend. We were very happy to say "YES"! Since then, Natasha has again renewed her relationship with her Lord Jesus. She and her children have become a very active part of our church family. God is blessing her with work and a place to live.



For us this is just another testimony of God's grace. He loves each of us and is always working to bring those far away close again to Him. 2 Samuel 14:14 says, "But God does not take away life; instead He devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from Him". How good our God is!! He longs for us to draw near to Him!! Please pray for Natasha, that the Lord may establish her here. Pray that she and her children might find a more permanent place to live and call home. Pray that she might make the money needed to support her family. She is growing in the Lord and we are very happy to have her as a sister!

The last thing of which I ask you to be praying for is our problem with water. Our neighbors (the neighbors are very close in distance to each other here) started to drill for water. This affected our well from which we get water from. Now we have no good drinking water or really water that can be used for anything except washing the floor and toilet and such. We have been hauling water from church and

doing laundry at the church (thank God we have a washing machine there!!:-) . Still, we ask for prayer and for God to solve this problem and give us water.

I started this letter with thanks and I wanted to end it with thanksgiving to God --Thanksgiving for all of His faithfulness and for all of His promises. He promises, "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out with weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him" Psalm 126: 5-6. So let none of us give up but to keep on going. God is faithful and will reward all the work that He has done through us. May God bless each of you abundantly!

Sincerely,

The Heytsi Family,

Vasya, Maranda, Natan, and Mihae