

Kiev, Ukraine Mission, July 7-20, 2009

The Purpose Of This Trip:

The Bible teaches that the Lord's work is accomplished through three means: evangelism, edification, and benevolence. Paul teaches us that the reason God gave certain men miraculous power was for "perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ." This was to last until "we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." That time, of course, has come. We have the faith once for all delivered (Jude 3).

The reason God did this was so "that we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error." So, until that time that brethren will grow from being children to full-grown men, we are to be "speaking truth in love, we may grow up in all things into him, who is the head, even Christ," so that the church can "increase of the body unto the building up of itself in love" (Ephesians 4.12-16).

Such describes the nature of this trip: it was a work of investigation and edification more than it was a matter of evangelism. There were certain questions about "leadership" (not referring to elders, but to individual duty and responsibility as Christians), how a Christian is to behave in view of the Government, how the Christian is to view capital punishment, and I added: how a Christian should view pacifism. These the brethren wanted discussed and answered.

Having come out from under the Soviet rule not that many years ago, the Lord's church is relatively young in Ukraine, and these earnest Christians need direct answers over matters that arise from time to time. This is what I was intent on accomplishing.

Of urgent concern was the actions of a man who serves a congregation in Kramatorsk as preacher, of whom it was reported that he "was similar to a Diotrephes" (as quoted to brother Kerry Sword by certain American Christians who tried to work with that congregation some time back). I am able to confirm (and brother Artem Bondarenko is also able to verify) that such a report is accurate.

Third, I was invited to address the men in their annual seminar dealing with the question "How Men Are To Use Their Talents As Leaders In The Church." Also, I was asked to address a joint session of the men's and ladies' seminars and speak on the question of "Women Wearing A Head Covering In Worship." To these ends, I went to Kiev, Ukraine and Kramatorsk, Ukraine to accomplish these tasks.

During our stay in Kramatorsk, we studied such topics as "Church Politics" "Understanding The Bible" "Faith, Opinion And How To Distinguish Between Them," and then a final lesson which I called "You Can Be Of Value." These meetings were from Friday through Sunday evening (four in all).

After each lesson, and during our various visits in brethren's homes, there was always lots of question and answer sessions. There were a few questions about our home, and the brethren here, but for the most part they were questions dealing with Biblical topics and concerns, and how to implement what the Lord desires for us to do.

Tuesday evening began our meeting in Kiev. I taught the rest of this week on "The Christian And The Government" and "The Christian And Capital Punishment" and "The Christian And Pacifism." There were lots of questions about these topics, especially in view of the fact that the Ukrainian Government has recently abolished the death penalty. Then I taught three lessons on "Leadership"...not about elders,

but about duty and responsibility and each member doing his or her part in the local work. More questions and discussions about the how's and when's, etc.

The seminars (men's and ladies') were held on Saturday, and were dealing with "Doing All Things Decently And In Order." Cheryl taught the ladies regarding "How Christian Women Can Help Their Husbands Be Leaders In The Church," while I was teaching the men how "Men Can Use Their Talents As Leaders In The Church." The seminars went very well, and it was a grand day all around. Cheryl received a great many compliments and invitations to come back next year to teach again. She says she would like to do so...and I suggested to the brethren that they have her do more than one lesson.

The men asked that I prepare and discuss the question of women wearing a head covering during worship. This was to be presented during the final combined session of the men's and ladies' seminar. In case you are wondering: I contend that a woman need not cover her head in worship. I will present this lesson next week, the Lord willing.

Sunday was our last day of work with these brethren. I finished up our study of "Decently And In Order" and then a final lesson on "Maintaining Zeal." We had final congregation fellowship meal, and then a relaxing afternoon of visiting, games, and ice cream. What a nice way to end the day.

We had a smooth trip home, and fell into bed at 12:12 am on Tuesday morning. Our thanks to God, and to our brethren for their support, prayers and gifts so that we could help in this vital work of edifying those young Christians in Ukraine.

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley James Grayson	614-751-1082 614-409-0941

July 26, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Wednesday's Wisdom:

"I John: Some vital things we must know—salvation, righteousness, eternal life."
Jacob Haley

Baby Shower: for miss Abbey Kay who is to arrive sometime in August. It is to be at Naomi Haley's home, Tuesday, July 28 at 7 pm.

Sister Lee Hall is traveling. Pray for her safe return.

Men's meeting minutes: they and the financial report are on the bulletin table.