



# THE MORRISONS' UPDATE

## CALVARY CHAPEL SVITLOVODSK

FALL AND WINTER 2009/2010

### Back Home!

In the fall our family took a two-month trip to the States. We were able to visit family, see old friends and share at a number of churches about the work God is doing in Svitlovodsk, Ukraine. We were so blessed by many of you who opened your hearts and homes to make us feel welcome. Thank you! We had a wonderful time while back, but we were again reminded that Ukraine is our home and that this is where the Lord has called us. We were excited to return to Ukraine and pick up with the many things Jesus is doing in the church and city here. It's good to be home!



### School of Ministry

In the last newsletter, we had asked you to pray about us starting a School of Ministry here. God has answered! This January we started our "School of Ministry". Every Tuesday we have two classes back-to-back, each an hour long. These classes are in an academic format, with homework, grades, etc. It's kind of a mini Bible college. 12 students have just finished their first semester going through Old Testament Survey (Ben) and Inductive Bible Study (Levi). In our second semester we're continuing OT Survey (Levi) and switching to Apologetics (Ben) now that IBS is done.

These classes have been challenging to the students in learning self-discipline, completing homework, etc. But we have really seen the Lord changing and growing the students through it. Not only are they gaining deeper understanding of God's Word, but He is using the classes to change their character as well. Many of the students have shared how Jesus has revealed Himself to them in new, deeper ways through these classes. So we are excited to continue in this great opportunity!

### Home Fellowships

Since our last update, we've also started a third home fellowship. People had been asking us to start one in this area of the city for some time. It has been sweet to see how God is growing us in love for one another and in applying His Word to our lives through the home fellowships (at the groups, we discuss the Sunday sermon and how to apply it.) We currently have three home fellowships going: one in a village near by on Thursdays which has been growing a lot lately, and two simultaneously on Fridays in different parts of the city.



### Conferences

This winter I have had the privilege to teach at a number of conferences for other CC's here in Ukraine. In Dec. I went to CC of Priluki to share at their church's conference. In Jan. and Feb. I was invited to share at CC Kiev's Men's and Youth conferences respectively. Each time was special and truly God's grace to a wretch like me. Before the men's conference there was *serious* spiritual warfare (more on that later. :)



Also, we are beginning to make plans for our church to attend the national CC conference in Kiev in May. This is always a special time and really the highlight of the year for many Calvary's in Ukraine. However, the cost of the conference, especially paired with the widespread unemployment, makes it very difficult for many in our fellowship to attend. We are hoping to raise support from those whom God would move to help in this. Our goal is to raise \$1,400 to assist with transport and conference costs for around 35 people from our church. In other words, \$40 sponsors one person. If you'd like to be involved in this need, please send donations to the support address listed at the end of this update. Mark the note additionally with "for CC Svitlovodsk: conference".



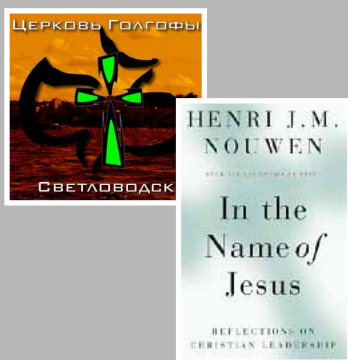
## Outreach

In early January we were blessed to have a team from CC Melbourne, FL come out for a day to do outreach with the orphanages. They came to CC Poltava (a neighboring city), but made the day trip out to help us serve and bless the kids here. We were able to visit 3 different groups of orphans and share with them about the meaning of Christmas, as well as pass out some small gifts. We are always blessed when teams come to visit and share in the work God is doing here. If your church would be interested in bringing a short-term missions team to Svitlovodsk, please contact me. We'd love to have you!

## Media

We make all our sermons available for free download on our website and podcast. We've been humbled to see that God is using these tools to spread His Word among Russian-speakers in over 20 countries so far. We've had well over 2,000 sermon downloads and are currently averaging about 300 sermon downloads a month. If you are a Russian-speaker or know someone who is, we encourage you to enjoy and share these resources. The site addresses are at the end of this update.

We're also excited to share that we are finally moving forward with a publishing project we began almost 5 years ago. My wife translated Henri Nouwen's *In the Name of Jesus*, and we are now getting things going to publish it. Our plan is to have printed 2,000 copies by the beginning of May. If you'd like to be involved in helping to finance this project and get an amazing book out to the people of Ukraine, you can send donations with a note "publishing" or contact me.



## Our Family

I mentioned earlier that I experienced a season of intense warfare right before the CC Kiev men's conference. This involved a 50mph (80km/h) car crash into a tree on the way home from home fellowship the week before the conference. Praise Jesus, there were no serious injuries (whiplash and Nastya's leg badly bruised), and the main impact was in the rear bumper. Nevertheless, the damage (I only have liability) came out to be over \$4,000 and is just recently finished with repairs (almost 2 months later). This *seriously* depleted our savings, so if the Lord would lead you to help with this need, you can send donations with a note "morrison's car". Even small donations would be a blessing. Then, the day of the conference I was assaulted by a neo-nazi (seriously!). You can read the story on my blog. On an up note, Isaac turned one in February and I am truly blessed with a wonderful family! May Jesus fill your hearts with the joy of His love!



-Benjamin, Lena, Abigail and Isaac Morrison

### Financial Support info:

If the Lord has put it on your heart to financially partner with us, you can make checks out to: "Horizon Ministries" (leave memo line on checks blank) and send to:  
 Horizon Ministries  
 7702 Indian Lake rd.  
 Indianapolis, IN 46236  
 with a note enclosed that the donation is for Ben and Lena Morrison (all donations are tax-deductible and 100% goes to us).

### Prayer Requests:

- For continued fruit from the School of Ministry, for students to be moldable and grow closer to Jesus.
- For new members of the church to be healed from false teaching through the Word of God's grace, or simply be rooted for the first time.
- For a heart to reach out to the lost in our city with the Gospel and God's leading to do this effectively. Pray especially for outreach teams to come this summer.
- For more servant leaders to be raised up in the body, especially among the men.
- For the home fellowships to be a place to grow in love and especially for the one in Vlasovka (the village) as it grows.
- For God to bless and provide for the publishing process of *In the Name of Jesus*, and to have print finished by May.
- For God's provision for the CC national conference and also for our financial needs as concerns the car repair.

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