

October 2009

Doug & Kay Clark:

UKRAINE

Partnering with:

- Kiev Christian Academy
- Community Ministries Intl.
- Inter-church Ministry to People
- Kiev International Bible Church

Pastors'
Conference,
"Marriage & Family"
Aug. 20 - 22nd, 2009
Nikolaiv Oblast



60% OF MARRIAGES...

...in Ukraine will end in divorce within the first 3 years....

Those words broke my heart as I heard them at a Pastors' Conference in Nikolaiv Oblast in August. Divorce effects each of our lives, bringing pain and suffering, sometimes for years.

The soviet (board) for the IMP/CMI partnership* had met a few months earlier. Considering the breakup of the family the biggest social problem of their oblast, they determined to have a pastors' conference (a first for this oblast) and help pastors in their churches address this issue, to then be able to help others with these same struggles.

The conference was a huge success, providing teaching on family, marriage, and

relationships, a 'romantic evening' for the couples, and an unparalleled time of fellowship between pastors and their families. More photos of this event can be seen at <http://gallery.me.com/sdouglasclark#100178>.

A month later I was in Nikolaiv Oblast again to celebrate Zhatva (harvest) with 2 village churches. This celebration is similar to our Thanksgiving Day, except it is only celebrated by churches, not by the society as a whole. It was a wonderful blessing to me to be there and share in the celebrations.

You can see more pictures at: <http://gallery.me.com/sdouglasclark#100188>



Zhatva (Harvest) celebration at
Shurino Baptist Church, Nikolaiv
Oblast

KIBC* has been involved in ministry to families since last spring, when it began leading seminars called "All My Feelings", to help families understand feelings, defense mechanisms, and conflict resolution.

In a few weeks we'll be showing the movie, "Fireproof" to help people begin addressing issues in marriage.

We are also asking the Lord to help us develop small groups that will concentrate on strengthening relationships, marriages, and families.

In addition, KIBC has started an English language Bible study in a local cafe. We have had a very positive response with interest in the study and in English, and new people almost every week, both believers and nonbelievers.

KCA

Since Kay has EMT training, she also functions as the school nurse. She has already had to deal with a bout of lice at the school.

She and about 100 students of KCA recently attended the weekend long 'Fall Retreat' for the students. That took a few days to recuperate from.

I have had an interesting opportunity arise recently. There are some other missionaries who teach Muslims English one night a week. They asked me to help them

*IMP/CMI partnership – Inter-church Ministry to People/Community Ministries International, a partnership between SBC churches in San Jose, CA area and Baptist Union of Ukraine churches in Nikolaiv Oblast.

*KIBC – Kiev International Bible Church

by sharing a biblical message, but not use common Christian terms. This has been both challenging and interesting. It is also an area in need of prayer, as I don't have past experience either teaching English or teaching Muslims.

Lena Zvieriva

Kay & I are grieving the loss of our former Russian teacher and good friend, Lena Zvieriva. She died here in Kiev this past summer while undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

Last spring we had sent out a request for anyone interested in helping her financially with treatment for cancer. Our friends and supporters responded generously and sacrificially. Part of those funds were used to pay for her treatment expenses. About half was put into a fund for her one year old son, Roma.



PRAYER

Praises:

- KCA's Fall Retreat for students
- KIBC coffeeshop Bible Study
- KIBC minstry to families
- Teaching English to Muslims

Requests:

- Teaching English to Muslims
- Kay's health - to be able to have the energy required
- Showing the movie, "Fireproof" at KIBC
- Forming small groups to strengthen relationships, marriages, and families.
- Our financial support

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Serving in Ukraine with:



Resourcing Christian Education International
We serve in Ukraine through this organization. Gifts for our ministry can be sent to the address below:

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