

Dear Friends,

We are glad to write to you at the height of this summer.

Since the beginning of summer the members of our church began to go to different Christian projects and camps. The part of our church members who are involved in Campus crusade ministry went to two different student summer evangelical projects.

In our turn we went to Austria for studying at TCM Institute for two weeks. It was a great time of studying, fellowship and a bit of sightseeing. I took Worldviews and Cults seminar for my MDiv with Prof. Robert Douglas. Christina visited the course as an audit. We acquired priceless knowledge there. On our return I said a teaching on this topic in the church. The modern church has to know how to deal with cults and be ready to bring them to Christ.

Then 5 people from our church went to the Kids Summer Camp and ministered there as leaders. There were Tim, Anton, Vlad, Lena and Christina Gabbasova.

And now I'll introduce Christina I've mentioned the last. She is a new Christian. She received Christ about half a year before in students' ministry. She has a rapid spiritual growth so that she has been taken as a leader in the kids' camp. That is wonderful. God is good. We happy for her and praise God. She attends our church and wants to be baptized!

Another new and encouraging new believer is a girl, named Vika. She is a friend of our church member Lena. She invited her. Vika also has a huge eager for Jesus. Now she is having Follow-up lessons for new believers. She is good at it. She joined Lena in ministry, and they have so called Art ministry. They will do different kinds of creative work. For example picture reports of our congregation pastime. They did one already. It's excellent hanging on the wall in our church room. The next project, which is in process, is a wall calendar with the birthdays of all our church members. Vika is also getting ready for baptism.

So the first prayer request today after thanks for different opportunities God gave us this summer for ministry is to pray about Christina and Vika who are getting ready for baptism soon. May God strengthen them spiritually keep from temptations and bless their hearts. In August they will have 3 classes of preparation. And then on August 30 we are planning to baptize them.

The second prayer request is the kayak project down the river Dnieper. This is the first summer project, organized by our church.

-The name of the project is Up-Stream.

-The key Bible verses are "7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith:8 henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing." (2Ti.4:7-8) -The goal of the project is motivation and encouragement for ministry and unity. 8 people will take part in it.

-The project will continue for 4 days only (August 9 - 14).

We are excited and thank God for this start and the first small experience.

-2 nonbelievers join us. One is our church leader Anton's brother. The other one is our instructor in paddling. Please pray that they will see Jesus in us and that they could come to Him personally as a result.

May God save us there, give us a good weather and perfect spirit. Let all our-God's goals be achieved.

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.  
And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.  
(1Jn.3:21-23)

Thank you. We are happy to feel your helping hand and cooperation in our life and ministry through prayer and financial support. We pray about you in return.

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(Php.4:6-7)

In Him,

Illya & Christina Balanenko

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