

Hearing From God seminar in Chernihiv, Ukraine September 14-16, 2010

Dr. Stanislav Volosjuk, director of Open Door Christian Camp outside of Chernihiv, hosted the seminar at their wonderful retreat facility in the middle of a pine forest—located less than 50 miles from Belarus, less than 75 miles from Russia, and about 100 miles east of the infamous Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster of April 1986.



Seminar participant, Dr. Ivan Volosjuk, dentist and pastor brought with him 3 young adult men over 400 miles from the far southeast region of Ukraine, Mariupol (on the Sea of Azov and very near the Russian border). Seminary professor and church deacon, Andrey Senotrusov of Donetsk, also brought pastors and involved laymen with him 365 miles to attend the seminar. Pastor Paul brought with him six saintly women from his church. Folks from 24 years old to 70 attended. One precious saint from Belarus came, as she put it, “with God’s leading her.”



The Lord granted us three days with 4.5 hours of teaching and interaction per day. Victoria Zakhzhay served as my interpreter from Monday morning through Friday afternoon—every teaching session, every meal, most every walk around the camp, and all the before and after teaching session discussions. Vika, as we learned to call her, has served as a theology professor herself in a Christian university in Kiev. Her skill and knowledge really enhanced the process of teaching through an interpreter.

Together, we shared lots of teaching/learning points, diagrams on the white board, participant exercises which they shared openly, stories, truths, and so many points of application throughout. There were discussions of the teachings in the dinning hall, rooms and

hallways, and on the grounds of the camp. Participants would ask more questions of me during meal times (my dear interpreter, Vika, hardly had time to eat her meal during meal times for the constant interpreting task she fulfilled so fabulously). The discussions were sometimes on controversial topics, points of struggling to understand, testimonies of affirmation, and desires to learn and apply more truth to life.



This trip began with Phil being short financially to fully accomplish this ministry. During a stop-over in New York in route to Kiev, a dear brother in Christ emailed me that God led him to contribute financially to this ministry. Upon returning, would you believe the gift matched the need? Oh, yes it did.



God also let me teach a baptism class, preach in a large Baptist church, and fellowship with two churches while in Kiev before and after the seminar. This teaching ministry was sponsored by God through three churches: Bear Valley Church of Lakewood, Colorado, Christian Church of Estes Park, Colorado, and Reece Prairie Baptist Church of Burleson, Texas.

Today, there are a few more Christ-followers hearing from God on an increasing basis with a strong commitment to walk with God according to what He says to them! Hallelujah – this is the point!!! “My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me.” John 10:27 Some participants requested permission to teach others at home what God taught them while we were together. Permission granted.



P.S. God even provided an opportunity for me to perform a wedding before the seminar was to begin for a young couple from the Chernihiv area who had come to Christ during one of the youth camps held here each year.

Photos: Upper Left-Vika interprets Phil’s teaching to class; Upper Right & Middle Left: classroom scenes; Bottom Right-Professor Andrey and Phil; Bottom Left– Phil & Vika with bride and groom, Natasha and Edik.