

# Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders.

## 2 Timothy 2:2

Greetings from the Huffmans!

August 2009

Last summer “Natalie” (not her real name) came to our English camp with **no hope**. Because she chose camp, her relationship with her boyfriend was severed, and in her eyes, he was her future. The **joy** of the American team and the Truth they showed her drew her to God and she began a relationship with Jesus Christ at camp! But her mom, her only family, was furious with this decision, accusing her of being in a cult, or insane. Natalie faithfully read her Bible, obeyed it, loved her mom, and attended church and discipleship meetings all year. **She is totally changed! Her joy is evident.** Her need for belonging fulfilled. Natalie’s mom has seen the change in her life and she came to our family camp and participated joyfully!!



This summer Natalie came to youth camp as a **translator** and, in addition to her **mom**, brought 6 **unbelieving friends** with her. She shared her story during our last evening program, a witness to all the Ukrainians that God is not just for “Americans” but everyone, and that HE meets our deepest needs. Her story is one of many things God used during our week of youth camp to bring around 13 youth into a relationship with Jesus Christ! That night a brand new believer, Valerie, asked, “How do I tell my mom I’m a believer now? She’s going to be mad – and think I’m in a cult or insane!” We asked Natalie to answer that question. ☺

Following youth camp was **family camp**. The first few days of camp, parents are very **resistant**, mostly looking for a vacation. But over and over we hear that the **love of the American team** and our unity with each other draws them to seriously look at the Biblical truth’s we teach. What a great testimony that God’s Word really works! And what a joy to see changes in campers within that one week, as their resistance breaks down. We also saw great changes in Katya (pictured here with Mark), a dear little street girl that came to camp last year!



It’s a joy to see God’s ways working in the lives of Ukrainians! We are grateful for the 20 Americans who cheerfully served and loved around 80 Ukrainian campers with us by teaching lessons, playing games, and having conversations. Many who didn’t make decisions to follow Christ have already come to activities at our church now that we are back in Odessa. Please pray for them to find the Truth.

Our young church, Living Hope, has had many opportunities for **spiritual growth** this summer! Many served alongside us when the **Royal Servants** were here from America. There were 29 people on the Royal Servants team who came for the month of July to proclaim the truth of God’s word in the hot streets of our neighborhood and the beaches in Odessa! It was a great encouragement to us, and a great opportunity to teach our church about expanding God’s kingdom! Several from our church translated for the Royal Servants, participating with them in sharing the gospel in the **streets**, the **beaches** and **basketball courts** of our neighborhood. We held three weekend basketball **tournaments** in three different sections of our neighborhood. Each evening after the tournaments, the Royal Servants performed **dance/dramas** for the crowd, and used that as a platform for sharing the Gospel in **small groups**. Hundreds heard the Gospel and many of the testimonies of the team. For many in our church it was the first time they shared the Gospel. They were “fired up” at the opportunity!



Royal servants (in blue) and "our" Marina sharing Christ on the beach.

The Royal Servants helped us begin many **new relationships** with people near us. As a result, several people came to our English camps. Many from our church were at camp to help take care of them. Many from our church had tears of joy as several from our neighborhood began relationships with Jesus. Now our church is learning to teach and disciple these brand new believers. The Kingdom of God in Odessa is growing!

As ministry here in Odessa grows, we are thankful the IM staff here is also growing. **John and Patti Sharer** from Indiana settled into the neighborhood in June, and **Anna Hunsucker** from North Carolina arrived August 1<sup>st</sup>. They are busy following up with many contacts from our full summer!

These last days of August we are **transitioning** into **fall**, trying to draw in campers to our “regular events” of Bible study and English club which will begin September 8th. **Seaside Missionary Training Center** will also begin September 7<sup>th</sup>. We have 7 students registered! 2 young men from Poland, and 5 Ukrainians. Their three month’s of classroom training has been carefully planned and we wait with anticipation to see how God will use it to deepen their knowledge and give them experience to make them future leaders of His Kingdom!

Thank you for your prayers for the summer ministry and for us personally. God gave us strength and health for each day! Thank you for participating with us in the ministry of preparing the next generation!

**Praises this month:**

**Mark:** Great opportunities for growth this past summer and for ALL of the Americans that came to work with us.

**Kim:** Our family vacation to Israel in June was GREAT! We enjoyed time away and the culture of our Lord!

**Chris:** Our plumbing is working again. (learning to take pleasure in the small things!)

**Ben:** A great youth camp and family camp (and for Isaiah coming to family camp – another guy!)

**Nate:** Growing taller than my brothers. ☺

**Prayer Requests this month:**

**Mark:** A crazy schedule for the month of September with many church, training center and university responsibilities. Please pray that I will work hard and serve God, not just people and programs.

**Kim:** Wisdom and time to disciple new believers as well as the girls from church with whom I still meet

**Chris:** Wisdom in making plans for next year – where and when to attend college!

**Ben:** School, studying well and just getting there everyday. (A helicopter would be nice. ☺)

**Nate:** The new year of school to go well.



Marina and Dasha help Kim celebrate her birthday



Celebrating 22 year of marriage at the Jordan River in Israel

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For the color version of this letter with a few pictures, on the Internet go to:

<http://www.huffmannews.com/whatnow.htm> and select the [August 2009 Update](#).



Ben finds his "family" in the family reunion game.



Team charades: Chris is trying to get his team to say "Tom and Jerry!"



Nate helping Lucia with her homework questions



Kim's small group performing their skit "suicide bridge"



Mark and the Odessa Marshrutka (mini bus) skit

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