

# Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders.

## 2 Timothy 2:2

Greetings from the Huffmans!

October - November 2007

Being a native English speaker in Odessa, Ukraine, attracts people. Take Olya for example, a career minded college graduate and cousin of Julia, one of Mark's University students. Julia told Olya about our English Bible study with Russian translation. Olya had studied English seriously in the past but had not spoken English for a long time, so she came to our Bible study looking for a chance to practice her rusty English. We were surprised at how good her English was as she participated and even shared some very personal things during our small group discussion time, all in English. After the Bible study we found out that Olya had **never** been to a Bible study before! She was amazed at what the Bible said and how it explained things. She commented that she learned a lot about sin and sacrifice and she would like to learn more.



Olya has not made it back to Bible study, because the time conflicts with her job, but she has been coming to our Conversational English Club each week. Two weeks ago we talked about baking, so this past week she even baked a cake and brought it to share at the club. Pray that God would open Olya's heart for the Truth.

Nate & Arkadiy reviewing vocabulary words with our English Club students at school #86.



English really draws people to us, so now we have **two English clubs!** Leanna, a young school teacher with LOTS of energy, called and asked if we would come to her school and teach her students. This is a **PUBLIC school**, one of many that would not let us in when we asked over a year ago, but now we are welcome on Saturday mornings. Leanna has about 100 students, and she gathers around 40 of them on Saturday mornings. They are eager to talk to "real" Americans, and we've had fun teaching them about hobbies, fall festivals, and super heroes. Kim shared about Jesus Christ, the Only REAL Super Hero! The greatest thing is we have not been stopped in giving a short gospel message each week to end our class!

Our second **English club** is mostly **conversational practice**. We meet Sunday afternoons at our church building, where we host 20-30 teens and adults who want to practice their English. One Sunday we spoke about families and heritage, making a family tree and then explaining it to the others in our small groups.



Again, at the end, we give a short



gospel message related to the theme of the day. We want our students to see the truth and hope and purpose we have in our life comes from Jesus Christ and His Word!

It's all about people. As we think back over the past 18 months of life and ministry in Odessa, it's the relationships with people that we think about. Mark's students, friends from camp, ministry partners, orphans, English club "groupies", neighbors, people from church. We praise God for widening our sphere of influence and allowing us to be involved in preparing the next generation. Our prayer for the people of Odessa is reflected in Psalm 67:1-4, "*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us, that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. May the peoples praise You, O God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.*" Our desire is that our time here in Odessa will result in more people to praise and worship our great God!

On the home front, the "**Black Sea Academy**" (our home school) continues as we strive to prepare the next generation in our home. It's been a challenging month. Teaching discipline, self control and excellence are more difficult it seems, with the mundane things like writing assignments, music lessons and Russian grammar. It is good to see growth in some new areas though. Nate has started learning the guitar, and Ben has been teaching himself bass guitar. He had his debut in church a couple weeks ago, playing one song. Chris continues to play drums each Sunday as part of the two worship teams. We are thankful for the men at church who work with all three of the boys!

December is bringing some changes. The first is we are moving! God has provided a bigger apartment for us still in this same neighborhood. We "move up" to the 15<sup>th</sup> floor on December 20. As we pack to move, **we also pack to return for a short six week visit to the U.S!** We are excited to spend some time with our families and friends. We would love to see each of you! Here is our schedule so far:

Dec. 23 Cambridge, Minnesota  
Dec.30 Neosho/Monett, Missouri  
Jan. 5-6 Britton, South Dakota  
Jan. 12-13 Pierz, MN  
Jan. 19-20 St. Cloud, MN  
Jan. 26 POSSIBLY Twin Cities, Minnesota  
Jan. 27 Alexandria, Minnesota  
Jan. 31 Return to Odessa



We will send an email update with more dates and times as they are scheduled! We are planning "open house" events in each of these areas for those of you that are not involved in one of our supporting churches. We sure hope you can make it!

#### **Praises this month:**

**Mark:** Continued open doors to work with and help many people!

**Kim:** Relief from headaches!

**Chris:** This past month Ben and I and Artem started working out at a fitness center 3 times/week.

**Ben:** We get to see our family and friends in America soon!

**Nate:** Is thankful for food and his mom that cooks so well.

#### **Prayer Requests this month:**

**Mark:** Scheduling for our trip to America. Spring ministry plans especially in the area of biblical counseling.

**Kim:** Opportunities to speak truth with the five Ukrainian women I see regularly.

**Chris:** We will get everything packed and moved before we go

**Ben:** Safe flight to America and safely in all the driving we do while we're there.

**Nate:** Guitar lessons.



Thank you for your partnership and your prayers! May it all result in more glory for God!  
**Mark, Kim, Chris, Ben & Nate**

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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 [October/November 2007 Update](#).

If you haven't checked out the pictures of our trip this past fall to **western Ukraine and Slovakia**, on the Internet go to:  
[http://picasaweb.google.com/Huffman.Odessa/WUkraineSlovakiaAugSept2007?authkey=u\\_iVIXtYqPU](http://picasaweb.google.com/Huffman.Odessa/WUkraineSlovakiaAugSept2007?authkey=u_iVIXtYqPU)

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**Ukraine Mail Address:** (This is not where we live, but is the best way to get mail to us.)

(Please do not send packages here.)

Mark Huffman

c/o Allukranina Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

Odessa Jewish Cultural Center

U1 Malaya Arnautskaya 46 Odessa

UKRAINE

**Ukraine Phone:**

**US** phone # that rings on our computer in Odessa with voice mail! **(425) 906-3977**

(We are 8 hours ahead of CST.)

There are **no** international charges for calls made to this phone #. It is a Seattle phone number, but it is immediately transferred on the Internet to our phone in Odessa. Give us a call! If we don't answer, leave a message.

**Cell Phones:**

Mark Cell: 011-38 (063) 779-4260

Kim Cell: 011-38 (063) 779-4261

Chris Cell: 011-38 (063) 779-4262

Ben Cell: 011-38 (063) 779-4263

Nate Cell: 011-38 (063) 779-4264

(This is what you dial from the US. If you are in Ukraine, don't dial the 011.)

(From the US this can be an expensive call unless you get an International calling card or have an International calling plan.)

**Internet/Skype Phone: mdhuffman**

If you have high-speed Internet, we can talk over the Internet for **free!** Yes, it is free.

See [www.Skype.com](http://www.Skype.com)