

Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders.

2 Timothy 2:2

Greetings from the Huffmans!

August 2008



One year ago, **Kate** (pictured on the left) was an atheist. Over the last year, she had met several Christians and found them to be good people. That made her willing to come to our Christian youth English camp, and “put up” with the Bible, because she wanted to practice English so much with native speaking people. Kate participated willingly in everything, but she was pretty quiet all camp. At our last small group meeting each of us gave a personal prayer request to pray for each other after camp. Kate didn’t have one. Cindy prayed for Kate anyhow, and even before she was done praying, you could hear Kate quietly crying. “No one has ever prayed for me before,” was

her teary response. Kate experienced the love of Christ in a real way. She didn’t profess Christ as her Savior, but she came face to face with a loving Savior and miles closer to *considering* Jesus Christ as being God.

This is one of many amazing stories from **youth camp**. It was one of the best camps we’ve ever had! The American team, though from 7 different churches, came together with a unified attitude to serve. The translators were skilled and ready to serve. The campers came ready to learn both English and to learn about God. (It was the first group of campers that LIKED homework!) The stage was set, and God moved many hearts. There were 12 public professions of faith in Jesus before camp was over! (To see 61 pictures from our youth English camp, go to: <http://picasaweb.google.com/Huffman.Odessa/YouthCamp2008?authkey=BIpcORSxe8k>)



Next was family English camp, and another **Kate (Katya)**. Eleven years old, physically scarred, verbally abused, from terrible living conditions, Katya’s Mom allowed her to come to camp with another family. She was hungry physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. She didn’t learn much English, but she learned she was loved by people, and by God!

We were initially disappointed when close to 20 of our campers didn’t show up for **family camp**. Some that did come were like stone walls the first few days – not very interested in English and even less interested in God. Yet, God was at work. He provided a great team from Minnesota, Missouri and Iowa. Again, they served with love and unity, and the walls started to come down.

Several families went home seriously considering Jesus Christ as God; and two women made public professions of faith – changing two whole families! (To see 60 pictures from our family English camp, go to: <http://picasaweb.google.com/Huffman.Odessa/FamilyCamp2008?authkey=uLoUXA9gZuw>)

Now begins the harder work of **following up** with our many campers. Already we have started discipling a few students from youth camp, Alyona, Pasha and Nick. We continue our Thursday night Bible study, and have had quite a few campers come and check it out! Saturday (Aug.30) we’re planning a camp reunion picnic at the sea. There, campers will be invited (again) to attend our weekly English club and Bible study during the year. We pray many will come. It seems once the fall routine starts, they seem to disappear!



We continue to work out the details of our own **fall routines**. The boys start school Thursday, August 28. They’ll be attending a small school for missionary kids in the center of Odessa. Attitudes are mostly positive at this point! Kim will also be part of the school, teaching the 3 elementary girls one day each week. Mark also is beginning school – our missionary training center will be in full swing September 10th! There are 6 young men and 2 young women signed up to come. Mark will also be teaching at the Christian University again this fall, one afternoon each week. Kim plans to help him, teach 2 English clubs in our neighborhood, and study Russian!

Thank you for your partnership in reaching the next generation in Ukraine - through coming to help us at camp, sending people to serve with us at camp, sending financial help and supporting us in prayer! *Philippians 1:3-4* “I

thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” You truly are a vital and necessary part of this ministry!

Praises this month:

Mark: Our missionary training center has a location for living and classes and 8 students ready to start next week!

Kim: We made many new contacts from camps, and had a great camp reunion picnic August 30.

Chris: The music at camp went well and we had a great time playing together.

Ben: Since school started, I only have to wash the dishes 3 times/week instead of 7!

Nate: Good start to school and some new classmates!

Prayer Requests this month:

Mark: Open hearts to the truth as I teach 3 theology classes to about 90 students at the university.

Kim: Russian lessons for me; female translator to help with discipleship; discipleship

Chris: Get a work out schedule set up at the gym, and maybe an independent study course at Northwestern College.

Ben: Diligence to get up at 6:45 every day for school.

Nate: Diligence to work hard at piano and guitar lessons.

Thank you for your partnership and your prayers! May it all result in more glory for God!

Mark, Kim, Chris, Ben & Nate



[Mark's Mom and Sister joined us for a tour after Family English Camp.]

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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 2008 Update](#).

Don't forget the pictures!

To see 60 pictures from our **Family English camp**, go to:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Huffman.Odessa/FamilyCamp2008?authkey=uLoUXA9gZuw>

To see 61 pictures from our **Youth English camp**, go to:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Huffman.Odessa/YouthCamp2008?authkey=BIpc0RSxe8k>

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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

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UKRAINE

Ukraine Phone:

763-219-8150 This is a Cambridge, Minnesota Number that rings on our computer in Odessa with voice mail!

Cell Phones:

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

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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.