

# Workman Mission Newsletter

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## Summer 2025

**Dear friends and supporters**, as you no doubt know, Russia's relentless war of conquest against Ukraine continues to be an ongoing reality. The conflict reached 3 1/3 years by the end of June, and then Russia launched even greater assaults all over the country as July got underway. By the end of September, Ukraine had endured 1314 days of war.

But Ukraine, despite being assaulted by a much greater enemy, has amazed the world in being able to repel the vast majority of missiles and drones sent into its territory. Our hope is that the USA and other western nations will soon make it their undaunted aim not to allow Ukraine to be conquered by this ruthless enemy of Ukraine and true Christianity or the Lord's church will suffer horrific consequences.

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**In June, Nadya departed the USA for Ukraine** by way of Warsaw, where plane travel had to change to train travel. There have been no passenger flights in Ukraine since the beginning of the war. In this photo, she and her travel companion are waiting in Chelm, Poland, to board the Ukrainian train behind them. Nadya traveled with this Ukrainian young man, Vadym, who was adopted by Christian parents in Texas and returned to see his sister and her family.

Vadym and his brother were led to Christ in the USA by their adoptive parents, our personal friends, whom we assisted with the adoptions. With God's help, we were eventually successful in converting the remaining sister and her husband, who live in the suburbs of Kropyvnytskyi, a major city west of the Dnipro river.

**After the 20-hour train ride across Ukraine**, Nadya and Vadym arrived in Poltava, very narrowly missing a Russian attack on the center of the city with 12 drones and 2 missiles just two hours earlier. Those warheads hit the city only about two miles from their arriving train station.



**Despite the aggression**, the church in Ukraine not only survives but thrives.

This does not mean, of course, that there are no dangers or loss of life. But Christians constantly pray for the providence of God to overshadow them. Nadya was at a retail center for building supplies one day, a store she and I have patronized many times before, ordering a large tub to be used as a baptistry. Four days later a Russian missile completely destroyed that store. We are grateful to God that her life was spared. And we ask you, our dear readers, friends and supporters, to keep these Ukrainian Christians in your daily prayers as well.

**The Lord's church in Poltava, which we planted in the fall of 1994, continues to be among the most successful works in Ukraine. We told previously about bringing another preacher into this work – namely, Vadym Pryimak (right). While working in Poltava, he was also finishing a two-year course of studies at the Bear Valley Bible Institute in Ukraine, mainly conducted online, and was awarded his diploma in June.**



**Each week, we are thrilled to have a vast number of visitors show up for our Bible studies – typically more than 150, and they are usually given their choice of any or all of 12 classes during the week plus worship on Sunday. But when Nadya is in town, about 20 classes per week for women are added. The class shown here is being taught by Volodya Vorobyov, one of our preachers.**

**Studies lead to conversions, as was the case with Anatoli, who was led to the truth and to the watery grave in the Vorskla river by Vadym. We are continually thrilled to have this beautiful and accommodative building in which to do the Lord's work of evangelizing and bringing souls to Christ. We don't, at present, have a baptistry, but there is an abundance of water across the street in the river, and there are also home bathtubs.**



**Online meetings are also conducted six days a week in addition to Sunday worship and the weekday classes.**



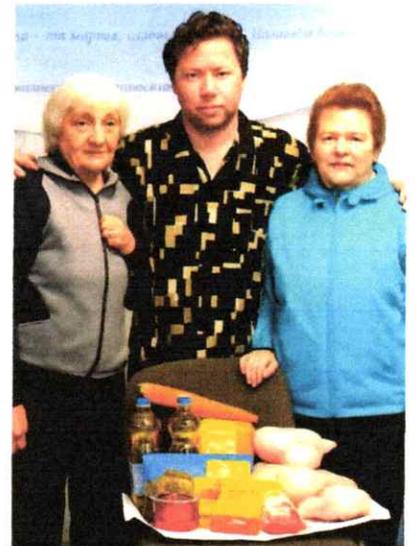
**Congregations still exist in occupied territories.**

There was a time, around 30 years ago, when we had more converts in the Donetsk region than any other in Ukraine. But after Russian-led separatists declared that area to be the self-controlled "Donetsk People's Republic" in 2014, many Christians fled to other areas. Others, though, were unable to do so.

**This church building in Gorlovka, where Nadya became a Christian, was confiscated in May 2014**

by Russian soldiers illegally occupying the territory. And since it was then announced that no church would be allowed in that region besides the Russian Orthodox Church, what was left of our congregations went underground (figuratively speaking). But these remaining brothers and sisters are not forgotten.

**We and others in the USA and Ukraine have repeatedly sent help to the surviving Christians in that area, like these shown here in Gorlovka and Ilovaisk. Maxim, the preacher, receives our funds and brings food and other supplies to these souls, who would otherwise be destitute.**



**The Lord's church in Kamianske is alive and well.** It was my privilege and delight to preach the first gospel sermon on the right bank of this city in May of 1994 as the initial part of a campaign with about 12 American church workers. Conversions followed, enabling me to become the first regular preacher for the resulting congregation, and the Lord's church has continued to flourish ever since.



**Ilya Parkhomuk is now the primary preacher for this church.** He was a young boy when the congregation began. I can easily remember him at the age of eight, right after we converted his older brother Edik. He began giving Bible talks as a boy, then developed into a preacher and eventually became formally trained. And he continued to advance in ability and effectiveness for the Lord's cause across the ensuing years. His primary work focuses on preaching, visitation, evangelism, doing humanitarian aid, and organizing the work on the right bank of Kamianske and in the village of Plaveshchino.



**Ilya's wife, Zina, pictured here with Nadya,** conducts girls' meetings and children's ministry. She also focuses on spiritual and psychological support for young women. She uses excellent Bible lessons that guide children toward thoughtful and purposeful reflections while staying focused on the main topic. She also contributes to the congregation's media ministry and works with Ilya in the church in Plaveshchino.



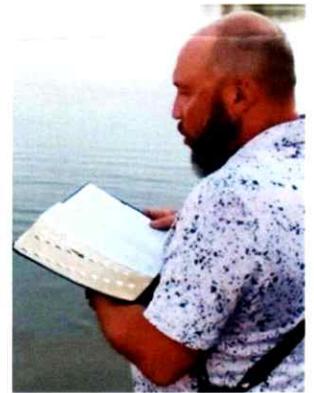
**Eljun Aliev, shown here with wife Sofia,** has been with this church since his conversion from Islam at the age of 15. He too was trained in the Bear Valley Bible Institute. His work is focused on evangelism, assisting with preaching, summer Bible camps and youth ministry.



**The leadership team of the right-bank church also** consists of volunteer brothers and sisters in various ministries. Several of them were converted early in the history of the congregation, and therefore have been a vital part of the work for many years.



**Pavel Movchanyuk has long been the primary song leader of the right-bank church in Kamianske and has worked considerably with the left-bank congregation as well.** He also works with home groups and often assists with preaching. He is shown here leading singing (left) and (on the right) assisting with the baptism of his youngest son in the Dnepro river, which took place in the summer.



**Pavel's wife, Tanya (above)** organizes women's meetings and Bible studies, teaches children's Bible classes, and assists with visitation and distribution of humanitarian aid. Another brother, **Radion,** supports and assists in several of the above-mentioned areas. His wife, **Valeria** assists with media ministry and organizing various events. And yet another brother, **Nikolai,** teaches young people's classes and assists with song leading and preaching. All of these Christians have worked together for many years, resulting in a congregation full of peace and harmony with impressive results to show for it. We cannot begin to count how many have been converted since we began it 31 years ago.



**This is the nucleus** of the right-bank church (left) with two visitors from Poltava, though many more are in attendance at worship.

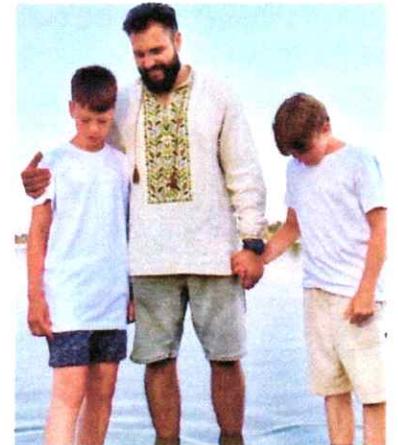


**Much of the credit** for that and the faithful integrity of the congregation goes to the leadership team (right) previously mentioned. They all became Christians in their youth, due mostly to the vibrant spiritual life they witnessed when they were first attracted to the Lord's church which, for some, dates back to the fall of 1993.

**Church growth in our mission congregations continues to progress with ongoing conversions despite the devastating war in Ukraine.**



The three shown left with Nadya are a mother (Yevgenia) and her two daughters (Anastasia and Vera). They were baptized in Kamianske in July. Then these two boys (Aleksandr and Vadym, right) were also baptized in Kamianske at the end of August. These conversions were due partly to the vitality of the youth group and its leaders in the right bank church.



**The churches we support in Ukraine have gained respect and love from hundreds of the local populations.** This photo shows just one of many classes that Nadya conducted several days each week in Poltava during the summer. But these regular visitors continue to attend because they are thankful for the spiritual and physical help given to them by those who support the Lord's church in Poltava.

**Humanitarian aid continues to be high priority for all our mission work in Ukraine and beyond.** The apostle Paul said, "As we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). Because of you, our supporters, we have the means to touch the hearts of people like these and attract them to Jesus, who then adds them to His household of faith. Some of our most motivated workers in Poltava are those who were recipients of such kindness. Please continue to support these works!



For the sake of souls, Gary and Nadya Workman