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I am so **fired up** to write you this letter. We have been back in the Ukraine now for two months. It was a fast and somewhat “rude” awakening upon returning to our beloved mission field. We landed and five days after that Bible college classes kicked in. The topic for this course was evangelism. I pray/trust it has been a help and blessing to those who attended and our church will be more soul-minded and better equipped to reach the lost and impact our community for Christ.

Adjusting to life here **this** time seemed a bit more difficult than last time. I don’t know exactly why unless it is satanic attack. I believe he knows that we came back with more potential (by God’s grace alone) to do his kingdom more damage. He, for sure, has been fighting. Our home has been under attack, our health, my mind and heart. But **ALL IS WELL** when **Jesus is the Captain**, amen?

The last couple times we went out tract “blitzing,” I told many folks that this little brochure answers life’s most important question? One lady began to list from her perspective what was important in life. I encouraged her to take a look inside for **God’s** list of important things. Later, when seeing her again, I asked if she found what God said in the tract. She changed her answer 180 degrees. We had a short conversation about her eternal destiny and Christ’s great provision. She listened and left continuing to read. I felt perhaps it was the very first time in her life she heard the **GOOD News** of the Gospel. Pray for her (Lena). She has a little baby that needs a Christian momma and a home filled with Christ’s love and truth.

Within the first two weeks back, David Sloan and I were trying to help this homeless family (Alina, her son Aleg, and little Alonya – he is about 6). They got swindled out of their apartment and were desperate with nowhere to go. They came to our church. We tried to find them a place and some work for Aleg (he is over 20 and of the workable sort). Both Aleg and Alina gave testimony that they had been saved. Aleg used to attend my teen class a few years ago, but we wanted to sit them down and make sure we understood them and they understood God’s work of Redemption from God’s Word. It was so exciting to be tag-team counseling with Vlad (the one I had disciple a year back). Vlad was such a blessing in how he further explained the Gospel to Aleg than I could, since my Russian got a bit-rusty during my furlough. Please continue praying for this struggling family. After the help, we haven’t seen them much. This happens at times on the field. Jesus knows full well.

Let me tell you a funny story about what happened with my neighbor. We live in the village, two kilometers (just about a mile and a quarter) outside of the city of Simferopol. “Trash pick up” service basically involves **OUR TRASH AND OUR PICKUP** (except nobody drives that type of truck here). Well, to avoid carrying so much trash into town in the back of our van, I just decided to burn all the paper waste materials. That would reduce the trash considerably. We dug a trash pit (my burning barrel bit the dust) and began to conserve gas on trips into town to find an empty trash can and dump it. We burned for a few days and the neighbor peeped over the wall saying, “Don’t burn so close to our wall” (privacy fence - it is made of yellow “sponge’-block-stones”). They were concerned for the **roof** of their garage (very flammable material, I understand). We apologized for the worry we caused and dug a **new** burning pit, filling in the old one. This new pit wasn’t going to save the day though. One day, Misha (neighbor) peeps over again, this time with quite angry “eyebrows” and hollering says that we need to stop burning our trash and instead carry it up into the field and drop it there like everyone else (this practice, in winter and early spring, makes our neighborhood look like a junkyard with plastic bags flying everywhere and stuck on the trees – you can’t imagine the mess). I tried to explain that I didn’t want to make the Ukraine any uglier and...he said, out of the blue, “Would you speak **Russian**, please?” although he may have left off the “please.” Now what language do you think I was trying to speak with this “more-

than-slightly" upset man? Hindi??? I apologized for the trouble and basically we have stopped burning, just for testimony's sake. I went in wondering what my Russian sounded like to him. It was a little disheartening at the time, but now I look back and just chuckle. Pray for our *relationship* with these folks, we love them and want to see Christ do a great work in their lives.

Well, about the **BEST NEWS**: we just had Backyard Bible Club two weeks ago. I was privileged during that week to lead six junior high age kids to the Lord. Their names are Dasha, Sasha, Natasha, Maxeem, Lena and (Eliya)- the Russian equivalent. We had one of the best Bible Club weeks I can remember. Praise the Lord! Pick one of these kids above. Highlight their name, write it on your prayer list. Do what you need to remember, but please pray for these kids. They live in such a dark world of sin and "ronch." Pray as we follow up on each.

This past week was **YOUTH CONFERENCE**. Over 80+ teens from all over Ukraine, from Belarus, and a few from Moldova came to sunny Crimea for hot preaching, glorious singing, fabulous competition, sweet fellowship and crazy skits. We needed to feed them and house them, which after the scheduled accommodations backed out on us two weeks before conference, turned out to be good but nerve-wracking at first. Enough mattresses had to be purchased for all to sleep on. We converted an old storage closet into a shower room. The guys slept at the church and the Lord provided a place for the girls to stay down the street from the church. Praise the Lord, through the conference, we were able to **see five teens come to Christ**, one of whom was a girl who has been attending our church for over a year now - Katya. She comes from a Russian Baptist background. Keep these teens in your prayers.

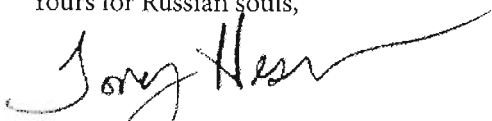
Pray for a guy named "Misha" (Michael) - that's his Russian name. He is Muslim Tatar. Our dog got **OUT** and bit him, plus one other guy (unnamed), and so I spent that night till mid-night in the hospital with "Misha." He's okay now, but we thought it was going to be very costly at first. He just had a little mark on his leg, but we wanted to take every precaution and get him checked out. Actually, now we have a new inroad with one of our Muslim neighbors. Thanks Roxie! Rom.8:28 - actually through this we have become good friends with this semi-elderly man "Misha." He's a dear soul.

Much more to say, but I'll be brief. A few weeks ago we had church in the woods to remember the ol' Soviet days when the church was in hiding. Glory! -we had eight baptized (four hearing and four from deaf church).

We have a **BIG PROJECT GOING ON**. We are in the midst of purchasing some land for a **camp**. This is to be used for youth camp, deaf camp, retreats, men's conferences and church fellowships and activities. Please pray that sufficient **funds** will come in and soon, before prices in that area change. We hoping to build our first building out there in the near future to keep supplies we just purchased for the youth conference. Right now the stacks of 50 mattresses are taking up SS room space. Thank you for your prayers in this matter. You are a blessing!

You all are indeed **SPECIAL** to us and true instruments in the hand of God. Thank you for **helping** us make a difference for God's Kingdom and bring a few more precious souls into the fold. We love and appreciate you.

Yours for Russian souls,



Brother Tony, Dawn and the Hess kiddos

PS. TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES: Dawn is about to start up her email updates again - "Dawn's Desk." There was a computer failure on our main computer here in Ukraine while we were home on furlough, and, well...we lost our contacts list that Dawn used to mail her letters to. **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING AN EMAIL ("DAWN'S DESK") FROM HER THEN PLEASE DROP US AN NOTE AT tonyanddawnhess@aol.com**. Love y'all.