

Sunday June 3 2018

The Sermons have been preached the lessons taught and it is time to pack our bags and start home. It is also a time for reflection. For years I have made this trip in April but we delayed it this year because of other commitments. Our time here has reminded me why I came earlier for so many years. April can be still the end of winter and colder than I like but it is also a time when people here are more accessible. May is the end of the school year and a time when gardens are taking so much of their time. Because of how we live, we forget that gardens here are not hobbies they are a necessity. If the garden doesn't produce then there may not be enough food for next winter. May is also the end of the school year and as at home there are a great number of activities associated with that happening. I feel that we have done all we can to encourage the brethren here but it would have been a little easier to schedule things if we had come a few weeks earlier.

Yesterday was a really good day. The attendance was more than seventy which surprised us. We had been told to prepare for fifty. As I have mentioned in an earlier post, we were preparing a pot luck "American" style meal. All I can say is God was watching over us because we had plenty in fact many took some leftovers home with them and there are still some beans in the fridge that they overlooked.

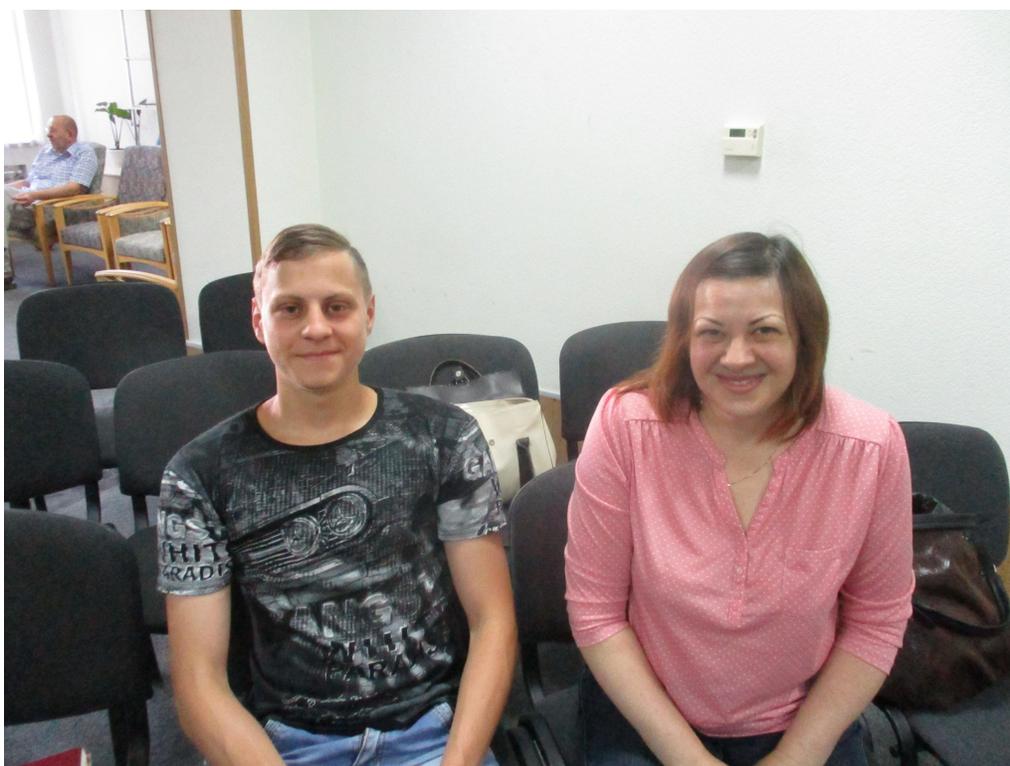
The atmosphere at services was warm and loving. I preached on "Why We Should Study the Bible." Following services was the pot luck and the ladies did an incredible job. The food was prepared excellently especially when you consider that there were some ingredients that just were not available here. Following the meal we broke into two groups, the women with Ava and the men with me. We taught the last of the seminar classes that we had prepared for this trip and then took questions for about thirty minutes.

We were able to relax for a while before evening services. The crowd was smaller but just as warm and loving as always. I preached on "Why I Have Hope." I was trying to convey some of the ways God gives us hope so we can make it through each day. Hope that is important for each of us from the successful to the one who is just barely making it on a subsistence wage.

We said good bye to many yesterday but today will be the day that tears will flow. Ava and I know that we are welcome to come again and share what we can but we also know it will be two years at best before we are able to return. We will take with us a truck load of memories and pictures that will warm our hearts every time we tell the stories or just take a moment to think of them. Every mission work is important, no matter where it is in the world, but this country has buried itself deep within our hearts and minds. If we can share more information with you, please you only have to ask.

We catch the night train to Kiev this evening for the first leg of our journey back to Newkirk that should end around 5:00 p.m. CST on Wednesday.

To God be the Glory!



Daniel and his Mother



Visiting before services.



Puttin it all together.



OH! It was good.