

Tuesday May 29, 2018

Vlad appeared this morning and I asked him why? He had told me that he would not see us until about noon he said I just wanted to see if you needed something this morning. So we decided to take advantage of him and let him go to the market with us as a guide and interpreter. It is a good thing we did because the booth we wanted was closed and Vlad asked another vendor across the way what time he opens. She said, "Oh he is just a few minutes away helping with his mothers booth." She called him and in about two minutes he showed up. We were able to find what we wanted. Then we stopped at two more booths before crossing the street to a department store. Ava wanted a fabric softener and Vlad had no idea what it was. We went into a general merchandise store and went to the laundry section where Ava found what she was looking for. They had quite a selection of different types and Vlad became involved in reading every bottle. It is amazing the things in life that we take for granted.

Life here has changed so much over the years and so much remains the same. There is among the general population a higher standard of living than in the past. That is not to say they are wealthy but they enjoy a better quality of life than they had when I first encountered them in 1994. There are also those in this society that time has passed by. Many of the older people are trying to live on what it cost to fill the gas tank of one of the small cars they drive. The elderly have to depend on relatives to help them make it and many have no one that has stepped up to do so. We are helping where we can when we can but the need is still overwhelming.

The war still continues just a few miles from here and there are people dying every day. The people neither want nor understand the war and all the politics that are taking place. Innocent citizens are dying from the shelling and gunfire exchanged. Russian and Ukrainian troops are dying in battles. It is a senseless war that is all about power and control.

I talked with Vlad about a situation that he wants my help with and I will, of course, do what I can. There is a young couple that are on the brink of divorce and we will do all we can to help them save their marriage. We know that if they allow God to rule they can and will do so.

I can always tell when the trip is coming to a close. This is the time when we are approached by many with different problems of people seeking help. This is what we have come for. I do wish they would come to us sooner it would be better to have more time to evaluate and formulate an answer.

Ava took part in four classes in the ABC school yesterday afternoon and I taught the combined Tuesday night adult class. After class a young man named, Daniel, was baptized. Vitally has been working with him for some time and he decided that yesterday was the day to put on Christ. After the baptism we went to supper and Kate and Taras accompanied us



Best picture yet. Daniel being immersed.