

Family Hess
Missionaries to Ukraine
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The devil is a neglectful daddy and his children are **hurting**. Listen to the following story:

In Mid-November, I met JShenya – a pregnant girl who is three months along and has been living on the streets since she was six years old – cold and hungry, begging and crying. She hangs out with a group of bums not far from an old Russian Orthodox building in the heart of our city. I bought her a meal and a bag of groceries, and after listening to her AWFUL story, I shared the Gospel with her. She listened and said that she had put her trust in Jesus, but was **not** sure if she died today (very possible in her circumstances) that she would escape Hell. That next week, I returned everyday to the area where she hangs out, but I could not find her. Please pray. She promised she'd be in church on Sunday, but she hasn't come yet. We've done some research and found some places where she could stay and get cleaned up, but she hasn't made the first step showing she is serious about help. My heart is broken for her and for that poor little child who will be born probably with an addiction to alcohol. Jshenya drinks vodka to numb her body against the cold nights. Sin doesn't pay does it.

GOOD NEWS! A few weeks ago on Sunday afternoon, we got to see a Muslim lady come to the Lord. It just doesn't happen too often. We are grateful for our Brother Misha (Russian short form for Michael) whose heart and ministry is primarily toward reaching the Muslims. He should know how to reach them for Christ because he is a former Muslim.

Our Cantata: what can I say – it was worth it all! After one month of recuperation, I can tell you that all our folks so enjoyed the cantata, including the choir, that some asked me about an Easter Cantata. I told them that we would have needed to start a week after the Christmas Cantata. **WE ASKED EVERYONE TO INVITE THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.** Several visitors came that night and one lady who had been attending on and off for over a year raised her hand and came forward at the invitation – and all God's people said - **Amen!** Pray for Galya. I am seeking someone who will be best suited to disciple her. She has three girls who have all been to the church one time or another.

A week after the church cantata, God opened the door to repeat it at our local ("dom preestarelic") nursing home. The Lord opened the door for us to go into three new rooms. This is super exciting! To go



in uninvited is grounds to be “removed,” but when the people there ask us to visit their room on a weekly basis, then that’s a different matter. We go and sing, fellowship with them, tell a Bible story and pray with them each week. Already this month we’ve seen three “bobushkas” (grandmas) make professions of faith. One lady was led to Christ on Saturday and by the following Saturday she had passed away! These folks truly are on that **Eternal Edge** of life. My wife especially loves the nursing home and serves there with great anticipation. Pray for this ministry of our church, for the 13 volunteers and teachers helping her, for the salvation of the patients and nurses there who don’t know our Lord, and for these precious souls waiting to hear **if** there is hope beyond the grave, if there is life at 70+, and if there is indeed any such creature as a genuine CHRISTIAN who acts and lives and loves like Jesus did.


Pastor Bob, David and I are working on solving a long running problem: baptizing in the winter. We purchased a big water tank and are trying to work out the logistics of how to manage 2,000 liters of water (at least 4,000 pounds) on an old church platform that may not support such weight. There are six people ready and waiting to get baptized! Praise the Lord.

Many of you have heard through Facebook, etc... that **Dawn’s Daddy passed away** in late November. We have received several cards and notes letting us know that you are praying and thinking about her and the rest of the family at this time. THANK YOU SOOOO MUCH! A couple weeks after that, her **step dad also** passed away. They are sooooo missed by all of us. Again, we are much appreciative of your thoughtful letters and prayers.

I know you need to get on with your day so let me mention our **furlough dates** coming up and I’ll let you go. We are coming back to the States in late **April**, preparing our presentation there in Chattanooga and plan on being ready for meetings by **May 12** (Wednesday night). Pastor, please feel **SUPER FREE** to email us with possible dates we can visit through the summer. In May, so far, we are scheduled to be in the deep south (NC, GA, FL). We must head back by the last week in August.

You’ll be hearing soon from your ol’ southern WV-Russian-accented missionary serving over here in Ukraine. WE LOVE YOU FOLKS! The Lord’s sweet blessing on all as you serve Him faithfully. We are . . .

Yours for precious Russian souls,



Bro. Tony, Dawn and all the Hess “youngens”