

# GO Ukraine 2011: Report

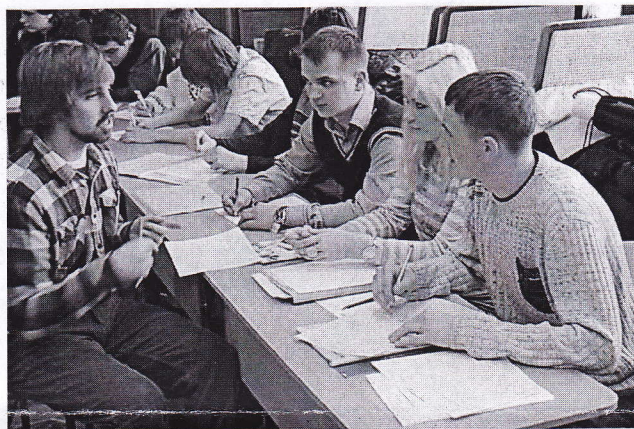
GO Ukraine 2011 has been a great success! I want to thank all of you for your continued support in prayer and finances that allowed us to accomplish our mission there. God is good. He uses jars of clay like us to carry the treasure of the gospel. Thank you for your devotion to the ministry of reconciliation in which the Lord has called us. I hope you are blessed by hearing the great works that have been produced through this mission to Ukraine.



Our team arrived in Kiev, Ukraine late in the afternoon on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. We immediately hopped on a bus and traveled 5 hours to Poltava, a city in eastern Ukraine. The next day we attended the Sunday service of the church in Poltava which we would be working alongside of for the week. Experiencing worship with the people of the church was one of my favorite parts of the week. Many of the songs were familiar by

music, but were sung in Ukrainian instead of English. I felt like this gave me a small glimpse into the words of John in *Revelations* of every tribe, tongue, and nation coming together to give glory to God the redeemer. When the sermon was given, a young member of the congregation came over to our team to translate. I was impressed with the reality that the word of the Lord is for mankind, and in any language the word of the Lord is the word of life.

Monday through Thursday, during the morning and afternoons, our team went into different colleges and universities to teach English to students. We had multiple lesson plans that we could switch up as we wanted. The goal was to help the students to be more comfortable with speaking English out loud. The teaching aspect of our mission was a very great experience. It was wonderful to see how excited the students were to be interacting with our team, and to be learning the English language. At the end of our lesson we had the opportunity in each class to



invite the students to come to an English Club which was held at the church we were working with in Poltava.

Along with the English Club event, for a portion of the night the church's youth group called SMS was able to interact with the students who attended. We held this nightly meeting Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening from 6:30 until 9:00. Our American team would begin the night with fun games and time for conversation with the students. A little later the youth minister of the church, Vova, got up and spoke to the students about Christ. After he was finished we would have about an hour to simply spend time talking with the students about their lives and what they thought about the message they had just heard.

Each night we did this I was able to hang out and converse with a group of about 10 guys that I had met in the classes throughout the week. This portion of our mission was my favorite. I was able to ask these men about the message they had just heard. I was able to talk about my life and my actions from a Christian worldview that they had probably never heard. One student in particular was an extremely great blessing to me. His name is Vlad, and he is only 15 years old, but he is already attending one of the technical colleges in Poltava in which we taught. Each night Vlad was in the group of guys I would speak with, and his English was better than many of the others. Because of this, I was able to have much deeper and much more meaningful conversation with him. On the last night I had the chance to share with him the importance of striving after God to know Him. I was able to encourage him to read the Bible as well.

I hope knowing some of these amazing works that God has done through our team's trip to Ukraine will allow you to see how profitable your support has been. Please continue to pray for the students that we encountered there. Please continue to pray for the people of the local church there, that they would see magnificent fruit from their consistent laboring for the kingdom. Thank you again for supporting me through prayer and finances in order that the gospel of Christ can continue to permeate into all the world!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Stands". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Stands

P.S. I had the opportunity to send Vlad (the student I spoke about) a Bible. Please be praying that it will find its way into his hands! Also if you are interested in learning more about some of the ministry in Ukraine and how you can pray, please visit <http://www.reachukraine.org/> (this is the missionary family's site which we worked with in Poltava).