

Walking down the hallway of the hospital, we could sense the heaviness of heart you often find in Ukrainian hospitals. Turning the corner we saw Pan Petro's room and upon opening the door we found a cramped room full of people each huddled around one of the five beds in the hospital room. Laying on one of the cot like beds was Oksana's father, Petro; an 80 year old man that had recently received Christ as his Savior. Just days later he had a massive heart attack that he would never recover from. The room hushed from the nervous chatter of relatives as Pastor Mihailyo and I bowed our heads and prayed over this dear man whose face testified of a man who had peace with God. After we prayed we had the attention of everyone in the little room and proceeded to speak to everyone of Petro's peace that he has with God. This hospital room was a room where many would come and succumb to their heart attack. It was a desperate place where little hope resided. A man next to Petro lying in his bed listened attentively to the Gospel. His eyes were rounded with shadows of fear. He later received Christ as well as others in that room that day.

Mr. Petro lay asleep resting like a young baby unaware of the testimony of his peaceful countenance he had to all in the room. A few days later the Lord took him home to Himself.

As I write, I am on an express train from L'viv to Kyiv where we'll meet many of our people today and have fellowship. Tomorrow I'll travel to Cherkassy to do a service with our church there. The scenery outside my window is like a rapid moving film of snowy fields and sleepy farm homes. All seems calm, yet in the hearts of many Ukrainians lays apprehension and unrest. With the pervading pessimism of the looming crisis already in Ukraine, many people have shrunk back to a protectionist way of thinking. With predictions of a 40% unemployment rate in the next two years, many Ukrainians today cannot withdraw their savings from their banks. Yet many in our churches in Ukraine have not been overcome with the global trend of fear and loss of vision. Actually it's funny for them and they are able to maintain a free spirit as David had in Psalm 51 because of the love of God dwelling deep in their hearts and an easy yoke.

These past three weeks in our Bible School have been very rich in the Word and we've been feasting on Chapter 4 of the Ephesians class by Pastor Stevens. Our choice is not vanity of mind but a renewing of the mind in the Word of God as we put on the new man moment by moment.

It's such a joy and privilege to be among these precious Ukrainians. What is precious - it is Christ Him-self that walks among them, on their streets, visits their small apartments and communes with them at their tables drinking their tea and eating their Borsche soup. The Word is alive in us, and there is so much gladness of heart to be here these days. Thank you Jesus that we may walk with you here and bear forth the Words of Life.

*Pastor Chris Moore*