

St. James Alumni Project

August Update

2018



Alumni Sasha Iakubenko, Lifeline Childrens' Services.



Warsaw, Poland. Over 2 million Ukrainians now live in Poland.

The month of August is a time when the locals in Kiev seem to flee the city. Many Kievites retreat to the countryside to tend gardens and picnic at the river. This time of year people take advantage of the summer days and travel. I was able to spend time with my wife this July. She was happy to be in her hometown. I then accompanied her back to Europe as she had a layover there. During this trip I took time to visit Sasha Iakubenko a St. James alumni living in Warsaw, Poland.

Sasha, completed his studies at St. James in Kiev. After his studies he worked with a local church and was invited to a conference at Saddleback church in California. He attended the conference and ended up staying on at Saddleback and eventually became a part of the worship ministry there. He is a talented drummer and played for the worship team. As his visa ended and he had to return to Ukraine.

Upon his return he got involved with international adoptions began working with children. He continued his studies in Ukraine and attended the Orthodox church. As his family background was Orthodox he felt completely comfortable in the church. His work led him to help thousands of families through the years in making it possible for christian families from Europe and America to adopt Ukrainian children.

The laws began to change concerning adoption in the Ukraine. Sasha, now married with 2 daughters had an opportunity to continue his work with international children's minitries in Poland. There are over 2 million Ukrainians now living in Poland. He currently serves as the manager of Euraisian Operations at Lifeline children's services. God has blessed him with a lovely family and home in a suburb of Warsaw. I was so pleased to have the opportunity to meet with him in Warsaw.



Sergei and Irina Muchak. Class of 93 & 94

Meeting this couple was a real pleasure. I had dinner with Sergei and Irina in Vizhgorod at their home. Together with their 2 sons we enjoyed an evening of fellowship. Sergei is pastor of a church in the town of Ivanka. He told me of how after college he was working with a church in Kiev and they opened a new church in Ivanka. He was asked to be interim pastor for 2 months before the permanent pastor was assigned. He was reluctant but agreed to a two month assignment. Now 23 years later he continues his ministry there. Irina works for Vision University in Kiev. They continue in christian ministry in Ukriane.



In 1991 Kay Arthur, founder of Precept Ministries came to teach at St. James Bible College, Kiev. It was the first time students in Ukraine were taught the inductive Bible study method. They began with the book of Ester. Precept Ministries became a key partner for St. James. Precept ministries continued sending teachers and the students studied many books of the Bible by this method.



During the course of the following decade dozens of teachers from Precept Ministries came to Kiev to teach at St. James. Under the guidance of Precept Ministries International the work started then, continues today.

In August, I had the opportunity to meet with Kay Arthur as she visited the Precept Ministry festival held in the town of Bucha, Ukraine.

Kay spoke at the opening of the festival sharing her experiences in 1991 and the joy she felt now as she sees the abundance of people being blessed by inductive Bible study. There were over 500 people attending the festival which ran for 5 days.