

Greetings from Ukraine,

We hope you are now enjoying Spring and the many arrays of color it brings with the fresh blooming trees and flowers. We FINALLY can see the first blossoms on the trees from our windows, though it is still cold, only in the 40's. The heat was turned completely off April 15th and will NOT come back on until Oct. 15th, no matter what.....so we just bundle up!!! Communism was a "wonderful" system.

WOW! WOW! WOW! That is all I can say about our "flying" week home. Sunset had invited us to come back to Lubbock, Texas for Jay Don's 40th Homecoming the week of April 1-4. (Because of always living far away we had never been able to attend Homecoming) We had no idea why the invitation was offered but thought maybe it was because of the 40 years or perhaps a chance to have all the Directors of the International schools present. Anyway we left with great joy and excitement, to get out of the snow for a bit and also be able to go "home". We had NO idea what lay ahead!

We arrived in Lubbock late Monday night and had Tuesday to recover from jet lag. Wednesday evening the Homecoming program started. Nat Cooper gave a wonderful lesson to start things off but Jay Don and I noticed no one from our class was there!

Thursday we had a day full of great lessons and at the lunch break we finally ran into one family from our class, Gill and Mary Peters. Edward and Janice Meyers were also there but they were one class ahead of us.

Friday was another great day of classes and then Friday evening at the banquet we found out why we had been brought home. The banquet itself was to honor Harvie Puitt, long time Minister, Professor, Counselor and friend to so many in the Lubbock area and to also speak about ways to carry the Gospel to Muslim countries. However, on the program there was listed, "Special Presentation". Over 700 people were in attendance and when the meal was finished, Chris Swinford, came up to give a special award. He didn't mention the persons name, but started saying over 40 years ago this person had graduated from Sunset, then went to England, then to Acuff.....we both looked at each other and began to cry. These were the places we had been and it dawned on us this award was for Jay Don! When Chris was finished Jay Don and I were asked to come on the stage where I was presented with a gorgeous bouquet of flowers and Jay Don was given the Cline Paden Gray Eagle Award. It was a very touching and humbling moment as we both felt we haven't done anything to deserve such an honor. However, it was a true joy to be honored by your peers for your life long work and be acknowledged and applauded. Only one other couple, Truitt and Kay Adair, have received this award so we feel we are in great company!



We saw many members from the three churches we preached at in Texas; Wolfforth, Acuff and Cactus Drive in Levelland. Many former campers from White River Youth Camp and the youth group from Sunset were also present and even one couple we knew in Russia. However no one was present from England, Canada or Ukraine!!

My favorite sister (only sister) and her husband were sitting at the table with us and we were so thrilled they were able to be there. My sister had made a "bet" with her husband that Jay Don and I would be the LAST of the 700 to leave! Sure enough we were the last ones to leave along with Chris and Brenda Swinford. Our four children used to ask us EVERY Sunday morning, "Do you guys ALWAYS have to be the last to leave???" I guess we do!! It's just so hard to leave great fellowship. Won't heaven be grand when we never have to leave?

We saw so many dear friends and received so many great hugs that our "cup over flows"! What a wonderful evening and a MEGA, MEGA thank yous to all those that made this possible. God is SOOOOO good!

Saturday morning we had a final lesson and closed by singing, "The Family of God". Jay Don and I could not sing any of the song as the tears just kept flowing. Our hearts were just so full of thanks for Sunset, those who teach and work there and for their never-ending desire and goal to evangelize the world. We have been truly blessed to work with them.

After all the good byes were said we picked up Jay Don's mother and took her out for her birthday. It was such a blessing her birthday fell during this time. We haven't been with her on her birthday for years. She turned 85, is doing very well and loves Grand Court. Jay Don's older sister and niece had planned a lovely lunch at a local tea room and we enjoyed some great family time.



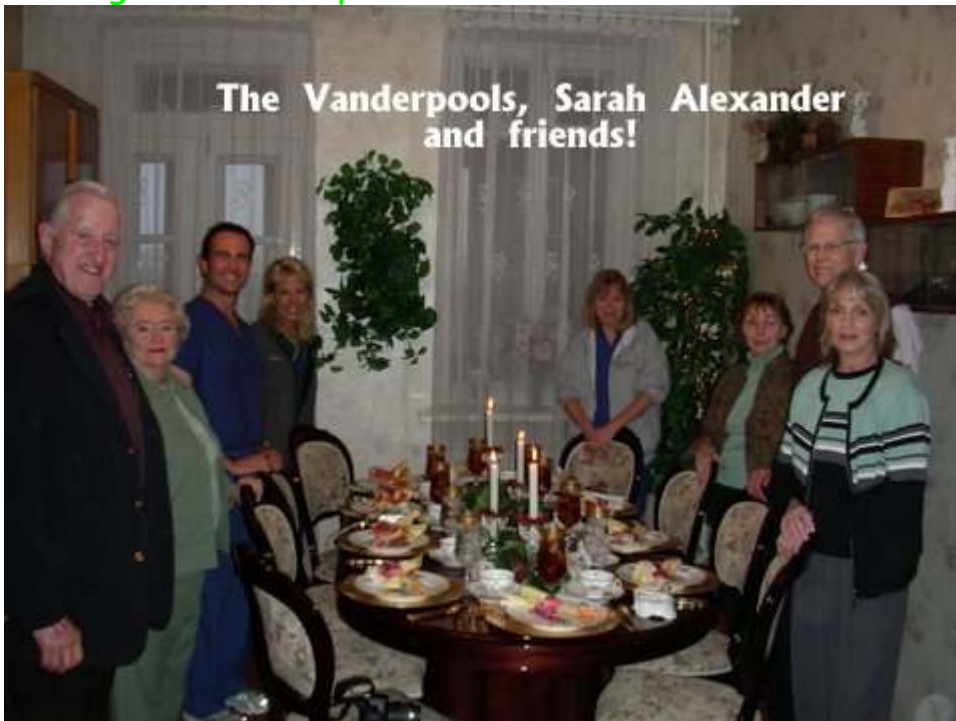
Unbelievably it was time to fly home (we had just adjusted to the time change!) We had a great flight home----just long and tiring. The layovers in Kiev are now 6-7 hours and that is really draining especially in an airport that has nothing!

Finally home, Jay Don had to go straight back to school. I slept and slept and slept!! Jet leg really got me this time!

Before we left for Texas, Robert Waller and Tim Burrow arrived in Donetsk to teach for a 3 week term. We enjoyed having them in our home for a couple of meals and spending time in fellowship with them. We felt our time was cut short with them since we were gone part of the time they were here but they both are very capable of teaching and running the school so we knew things were in good hands. We love these two men soooooooooo much and are so thankful for all they do.



This past week we have been blessed with a visit from Sarah Alexander, David and Margie Vanderpool and five others that came with them from the Dallas, Texas area. The group included two doctors, two nurses, an interior decorator and his wife who had come to do some specialized work in Donetsk. This group had sent over four fetal monitors to be given to hospitals in need. The doctors and nurses were holding classes on how to use the monitors, the interior decorator was helping create plans to remodel an old house into a church building and Sarah and Margie were on a "mission of mercy" to help several orphanages. It is just amazing how many hearts God has touched to be involved in the work in Ukraine. We hosted a dinner for them and had a lovely evening of fellowship.



This past Sunday was Easter Sunday for us. (Orthodox Easter is one week later than our Easter) We had been asked to come out to the village of New Gregory for services. We wanted Laurie and Bruno Marsili to experience this so they came with us. We also invited Daryl and Carolyn Pultz and Linda Landreth who were all in Donetsk teaching Character lessons in one of the Universities. Linda had other plans but Daryl and Carolyn went with us. We also had a translator with us so that made 8 of us counting the driver. He brought the church van to take us all to the village which is two hours away. The van has 3 seats in the front, 3 seats that face backwards in the back plus two hard benches on each side plus one "living room" chair placed in the back of the van!!! This is really different and wouldn't be allowed in the US or Canada but it's Ukraine!!! We all fit in and started the bumpy ride out to the village. Well, about an hour into the trip we stopped and picked up another lady. Ok, we crowded her in on to one of the benches. Then about another 20 minutes we stopped and FOUR more men got in. Somehow, and I really don't know how we all squeezed in. We were truly packed in like sardines!!! We were all very thankful to arrive and unwind out of the van.

Jay Don spoke along with Bruno and Daryl. When Daryl spoke and told a bit of his story I nearly fainted. We had known the Putlz's since Levelland days (1975-1980) but neither of us knew his story. He was a pilot for the air force during the cold war before he became a Christian. His job was to fly a big bomber and be ready to drop an H-bomb if were needed. You will never guess where he flew over~~~~~**Donetsk, Ukraine**. He had a bomb powerful enough to destroy 2 and half million people which would have literally wiped Donetsk off the map had he had to drop it. Thank God he did not ever have to do that and now he is a Christian and comes to Donetsk to teach Character and spread the Gospel. Is not God amazing???



Slavic and four of his men from the Rehabilitation Center were also there. He and three of his men spoke. They all did very well but one of them said something I have to share. This young man was from a good family but he had rebelled and gotten in with the wrong friends. They convinced him to do all kind of evil things and they eventually got him hooked on drugs. He spent years living the "druggie" life and eventually had to serve prison time. When he got out he was wanting to change but got involved with the wrong crowd again and got back on drugs. Later he tried going to the Pentecostal Church for a while but he didn't like it and went back with his old friends. Finally his parents sent him to live with his grandmother and that is where he heard about the rehabilitation center that Slavic runs. His grandmother took him there and **left** him!! He said, "**That** is where I fell in love with God"! I nearly shouted out loud, Thank you God for the people that support our work in Ukraine, for without them, Slavic's Center would not exist."

Another great example of what your generous donations are accomplishing. May God bless you abundantly and keep your hearts open for

the work in Ukraine. Lives are being changed and saved because of you and what you do.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,

Jay Don and Mary Lee