

## *Kiev Mission Trip 2011 Summary*

### Accomplishments of the First Baptist Georgetown Team and the Ukrainian Evangelistic Theological Seminary (UETS) faculty and students:

Sort through storage area/trash pile and relocate salvageable materials to new storage areas in preparation for Root Cellar and new storage building.

Prepare site for the Faculty housing expansion. Remove trees, fence, loading dock, and stairs.

Prep and paint the maintenance building. (120'x36'x10') This building is located on the main street corner leading to the campus and is highly visible. Trim and doors were painted with green enamel, foundation with red enamel and the walls with a latex paint.

Prep and paint the inside of the cafeteria, both pre-existing and additions. The existing walls needed major preparation, fill, texture, taping and priming. The new walls needed priming and masking to protect fixtures, flooring and ceiling. Most of the surfaces required three coats of paint.

Paint brick foundation on the maintenance building, faculty housing, student dorms, and the cafeteria.

Dig and prep the site for the new root cellar. The back hoe was a big help and improvement from last year. Manual labor consisted of squaring the sides and leveling the bottom of the 39'x24'x8' hole. Lay the vertical concrete blocks for the walls. The blocks are pre-cast concrete, 24"x16"x9'. UETS owns a truck with a hydraulic crane which was used to set the blocks. Mortar is applied between the blocks for strength and stability. On top of the blocks we laid pre-cast concrete slabs for the roof which also will double for the floor of the planned storage building. The team poured two concrete slabs, one for floor of the root cellar and one for the floor of the building yet to be built above the root cellar.

Paint chain link fencing and support posts.

Rake and collect leaves. Clean up grounds in preparation for the open house.

The ladies on the team, helped serve meals to the 450 Pastors that came in for a two day conference.

Paint a new UETS sign on the end of the Maintenance Building. UETS has a new logo and the existing signage was an old design and showing its age. This was not on our list of projects, but significantly added to the improved appearance of the campus.

Squared off, and deepened the foundation trenches for the faculty building expansion. Once again the back hoe was of great help. Even with the back hoe, there was significant manual labor in leveling and squaring the 8' deep trenches. This year the team ran into very stubborn orange/yellow clay that literally had to be removed in ¼ inch slices. The same pre cast concrete blocks used in the construction of the root cellar were then set and mortared for the foundation of the four story expansion. The team did not get to finish all five of the foundation walls as the back hoe had to dig the trenches piecemeal as the blocks were laid and back filled.

This year the team conducted a prayer walk on the weekend which included praying over all of the buildings on campus as well as for all of the individual staff members.

### Observations and Items of Interest:

With the completion of the cafeteria expansion began last year, UETS was able to host a 450 pastor conference while we were there. Last years project resulted in the addition of 1665 square feet of dining space, 495 square feet of kitchen space, and 918 square feet of entry/washroom/bathroom space.

On Saturday, 4/9 UETS had the opportunity to show off their new look and building projects by hosting an open house for area pastors and prospective students.

UETS staff and faculty worked side by side on all of these projects. Several team members took the opportunity to develop closer relationships during the off hours via sports and common interests.

The food was vastly improved over the past year. The kitchen staff made a concerted effort to accommodate our tastes and provide a greater variety of food items. We still had a lot of cabbage, pasta and chicken as these are staples in the Ukrainian diet, but it was obvious that the staff really appreciated our presence and efforts.

As we were working on the outside appearance of the campus, we had the opportunity to interact with people walking by the campus. The interaction was very limited due to the language barrier, but it seemed that everyone was good natured and open to our presence and had a genuine interest in what we were doing. Last year most people did not talk or acknowledge our presence.

In the Chapel service we heard several testimonies from the non-resident students about what was happening in their respective countries. UETS has students from many countries in Asia and Europe. Many of these countries (especially the "stans.") are predominately Muslim. We heard of conversions, church plantings, and cooperative efforts to minister. In the Ukraine alone in 1992 there were only 6 Baptist Churches and now there are over 1200 with over 200,000 in attendance. The evangelistic community is planning for the European Soccer Championship in 2012. Four cities will be hosting the games and expect over one million fans and participants during the three week games. Their plan is to pass out tracts, street evangelism, provide free water, phone charging, operate counseling centers, set up safe fan zones with large screen TV's, host soccer camps, and set up special programs at orphanages.

Safety in the work place is not a terribly high priority in the Ukraine. Your prayers were answered in that no one was injured, other than the normal blisters and minor abrasions. When you take into account the types of work that we were engaged in, this is a minor miracle.