

# Olive Branch International

Humanitarian Service to the International Military Community

Over **15** Years of Service

## The Messenger

December 2011

### Read about Bogdan, "V", and Galina

#### A Message from the President... Bruce Kittleson

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayer, encouragement, and financial support for Olive Branch International this year. We continue to be very active in the countries of the former Soviet Union, west Africa and Haiti, still recovering after the earthquake. We are looking forward to another very active year and we hope to be available for wherever the Lord wants us to go in 2012.



Take a look at the testimonies from each of the programs in this Messenger. It is not an exaggeration, "**Olive Branch changes lives.**"

Please consider us as you make your year end gifts in the next week. We need \$10,000 at the end of 2011 so that program directors are immediately available for potential programs in Africa and Asia this spring. Details are still being worked out and depend also on funding. Go to our website for the convenience of online giving through [Give Direct](#).



#### Olive Branch Ukraine Re- Visits USA

Colonel (Ret) Valentyn Korenevych and LTC(Ret) Nicholai Dudko, Armed Forces of Ukraine visited cadets and chaplains at West Point in early November reporting on their ministry to Ukrainian military personnel and their families.



Valentyn briefing West Point chaplains

Valentyn is the dean of the Chaplains' Curriculum at Kiev Theological Seminary and Nicholai is the head hospital chaplain in Cherkasy.

Besides West Point they made ten other presentations in cities around the country. They reported on several programs:



Valentyn and Nicholai with Cadets, West Point, NY

that the hospital chaplains share their faith with over a thousand people per year, the military wives/women's ministry now has 15 chapters throughout Ukraine, there are 30 chaplains candidates in the four-year program at the seminary, and during the ten years of English Camp for teenagers from military families we have now gone over 1,000 teens in this Bible and English camp.

**Bogdan** is one chaplain candidate in his third year, who has started ministering in the prisons in the eastern Ukrainian city of

Donetsk. Donetsk is a prison industry town like Leavenworth, KS and the chief warden has given Bogdan access to any prison and any person he wants to meet with. In one of those prisons Bogdan leads a special Bible study for six Messianic Jews.

## Chaplains Training in Sierra Leone & Liberia

Mike Weiss was involved in training chaplains with both Olive Branch International (OBI) and the International Association of Evangelical Chaplains (IAEC) in Sierra Leone and Liberia.



Weiss with chaplains in Sierra Leone

After the training in Liberia, there was fighting in a province of Liberia. The Commander of the Police had heard about the training the chaplains had received and summoned the newly trained chaplains

to go to the province to meet with the two sides to negotiate and calm things down. The chaplains did go and were successful in resolving the conflicts using some of the training they had been provided. Talk about being put to the test!



## Military Family Programs in Ukraine Thriving

**English Camp** In July, Olive Branch International, Olive Branch Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Military Fellowship held an English Camp for 75 teenagers from Ukrainian military families. The English/Bible camp is held in an old Pioneer Camp from Soviet days near Chernigiv on the Russian border. It is a week-long full immersion program for teenagers who are taught English in the schools but rarely have the chance to talk with an English speaker. We teach English but also teach Bible



during the week and develop many deep friendships. There is usually a strong response to the lessons presented and to the relationships that are made and nurtured. Follow-up is difficult since teens are scattered all over Ukraine. Bruce stayed a couple weeks after the American team went home and was in the apartment of the Ukrainian director of the program when one of the fathers called. His daughter was a "wild child" and almost uncontrollable at home. He called to thank Valentyn for the summer camp because "V" came home completely changed. "She is different." We heard that she has now enrolled in a Christian school to continue her education.

**Women's Program** OBI launched a ministry for Ukrainian military wives and military women in 2007. There are now 15 chapters. More leadership training took place at a conference in February, 2011. **Galina** attended and is active with Club Ruth at a military base near Kiev. This is her story:



US delegates & Club Ruth

*"When I believed in God I felt a great joy. I loved everyone and I wanted all people to know the God. Most of all I wanted my husband to believe in God. But I had to go through a big test. My husband made me a condition that I choose between the God or him. I answered: "The God is the first and you are behind him. It's not so bad to be the second after the God!" I think that my husband liked the answer and after that he respected my faith. But the devil keeps his eyes open. My husband did not like the changes in me because I avoided to do make up and to over-dress. I lost interest in parties and visited mostly the Christian meetings.*

*Then he liked another woman who matched his "ideal". My husband told me about that and demanded I leave him and to move to my mother's house. But according to the pastor's advice I didn't move though I wanted to do it much. Then my husband said, "I'll leave!" At that time the God gave me strength to reply "I do not demand you to leave. He asked: "You mean that you can forgive me?" I replied, "The God teaches us to forgive".*

*So my husband stayed at home with me. We saved the family and after several years the third son was born. My husband tries to be a good father and husband but without the God he has some difficulties. I hope that my husband will become a believer and he will say in future: "I and my house we will serve the Lord".*