

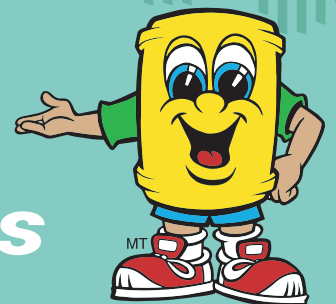


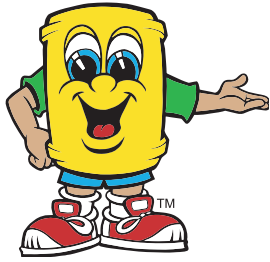
**Boys & Girls
Missionary Challenge**

**Missions Education
Curriculum**

UKRAINE

missions lessons for kids





Buddy Presents: **UKRAINE**

Quick Facts

Location: Ukraine is in eastern Europe and shares a border with Russia. It was once part of the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) along with Russia and other neighbors.

The Land: Most of Ukraine's land is flat. Mountains lie on the western border and on the southern coast. In the north are swamps and forests. In the south you will find fewer trees and more grass. Rivers flow through the land, and there are about 3,000 small lakes.

Weather: Ukraine's weather is similar to the northern United States—long, cold winters and warm, short summers.

Population*: 43.75 million

Capital City*: Kyiv (*pronounced keev*) (2.9 million)

People Groups*: Ukrainian (78%), Russian (17%), other

Languages*: Ukrainian (official), Russian and other

Religions*: Eastern Orthodox (65%), Ukrainian Greek Catholic (6%), Roman Catholic (1%), Protestant (2%), Muslim (1%), unaffiliated (16%), other Christian (7%).

Assemblies of God Facts: At the time of this printing, there are 20 Assemblies of God missionaries associated with Ukraine. Due to current affairs, the missionaries have been removed from the area.



*Information compiled from the [CIA World Factbook](#)

Anastasiya

Anastasiya, or Anya for short, lives in the city of Lviv (*le-VEEV*). It's an old city, with historical buildings and many old castles, and it's the largest city in western Ukraine.

Anya's family is small, with just her mother and her older brother, Ivan. Like many families in Ukraine, her parents are divorced. Her mother works in a factory.

City Life

In the cities and towns, many people work in factories or run businesses. Many people in the cities speak Russian instead of Ukrainian. They enjoy going to operas, the theater, and ballet.

In the cities, families are small, often with only one or two kids. Anya and her brother will go to school until age 15. After school, they enjoy watching TV or going to the park. Ivan loves to play soccer with his friends.



Farm Life

Anya's uncle and cousins live on a farm near a small village in the western part of the country. In the country, many families are much larger than those in the city. Some have ten kids or more! After school, Anya's cousins have to help with the farm work.

The land in Ukraine is rich and produces a lot of grains, vegetables, and fruits. Anya's uncle also raises cattle, pigs, sheep, and goats.



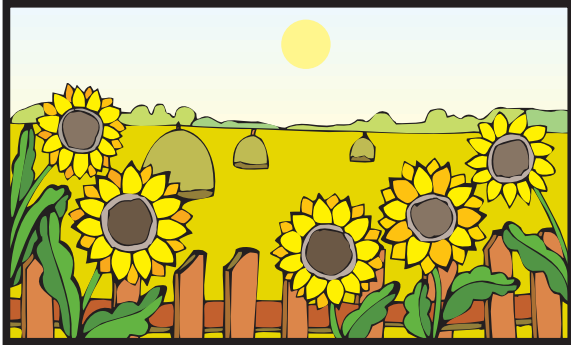
Chocolate Art!

The city of Lviv is well known for its chocolate and coffee. A walk through the streets brings the delicious aroma of freshly brewed coffee, and chocolate shops are everywhere. In many shops, chocolate becomes a work of art. Anya often presses her face against the shop windows to see what new creations have been made.



Sunflowers Everywhere

The sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine and is a symbol of hope and resistance. Sunflower seeds are a favorite snack, and the oil from the seeds is used in cooking. The large yellow flowers can be found growing in vast fields and in private yards. Women weave images of sunflowers into the clothing they wear for celebrations.



Bread & Borsch

A common phrase in Ukraine is *khleb svyatoi, borsch svyatoi*, which means, “bread and borsch are holy.” Borsch is a soup made from beets, which may sound odd to people in the U.S., but it is quite delicious.

Ukrainians had suffered starvation several times in the recent past, thus they hold deep feelings toward simple, life-sustaining foods. The phrase reminds them that food is required for life, and it comes from God’s hand.



Ukrainian Hospitality

The people of Ukraine are well known for their hospitality. Visitors are treated like members of the family. When they enter the house, they are given a pair of slippers to wear inside. Shoes are left near the doorstep.

Meat Jelly?

Ukrainians love *kholodets*—a jelly-like dish made from meat broth. It gets its name from *kholod*, which means “cold,” and is traditionally served during winter holidays. It’s usually made from pork, but occasionally it contains three meats—chicken, pork, and beef. Chunks of meat can be seen through the transparent jelly.



Ukrainians Need Jesus

For 70 years, Ukrainians had lived under a Communist government. Christians were not allowed to worship God—but they did anyway. When they were caught, they had to pay a fine. Sometimes pastors and Christians were sent to prison.



Ukraine became a free nation once again in 1990. Believers in Pentecostal churches formed the Ukrainian Union of Pentecostal Christians of Evangelical Faith. They witnessed to their neighbors, and the churches grew.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, Christians in Ukraine have enjoyed religious freedom, prompting Pentecostals to pursue aggressive church planting efforts. When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014, those churches were able to provide aid to the region. Though the sharing of one's faith is severely restricted in Russia, Christians in Ukraine remain firm in their zeal to pray and assist those in need.

Today, most Ukrainians are Christian and belong to the Orthodox church, which is a form of Catholicism. The Orthodox churches had been under the control of the Russian Orthodox Church since 1686, but in 2019, the Orthodox Church of Ukraine broke free from Russia and gained official recognition as a separate entity.

Ukrainian Christians are people of prayer and deep faith, especially during times of trouble and war. At those times, the pews and seats of all Ukrainian churches—whether Catholic, Protestant, or



other—are full. Many people come dressed in blue and yellow, the colors of the Ukrainian flag, to display their patriotism.

AG workers in Ukraine partner with the Pentecostal Union. Some teach at the seminary in Kyiv, where pastors are trained. Others help to plant new churches throughout the country.

Many of the people in the churches are young people and children. Life is not easy for them. Their parents often have a hard time finding jobs, and many are divorced. Families are usually quite poor. Poverty affects over half of the Ukrainian population.



Ukrainian kids often suffer from abuse and violence. Disabled kids are often discriminated against and treated as outcasts. A large number of kids live on the streets and don't attend school. Many are exposed to drug use and disease.

To meet the needs of these kids, AG workers helped start several ministries for kids, including Father's House, where homeless kids are prepared for adoption or for independent living. One worker said, "The history of the Ukraine Church is not just evangelism but meeting the needs of the most desperate in the country."

Little by little, the message of God's love is spreading!

BGMC blesses UKRAINE!

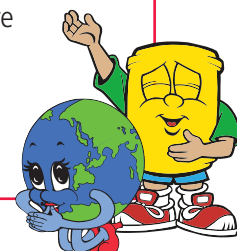
BGMC paid for the Girls Ministry (Missionettes) program to be translated and printed for Ukraine. BGMC has also provided Sunday School curriculum for the churches.

BGMC helps provide textbooks and other library resources for the Bible schools so that many more pastors can be trained to lead the churches.

Thank you, kids, for giving to BGMC and helping the churches in Ukraine!

Let's Pray

- for the disabled kids of Ukraine, that they would know God's love and know that they are valued.
- for the kids who live on the streets, that they would be taken in by loving Christian families.
- for the new churches in Ukraine, that they would grow and reach many more people for Jesus.
- that the Christians in Ukraine would be kept safe from persecution.



Words & Phrases

The official language spoken in Ukraine is Ukrainian. The Ukrainian language uses characters different from the English alphabet, called Cyrillic. The words and phrases given below are transliterated into English characters and divided into syllables to help you with pronunciation. Some Ukrainian words are very similar to English words, as you will see below.

ENGLISH	UKRAINIAN
hello	pry-VIT
Good morning	DO-bro-ho RAN-ku
Good afternoon	DO-bro-ho dnja
Good evening	DO-bro-ho VE-cho-ra
How are you?	jak SPRA-vy
I'm fine, thanks.	DO-bre, DJA-ku-ju
cafe	ka-FE
restaurant	re-sto-RAN
supermarket	su-per-MAR-ket
bus	au-TO-bus
tramway	tram-VAJ
taxi	ta-KSI

Kids' Games

You'll find many similarities among the games of different countries. No matter where they're from, kids enjoy the same types of games. If you have time, try these games in class.

Blind Cat

One kid is chosen to be the "cat," another is the "mouse." The cat covers his eyes with a black handkerchief and has to find the other players and guess which one is the mouse. When the mouse is found, he becomes the next blind cat.

Dragon

All the kids make a chain by putting their hands on the next person's shoulders. The one at the front is the head of the dragon, and the last one is the tail. The chain of kids starts running, and the head tries to catch the tail.

Old Woman Kutsia

One kid is blindfolded and turned around so that he loses his bearings. The other kids then clap their hands and chant the name of the blindfolded person while he tries to catch one of them. Whoever is caught is the next to be blindfolded.

Ivana Kupala

Ivana Kupala is a holiday on July 7. People enjoy traditional songs and dances. Girls pick flowers and set them afloat on a river. It's said that if the flowers go down the river, she will get married. If the flowers come back to the girl, she won't marry anytime soon.

True Missions Story

If desired, you can print these pages and give to the kids as take-home papers. At the end of this story, you'll find illustrations that you can hand out as coloring pages.

Psalm 91, Guys! Psalm 91!



Picture 1

Picture 1

After twenty years of ministry in other lands, God led the family of Glen and Peggy Gray to Ukraine. They were the first Assemblies of God missionaries to reside in this former Communist country. As academic dean, Glen was correlating and organizing studies at the Ukraine Assemblies of God Bible School located in the capital city of Kiev.

The Grays arrived in August 1993, excited about helping to train pastors and leaders for the growing Pentecostal churches.

Weeks later, after many discouragements, including not being able to find housing (the four of them were living in one room with no cooking facilities) and visa delays, they decided to take a break. With their students, they attended a Christian youth music festival celebrated by the Ukrainian church. Young people from all over the country displayed their talents in worshipping the Lord.

As the Grays were leaving the festival, a visiting pastor from the States followed them to the car. Sensing their discouragement, he prayed for their housing needs. Then before he left, he shook his finger at Glen and Peggy and said, "Psalm 91, guys! Psalm 91 is your cover!"

"What does that beautiful psalm have to do with our housing needs?" their teenage daughter Charlene asked.



Picture 2

Picture 2

About fifteen minutes later Peggy, daughter Charlene, and son Shawn were sitting in their Speed the Light car outside a hotel. Glen had gone inside to exchange dollars into local currency. Peggy and the children were talking and "people watching" when all of a sudden Charlene yelled, "Mom, that guy has a gun!"

As Peggy looked, she saw not one but many men with guns surrounding them and other cars, as well as a large tourist bus. Peggy screamed for the kids to hit the floor of the car.

They got down as far as possible, and Peggy told them to pray that their dad would not walk out into this major robbery. Minutes seemed like hours as they cried out to God. Once Peggy peeked up and saw a man standing directly in front of the car, waving his gun wildly. He looked right at Peggy, so she quickly flattened herself down behind the driver's seat again and prayed. The man never came to their new Speed the Light car—an obvious target!

Peggy had an overwhelming sense of being covered. In the short time she'd looked up, she'd seen men with guns beating people. Other victims lay bleeding on the ground.

Meanwhile, when Glen tried to leave the hotel, he was almost knocked down by three of the bandits who were attempting to escape by racing into the hotel. He paused at the door, horrified to see men struggling with the armed robbers.

In a few minutes, he was able to race to the car, where he was relieved to find his family safe. Quickly he drove them away.

They returned to the center where they were staying. George Dawidiuk, a Ukrainian-American evangelist, prayed with them. Then, without knowing of the previous pastor's prayer, he too shook his finger at them and said, "Hey, guys! Psalm 91! Psalm 91 is your cover!"

"Mom, that's what the other man said!" Charlene exclaimed.



Picture 3

Picture 3

They went quickly to their room, opened their Bibles, and read together, "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day (or bullets?), nor the plague that destroys at midday.

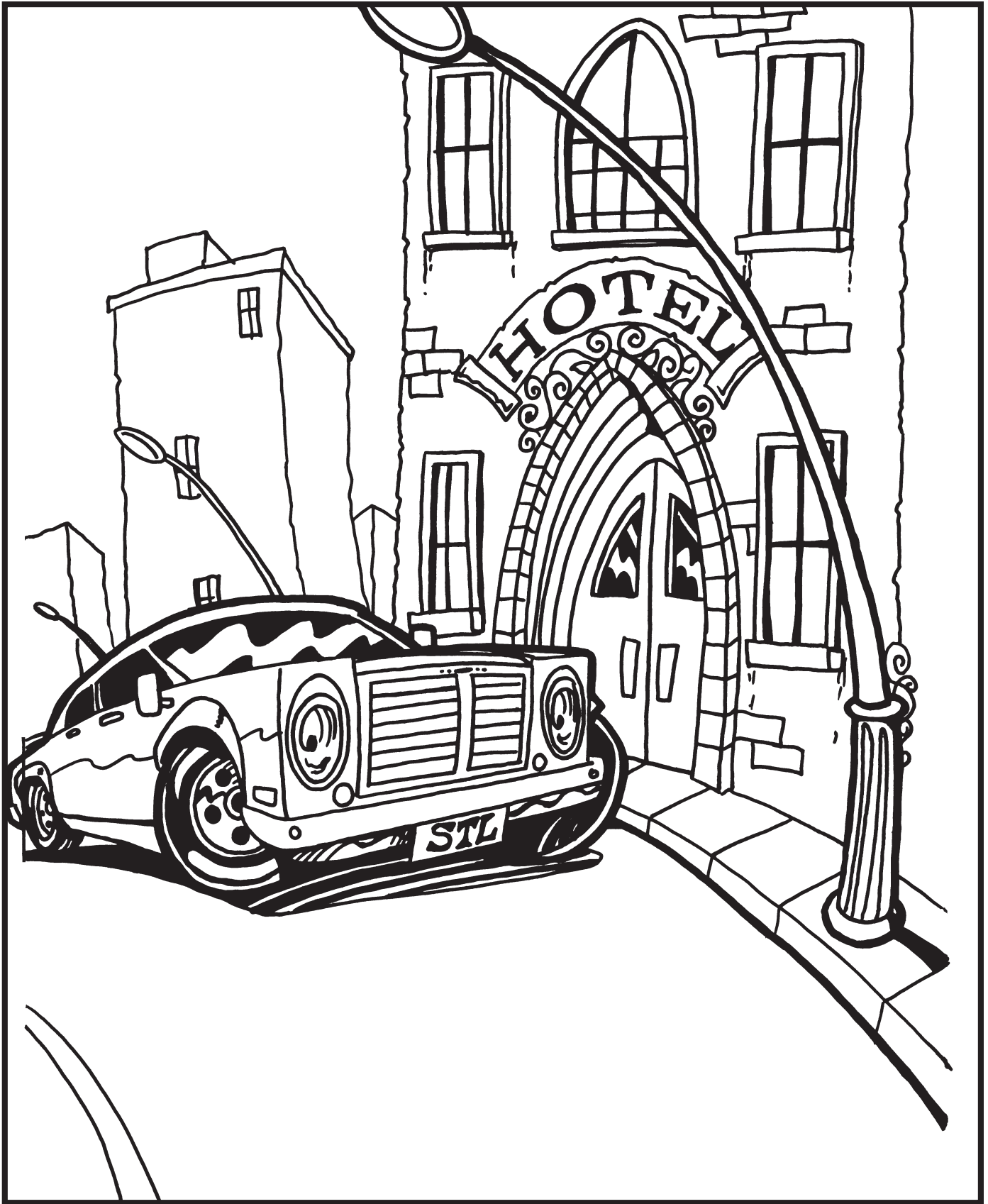
"A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the Lord, who is my refuge—then no harm will come near your tent (or car?)," Psalm 91:4-10, NIV.

Verses 14-16 are the Grays' family slogan now! Whenever shaky conditions make them nervous, they look at each other and say as a family, "Psalm 91, guys! Psalm 91!"

The information from this story came from Mountain Movers and is used with permission from the Assemblies of God World Missions.



*After twenty years of ministry in other lands,
God led the family of Glen and Peggy Gray to Ukraine.*



Peggy and the children were talking and “people watching” when all of a sudden Charlene yelled, “Mom, that guy has a gun!”



They went quickly to their room, opened their Bibles, and read together, "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge."







Winnie the World Skit

Winnie the World provides facts about the different countries of the world. She knows what each country is like, where it is located, and how the people live. For this skit, use the Winnie puppet or print out the Winnie picture onto card stock and attach to a craft stick to create a stick puppet.

Winnie the World Loves Ukraine



- WINNIE:** *(She enters with a clothespin on her nose and singing her song to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush.")* Here we go 'round this great big world, this great big world, this great big world. Here we go 'round this great big world, telling people 'bout Jesus. Hi, everyone.
- INTERVIEWER:** Hi, Winnie. Your voice sounds really funny. Why do you have that clothespin on your nose? Does something stink?
- WINNIE:** I'm wearing this clothespin because the country I'm going to talk about today has lots of air and water pollution and it's hard to breathe.
- INTERVIEWER:** What country has so much pollution?
- WINNIE:** The country is Ukraine. Ukraine is located in Eastern Europe.
- INTERVIEWER:** Winnie, let me take that clothespin off for you so you can talk easier. *(Remove the clothespin.)* Why does the country have so much pollution?
- WINNIE:** Ukraine has lots of factories built by the Soviet Union. There are also nuclear power plants. In 1986, there was an explosion at one of these—Chernobyl.
- INTERVIEWER:** I remember hearing about that. The explosion sent out dangerous radioactive particles.
- WINNIE:** As a result, a lot of farmland was ruined. The radioactivity has also caused health problems, especially for children in the area. It even affected the food supply.
- INTERVIEWER:** What is being done to reach the people and the children in Ukraine with the gospel?
- WINNIE:** For many, many years, the people living in Ukraine could not worship God. The government told the people that God was dead. Children grew up not knowing anything about God.

INTERVIEWER: When did all this change?

WINNIE: The Soviet Union fell apart in 1989, and Christians began to publicly worship God again. They were also allowed to tell others about Jesus and open new churches.

INTERVIEWER: That's great news, Winnie! It's always exciting to hear about countries that can once again hear the good news that Jesus died on the cross for their sins. Tell us what is happening with the children.

WINNIE: Lot's of kids are hearing about Jesus for the first time in their lives. The Girls Ministries program is also being translated into Ukrainian. Lots of girls are learning to live for God.

INTERVIEWER: Has BGMC helped in the Ukraine?

WINNIE: Oh yes. BGMC has been a BIG help! BGMC paid for the Girls Ministries program to be translated and printed. BGMC also pays for the Sunday School materials. Thank you, boys and girls, for helping to reach the children in Ukraine.

INTERVIEWER: Winnie, the kids here in America don't realize how fortunate they are that they can go to church, own their own Bibles, and learn about God any time they want to. Many children around the world have never heard about Jesus.

WINNIE: That's why it is so exciting to hear that the people of Ukraine want their children to learn about God. Men and women are being trained to teach Sunday School just so they can teach the children about God.

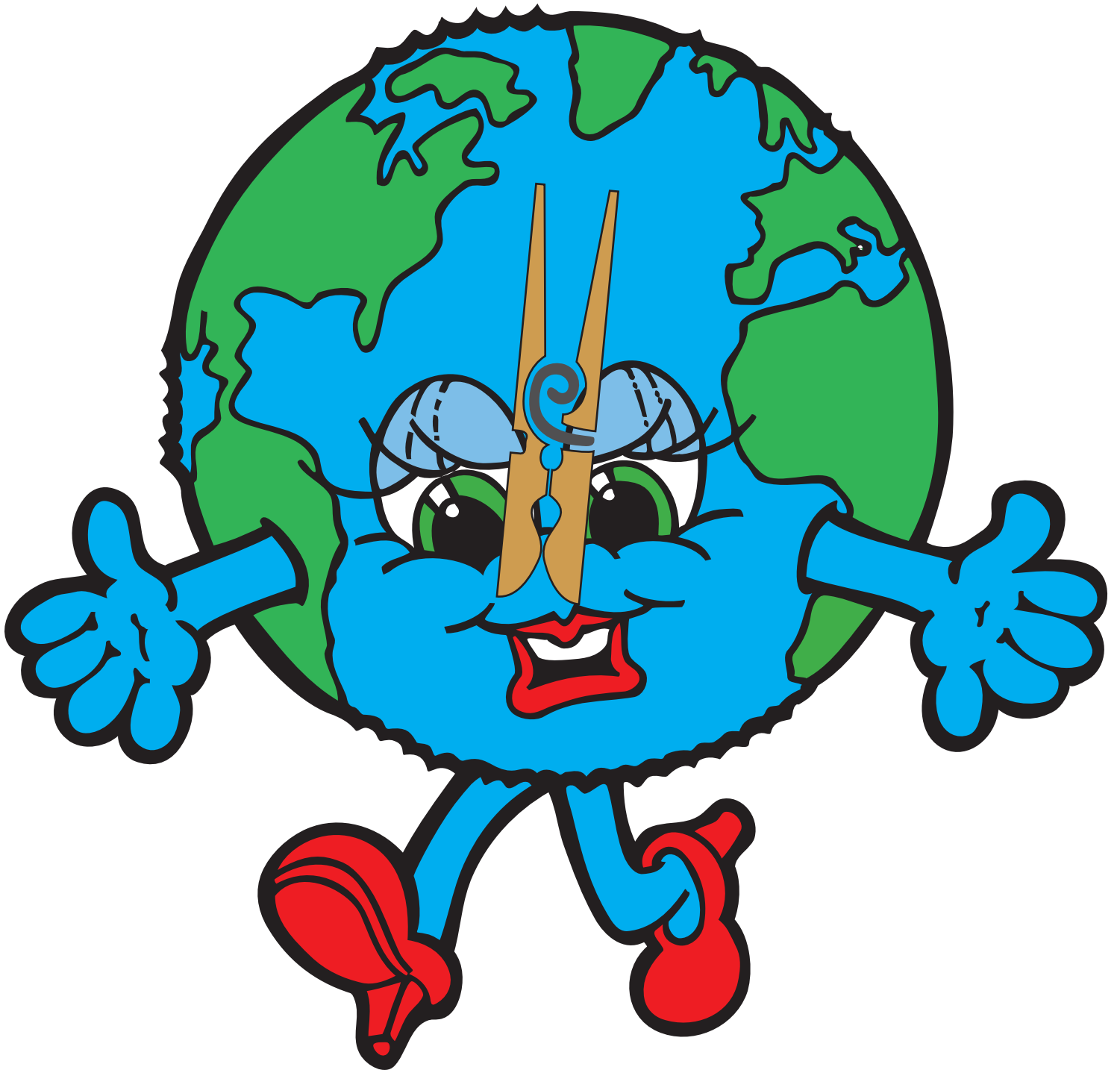
INTERVIEWER: I'm so glad the kids here in America are willing to help reach the children of the world by giving to BGMC. Thank you for coming today, Winnie, and telling us about how the children of Ukraine are being reached with the gospel. Good-bye.

WINNIE: Good-bye, everyone. Remember to pray for all the children in the world. Sing with me as I go. *(She exits singing her song.)* Here we go 'round this great big world, this great big world, this great big world. Here we go 'round this great big world, telling people 'bout Jesus.



**Click here to order
a Winnie puppet**





Speedy D. Light Skit

Speedy D. Light represents the Speed the Light missions program for teenagers. Teens raise money to buy vehicles and other equipment for missionaries. These vehicles are often used to transport materials purchased by BGMC. The vehicles take our missionaries wherever they need to go in order to reach the lost. For this skit, use the Speedy puppet or print out the Speedy picture onto card stock and attach to a craft stick to create a stick puppet.



(As the skit begins, Speedy comes racing from behind stage. Screeching car brakes are heard and up pops Speedy. He has a Spanish accent and talks very fast. He hardly stops for a breath. When he gets too excited, he beeps. His catchy key line is, "I am so excited! Beep! Beep!")

Hi, boys and girls! Let me tell you what happened to one of our missionaries in Ukraine. One night, they heard a knock on the door. They had been told never to open the door to anyone they didn't know, so they waited quietly, hoping the knocking would stop and the person would go away. *I am so excited! Beep! Beep!*

But the knocking became a loud banging! Not wanting to wake his two daughters, the missionary decided to answer the door while his wife went to the back room to pray. The missionary looked through the peephole and saw not one, not two, but a whole group of policemen. The policemen took him outside and showed him that someone had tried to steal his Speed the Light vehicle! *I am so excited! Beep! Beep!*

The missionary went to the police station to file a report, then he returned home. The incident made him remember why he had come to Ukraine—because the people needed to hear about Jesus. They were there to teach pastors and church workers God's Word so that they could reach others. *I am so excited! Beep! Beep!*

Thank God the robbers were not able to steal his car! That Speed the Light car was used to help him as he taught at the Bible school and at the churches. And thank God that it was policemen at his door and not someone bringing trouble. God kept them safe that night. *I am so excited! Beep! Beep!*

God heard the missionary's prayers, and He hears your prayers too. So don't forget to pray for our missionaries! You might not know what they need, but God does! Well, I need to go now. Keep giving to BGMC! *I am so excited! Beep! Beep!*

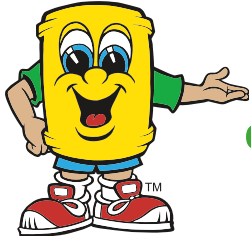
(He races off, and the sound of squealing tires is heard.)



**Click here to order
a Speedy puppet**







danke köszönjük grazie 谢谢 ขอบคุณ teşekkür ederim
شكرا merci Σας ευχαριστ takk bedankt
obrigado tack Спаси́бо धन्यवाद ありがとう kiitos
gracias thank you terima kasih
고마워요

Dear Boys & Girls:

Hello to you from the Ukraine!

We want to thank you for your special gifts to BGMC. Because of your giving, we were able to have a children's medical crusade here. We helped around 160 children, many of whom have no money to pay for the nice doctors, medicines, or other treatments like what we have in the United States.

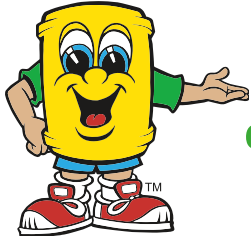
We pull a big, white trailer with a pharmacy (a place to give out medicines), a laboratory (where they take your blood to make sure you're not sick), and a cardiogram machine (to check your heart). While the kids and parents are waiting to see the doctors, they watch a puppet show and films that tell them about Jesus and His wonderful salvation. They leave the clinic with children's Bibles or other books in their hands.

Thanks so much for your help in giving to BGMC for these children in the Ukraine. I hope someday you will meet one another in heaven, and they will tell you about the difference Jesus has made in their lives.

God bless you richly,

Nancy Wespetal, Mark & Holly Brantley, and the rest of the Ukrainian medical team





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شكرا merci Σας ευχαριστ takk bedankt
obrigado tack Спасибо धन्यवाद ありがとう kiitos
gracias **thank you** terima kasih
고마워요

Dear Boys & Girls:

Greetings from the sunny side of the world in Kyiv, Ukraine.

We have just learned that we will be receiving \$1,400 because of your giving! Let me say a big “Thank you!”

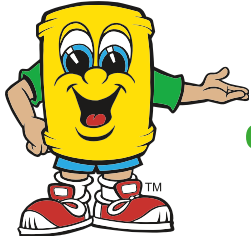
In Ukraine, many people have not had the opportunity to read a Bible or to study books that help them serve God. Because of your gift to missions, we will be able to buy many books about God, Jesus, and the Church. We greatly appreciate your sacrifice.

When I think of your gift, I think about the little boy in John 6 who gave his lunch so that Jesus could work a miracle and feed 5,000 people. That’s exactly what God is going to do with your gift. Because you gave, many students will be prepared to tell others about the love of God.

Our prayer is that the sunshine of Jesus’ presence shines on you!

Tom, Jeni, Luke, John, and Jessica Ragsdell
Missionaries to Ukraine





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شكرا merci Σας ευχαριστ takk bedankt
obrigado tack Спасибо धन्यवाद ありがとう kiitos
gracias thank you terima kasih 고마워요

Dear Boys & Girls:

It's spring in Kyiv. Flowers are everywhere. Coats have been retired for the winter. The sun is shining. I know this because I can see it from the basement windows.

My prayer is to leave a firm foundation for the next librarians here. We have an excellent English collection, thanks to BGMC grants. We will be working on acquiring Russian and Ukrainian books this year. Always know that those coins you give add up to the salvation of souls.

The students are so hungry for education here. They seek after the Lord in a marvelous way. I am so happy to be a part of the seminary.

Several of the students have used assignments from classes as teaching helps in their churches. One of our women students preached a sermon from one of her assignments and eleven people were saved. Salvation confessions are followed up closely here. Most of those eleven will stay in church and bring in friends and relatives. They, in turn, will bring in more.

That sermon started from our books, which started from Buddy Barrels. God bless every child, mom, and dad who has participated. It is the gift that will never end.

Please pray that we are able to find all the available Slavic books possible, and that many will be on the shelves the first day of school.

Nancy Donnelly, Librarian
Evangel Theological Seminary
Kiev, Ukraine



POTATO PANCAKES

4 potatoes, grated
1 egg
1 onion, grated
½ c. flour
Salt to taste
Oil for frying

Mix together all the ingredients except the oil. Mixture should be about the consistency of pancake batter. Heat oil in a skillet. Put a spoonful of batter in the hot oil, flatten, and fry until golden brown. Turn over and repeat on other side.

BAKED APPLES

You can adapt this easy recipe for a bigger crowd by increasing the number of apples and other ingredients as needed.

3 medium apples, washed and dried
1 oz. walnuts
2 T. raisins
1½ oz. dried apricots
Cinnamon to taste
Vanilla to taste
1 T. honey
Powdered sugar for serving

Carefully cut out the stem area of the apples, then scoop out the core and seeds with a teaspoon. Leave the bottom intact.

Put the walnuts, raisins, and apricots in a blender and pulse until chopped finely.

Combine the chopped fruit with cinnamon and vanilla to taste. Add the honey and mix well.

Stand the apples in a cake pan and stuff them with the prepared filling. Pour 1/2 cup boiling water into the bottom of the pan. Bake at 350° until cooked through and soft. Do not overcook or they will become mushy.

From time to time during baking, spoon the emerging juice over the apples.

Serve warm, topped with powdered sugar

NOTES

OATMEAL PUDDING

5 c. oatmeal (rolled oats or quick-cook oats)
1 tsp. baking powder
Vanilla sugar to taste (see recipe below)
Pinch salt
1 egg
1 c. milk
3 T. honey
1 peach, cut finely
1 c. raisins
Vegetable oil for greasing

In a mixing bowl, combine the oatmeal, baking powder, vanilla sugar, and salt.

Beat the egg, then mix in the milk and honey. Stir into the oatmeal mixture. Add the peach and raisins.

Grease a baking dish with vegetable oil and pour in the prepared batter. Bake at 350° about 25 minutes. Serve warm or cold.

VANILLA SUGAR

1 vanilla bean
1½ c. granulated sugar

Split the vanilla bean lengthwise and scrape out the seeds. Mix the seeds with ¼ cup of the sugar. Add the remaining sugar and the vanilla pod and mix well, being sure to distribute the vanilla evenly. Cover tightly and store at room temperature indefinitely. The vanilla pod, as well as the seeds, will continue to flavor the sugar over time.

NOTES