



The Hawes Family

Ukraine

Building the Church Through Technology
electronic discipleship, outreach, & training



God's been moving, and so have we

by Jody Hawes

Yes, we are on the move again! If you get our email updates, you may have already heard the news, but we would like to tell you a little more about all the Lord has done.



New Muslim Believers

The first day I arrived in Kharkov, a missionary who lives there told me about a few guys in the city who were from Muslim countries, like Iran. Several of them have accepted Christ as their savior and they are having Bible studies with a few others who are seeking truth. The Lord has been doing something amazing with this small group of guys. I ended up meeting one of them when I was helping with registration. He found out I was a missionary and he was hoping I could help him understand some scripture. He asked me about this passage in Ephesians:

When I think of the wisdom and scope of God's plan, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God. (Ephesians 3:14-19 NLT)



English Outreach

In May, I traveled to New Hope Church in the city of Kharkov, Ukraine with a team of about 20 to help with an English outreach. The city is about 250 miles east of the capital of Kiev. Kharkov is very close to the Russian boarder. We had morning, afternoon and evening classes and we hosted over

200 students from ages 16 to 60+. This chart shows the results of the outreach. But God had more planned for this trip.

English Outreach Results

200+	Participants
130	Attended regularly
61	Completed response form
32	Made decisions for Christ
16	Already believers
22	Interested in Bible study



Now, I will tell you this young man's first language is Persian. He knows Russian and some English. So, I had to try to explain this beautiful passage in my best Russian and the rest in English. We didn't get that far, but it did cause me to begin to pray for all these young men. My heart became burdened for them as they desire to hear God's word in their language and understand it. One of their biggest problems is who will disciple them. The one among them who has been a believer the longest has only been so for 2 years. He struggles to answer questions the others have when he is still learning so much himself. I knew it wasn't appropriate for me to disciple any of them, so I began to ask the Lord if there was some way Andrew could have a part in helping these men. Did God want us to move here and work with these guys?

God at Work in Andrew's Heart

Throughout that trip, I was deeply moved by the people and the city in ways I couldn't explain. I prayed and shared with God how I was feeling. I knew it was crazy to think of moving so far so soon, as we had to be out of our apartment in Kiev by June 20th, but we had been praying for a solution to our housing problems. Things were getting far more expensive than we had financial support. I asked the Lord months ago to make it clear what we should do, since we were facing a possible housing increase of 50%! I knew the rental prices in Kharkov were less than Kiev, but I didn't want to talk to Andrew about moving to Kharkov because I thought he would tell me I was out of my mind. That evening, Andrew and I spoke on the phone. I didn't mention my thoughts to him at first, but he began to share with me a deep need he felt to get more connected with the people. He felt he wasn't getting enough of it in our current situation. He wanted to have a part of his ministry be one-on-one training or discipleship, but he didn't see the opportunities to do that in Kiev. He also felt a bit apprehensive because he knew it would take him out of his "comfort zone" since he isn't quite as social as I am.



"New Hope Church" Our new church home and location of the second eLearning Center eDOT installed.

I began to share with him how I saw God working in Kharkov and how I saw a specific way he could minister here that would be more personal. I held my breath waiting for what he would say. To my surprise, he was intrigued and excited to hear about everything. He shared with me how the new president of Greater Europe Mission was asking the missionaries to focus more on immigrant people groups in Europe and how eDOT has been looking for more ways to serve the Muslim communities with their resources. I couldn't believe it! Could the Lord have been working all these things out ahead of time?

What Would Our Director Think?

I still knew we had to talk with our director, Rich Bonham, about these ideas, so we called him, feeling uneasy about what he might say. We found out, however, he had personally been to

New Hope Church in Kharkov. He knew Pastor Vitaly and had met the missionaries I had stayed with. Rich felt it would be a good move for us. In fact, New Hope Church had been the location of the second computer center ever installed in Ukraine. We thought together, perhaps it could be a place for Andrew to help "pilot" some of the programs eDOT would like to try out? Rich also told us about some of the material eDOT recently developed to help reach Muslim areas of the world for Christ. Perhaps, we might be able to use it to disciple the Muslim guys in Kharkov? It looked like God was providing the direction we needed. We were very excited about everything

we saw God was doing, but we would still have to find an apartment, pack everything and find someone to move us 6 hours away in a couple weeks! Over the next few weeks, we saw the Lord work all these things out for us in wonderful ways.



Isn't it all so amazing how God brought so many details together? We are eagerly waiting to follow God's plans in all of these things.

God is so good!

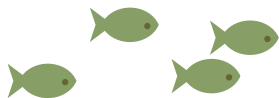
We can end by telling you we are officially moved into our new apartment in Kharkov. We found an apartment to rent for \$200 less than Kiev—Praise the Lord! It is a 5-minute walk from New Hope Church, it is very close to a metro stop, and not too far from a good grocery store. All of these things are very important when you don't have a car.







A view from our church. You can see our apartment building a few hundred yards away.

We are so blessed to be in Kharkov. We look forward to seeing how the Lord will use us to help build His Kingdom. Please pray for protection for our family from the enemy. We sense his attacks more dramatically in our lives when we are on the right path and we ask for your prayers against him. Please pray for the children to find their place here. There aren't many Americans here and we don't want them to feel isolated. Andrew and I need to find a good Russian teacher, too. We know the Lord can provide for all our needs, as He has proven to us all so many times in the past. Thank you all for your prayers! We treasure you all and are so grateful to have this opportunity to serve such a great God!

Thanks for Your Prayers and Support!



Things to be praying about...

-  **Pray for ministry opportunities** in our church and community and also the wisdom to balance them with language study and family.
-  **Thank God for safe move, our new apartment, and new friends.** They have been very helpful in getting us adjusted and settled.
-  **Please pray for spiritual protection** from the enemy over our family. Pray that we will tear down any stronghold we have allowed him to build in our lives.
-  **Pray for our language study.** Pray that Jody and I will find the right people and process for continuing our language learning.

eDOT Connect

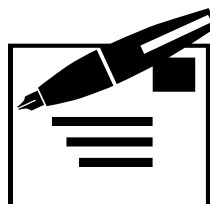
We have included a recent issue of eDOT's monthly newsletter called Connect. We encourage you to sign-up to receive Connect to keep up with all the other things eDOT is doing in Europe. You can sign-up at the following address.



<http://gemedot.com/eNewsletter.asp>

Our New Address

Here is our new mailing address in Ukraine. Simply copy this, cut it out and tape it to your letter or package.



Церковь ЕХБ "Благодать"
Андру и Джоди Хаз
ул.Бакулина 4-Б
Харьков, 61054
Ukraine



"Though Ukraine is now free from Communism, there is still much corruption and suffering. The gospel is Ukraine's only hope for change, and we were honored to take part in offering them hope."

Janet, team member from Cedarbrook Community Church, Clarksburg, Maryland

Connecting in Prayer

- Praise God for a great response to a computer outreach in Kharkov, Ukraine, this month!
- Pray for wisdom in our new relationship with Al-Andalus Theological College in Seville, Spain. We are helping them start a distance-learning program and have our first detailed planning meeting at the end of this month.
- Pray for Sue (pictured at the right) and Andrew (eDOT missionary in Kiev) as they visit eDOT's 17 eLearning Centers in Ukraine this month. Ask God to give them grace and insight so they can help the centers be more effective.

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."
2 Corinthians 5:14,15 (NLT)

A Team Shows Christ's Love in Kiev

Posters placed on fences and personal invitations by church members announced the coming of a team from the U.S. to teach computers at the Birth of Christ Church in Kiev in April. The response was, as always, amazing.



Posters invited Ukrainians to the Birth of Christ Church in Kiev to learn computer skills.

Forty students joined the team of eight from the Washington, D.C., area to crowd around eight desks during two classes each day for a week. Some came curious about America and wanting to practice their English. Others came though they'd never touched a computer, realizing the importance of new job skills. Delight spread across their faces as they experienced

the magic of cut-and-paste and the creativity of developing a colorful graphic design based on Christ's empty tomb or John 3:16.

Often in a classroom setting, students remain strangers to each other and never talk personally with the teachers. But the U.S. team found most of the students open and responsive, perhaps due in part to the many great needs in their lives. One teenage girl was the oldest of 11 children, all of whom lived in one room with their alcoholic parents. She began bringing her younger siblings to the classes; they loved decorating cakes in a computer game but really ate up the hugs and conversations with the teachers! A young man who walked into the class using a cane bore scars of a near-fatal drunk-driving accident. We learned that God had used his brush with death to reclaim his life and heart.

Several students specifically mentioned that they came to upgrade their job skills since computers are becoming more commonplace in Ukraine. But teaching computer skills is not the primary course objective in a computer outreach. The team came to Kiev to show Jesus Christ to a community through their love, service, and words.

At the beginning of the week, one student started openly arguing with the men who gave the gospel talks during class. At the closing ceremony he asked for the microphone and spontaneously expressed his gratitude "not only for the opportunity to learn computers, but also to learn about Jesus."

During the last class the students learned how to do e-mail. Several of the students and their teachers have already found a very positive application: they continue their new friendships - by e-mail, of course.

(article by Janet, a team member from Cedarbrook Community Church, Clarksburg, Maryland)



Sue, the team leader, helps a Ukrainian draw a graphic of Jesus' cross and tomb.