

# John & Jacky Taylor

February 2012

*Dear praying friends,*

“The big freeze” has hit Ukraine. With temperatures in the minus 20’s C, dozens have succumbed to the cold. We can be thankful that (1) we live in the south part of the country on the shores of the Black Sea, where it is not quite as cold, and (2) we have a cozy apartment which in being heated quite nicely by the coal-powered water heating plant less than a kilometer from our building.

From the warmth of our living room I would like to share a report of how God has blessed in the past year, and our plans for 2002. **If you are short on time, just jump down to the “praise and prayer” items at the end.** Will you join us in thanksgiving for God’s goodness, and in prayer that He would bless in the coming year?

## *Ministry description:*

John serves as president of the Church Ministries Institute (Eurasia), in which he leads the administrative committee, oversees academic affairs, teaches, and does the internal accounting for ABWE. He also serves as one of the pastors at the “Hope for People” church in Odessa, serving on the leadership team, preaching, teaching Bible studies, and mentoring younger leaders. He also serves on the Ukraine Leadership Team, assists with the development of the Good Soil Evangelism & Discipleship ministry, works with other theological schools, and is completing a Ph.D. program at TEDS.

Jacky supports John’s ministry, home schools, hosts guests in our home, and assists in the ministry at “Hope for People” (leading a weekly small group for ladies, teaching women, and helping with children’s camps).

## *Highlights of the past year:*

We had the joy of hosting a short-term missions team from Calvary Baptist in Guelph, ON (our sending church), and to see God bring forth much fruit from their ministry. Together, we ran an evangelistic teen camp with our church in Odessa. There had been almost no ministry in our church to teens up until that point. God blessed abundantly. Some of the campers accepted Christ, and our Ukrainian partners caught a vision for evangelism to teens. As a result, we now have a fast-growing youth group, and at least ten are now preparing for baptism. John has been starting to mentor the new youth leader, and some of the leaders have begun studying in the CMI.

The summer team also led to the launching of a small group for women led by Jacky, in which they are studying the book “When People are Big and God is Small.”

Another blessing was the hiring of several new staff for the CMI, including a new dean, and a plan put in place to gradually turn over the leadership of the institute to nationals. The CMI ended the year out of debt for the first time in four years, and we restarted regular classes at our new training center in Odessa (in addition to our other 15 locations across Ukraine and Moldova).

John also enjoyed several teaching and mentoring opportunities, including a wonderful two days at a national pastors’ conference at the Word of Life camp near Kyiv, with close to 100 present.

***Ministry goals for the coming year:***

1. Host a pastors’ trip to Ukraine to enlist committed supporters for our CMI administrators.
2. Begin the process of accreditation for the CMI 2<sup>nd</sup> level (which includes the beginning of a search for a Ukrainian president).
3. Launch the CMI distance program (including the hiring of a Ukrainian coordinator).
4. Begin an evangelistic Bible study in the CMI office
5. Develop and implement guiding principles for our church in Odessa (including church structure, mission and goals, and doctrinal statement).
6. John to complete final Ph.D. course work and both comprehensive exams.
7. Jacky to continue leading a ladies’ small group in our home.
8. Enjoy a six-week family vacation in Canada this summer, and take Jessica and Josh to their respective schools – The past 2 ½ years in Ukraine have been exceptionally busy, and we have only managed one week of vacation thus far, not to mention many seven-day work weeks. We definitely need this time of rest and recuperation!

***Praise God for:***

- His blessing in the CMI – check out [www.cmieurasia.org](http://www.cmieurasia.org) for all of the news! – Better yet, let me know and I will add you to our monthly “U-Can-Do-It” updates.
- providing Jessica with some great friends, a loving church family where she serves as a youth leader, and excellent grades in her second years at Cornerstone University (Grand Rapids, MI)

- - gradual improvement to Jacky's health – the bone infection and related issues are not gone, but are getting better
- - spiritual and numerical growth in our Odessa church, and for raising up new leaders to fill in the huge hole left by the death of our senior pastor, Pyotr Rodoslavov, to cancer in November

***Please pray for:***

- - Jessica as she experiences home sicknesses from time to time (she has not been “home” for over a year) – if you would like to send her a note, her mailing address is:

Box 2585, Cornerstone University  
985 Beltline Ave. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

- Josh as he heads back to Canada in April – he will be looking for a job before he begins studying violin performance at Cedarville University (Ohio) in the Fall
- relief for John's regular migraines and dizziness, which at times affect his ability to leave home
- God's leading, provision, and wisdom as we conduct the various ministries He has given to us in Ukraine (see our ministry description and goals for 2012)
- the “near” completion of the registration process for our family – this process has been extremely complicated, and dragged on for months – we thought we finally had our temporary residency permits last week, only to find it was missing another stamp
- visas for the rest of our Ukraine teammates who are having major difficulties
- strength and healing for Andrew Rozalowsky, who led the summer missions team last year and was hoping to join us with his family as a career missionary – Andrew just learned that he has leukemia, and is undergoing chemotherapy in Guelph, ON

Thank you for your continuing prayers, and “warm” greetings to all!

*John & Jacky, Jessica in Grand Rapids (19), Josh (18), & Joanna (14)*

## Training and assisting church planters in Ukraine

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