



# Noble Out Of Ignoble... ...Want Out Of Plenty

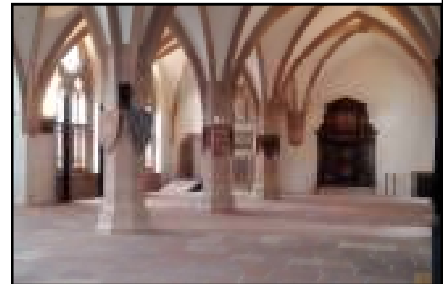
**I**n August I traveled to Germany and Ukraine for the first time along with Bruce Peters, World Reach pastor to our staff. The purpose of our trip was to meet with and encourage World Reach team members in both countries. We also gained perspective on current and potential ministry opportunities.

World Reach staff members Botho and Gisela Heinz live in Haiger, Germany which serves as a base from which Botho engages in an extensive teaching ministry.



FR: Botho and Gisela  
BR: Paul, Meredith (Bruce's daughter) and Bruce

Botho has had the privilege of bringing God's Word to both followers of Christ and unbelievers in Austria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Kenya, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, and the U.S. What a privilege to be an ambassador for Christ! Botho's German citizenship gains him access to some locations that would be more difficult for someone from the U.S. to enter.



Meeting place of Luther and Zwingli

Germany, as the rest of Europe, is steeped in historical castles, conflicts and creeds. We had the privilege to visit Marburg castle and stand in the very hall where Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli met in 1529 to try and unite the reformation movement, but to no avail.



Memorial Plaques

**T**wo things I learned about modern Germany spoke to me of nobility arising out of the ignoble past of the holocaust. First, all over Germany you find small brass plaques with a name, two dates, and where the person was from. The dates were the day the named person was born and the day they died. The plaques are placed at former residences of Jews who perished in concentration camps. The purpose of the plaques is to keep alive the memory and reality of what these real people faced at the hands of evil. The second thing that struck me as noble is the fact that there are only two countries in the world today where a Jewish person can immigrate to with no questions asked— Israel and Germany.



Paul, Andrew and Luba

**F**rom Germany we flew to Kiev, Ukraine and then drove to the city of Sumy in northeastern Ukraine, just a few miles from the border with Russia. Our hosts were World Reach team members Andrew and Luba Bulyhin. Andrew and Luba exude grace. God has given them a fruitful ministry in the lives of

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WORLD REACH

## News from the Whitmores

*"For what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."*

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International students gathered at Andrew and Luba's apartment

many in and around Sumy. We had the privilege of speaking in several churches and at a gathering of international students, encouraging and challenging them from the Word. The students, most of whom are from Africa, are part of an international church plant started by Andrew and Luba.

We also had discussions with two pastors about the possibility of conducting another World Reach Bible Institute there in Sumy. We finished our last institute in Sumy in 2007. Trained leaders are a necessity for healthy local churches. Pray that this possibility can become a reality in



Paul, Pastor Nick and Bruce

the not too distant future.

Several cultural perspectives stood out. Ukraine suffered great persecution under Joseph Stalin when it was a part of the Soviet Union. Stalin systematically starved about seven million Ukrainians even though Ukraine was known as the bread basket of the USSR. Today, they have a saying—under Stalin we had many sugar factories but were want of sugar (it

all went to Moscow), now we have few sugar factories but plenty of sugar. It is also interesting that under Stalin, all the churches in Ukraine were closed. But, in



Bruce, Pastor Michael and Paul

a bit of irony, as the German army came through on their way toward Moscow in WWII, it was the German army that reopened the Ukrainian churches. The suffering of the Ukrainian people has continued even today. A memorial to recent casualties in their ongoing conflict with Russia is a stark reminder of the realities of war.



A memorial to some of those killed in the current conflict with Russia

There is a saying among those who are pastors— you have to be ready to preach, pray or conduct a funeral. I would like to add an item to this. . . SING! Bruce and I were

invited to speak at a church about an hour out of Sumy. Bruce had finished and was followed by a young boy from the congregation who sang a song. I was getting ready to step up to the pulpit when the pastor came over and asked Bruce and I if either of us sang. Bruce immediately pointed at me and said, “Paul does!” So the pastor asked me to sing a song... and I did.

One of the parts of mission trips that I enjoy the most is the journey getting to my destination. I have a saying, “There are no chance encounters, only Divinely arranged appointments.” This trip was no exception. I had the opportunity to have discussions about spiritual matters and share the good news of Christ with two students from China, a young woman visiting her home country of Ukraine, a Ukrainian video game programmer headed to a conference in Germany and a young German woman visiting friends in the U.S. Pray for Constantine, the programmer from Ukraine. By his own admission, he was, “...somewhere between an atheist and an agnostic.” However, he was open to reading the Bible and promised me that he would read the Gospel of John. He even took a picture of the opening pages of John in my Bible. But the highlight of these conversations was meeting Joy, the young woman from Germany, who “joyfully” trusted in Christ at 33,000 feet over the North Atlantic. Pray for Joy, that she will grow in her new relationship with the Savior.



Thanks for your part in advancing the Cause of Christ!