

EDITION 12 - DONETSK

FAMILIES ON THE EDGE



Take a look at
your map at home.
Can you find
Donetsk?

A LETTER FROM THE CHURCH IN DONETSK

POPULATION 1,100,000

Greetings from the church in Donetsk! As Paul said in his letter to the church in Ephesus, “ever since I have heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and your love for all of the saints, I have never stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in all of my prayers.” With hearts overflowing with thanks for your continuing love and support, we write you this letter about our city and our church!

Donetsk is the one of five cities Ukraine where the population is more than 1 million people. It is the biggest Ukrainian industrial center, producing coal, metal and chemical products.

About Us

Many people were dreaming about planting a church in Donetsk years before it happened. Many of them had relatives or friends there. Brothers and sisters came to Donetsk from all over Ukraine and Russia with one purpose: to serve God and work on His mission field. They preached on the streets from early morning to late night, and in the first three weeks invited more than 1,500 people to church! The first official church service was held on August 5, 2001 in the Lenin Palace of Culture with 150 people present. A week later, the first three baptisms took place.

Polina, Ira, and Stas were all baptized in the Adveeka Dam!

The Donetsk region is the most thickly populated region in Ukraine, with over 90% urbanization. This means that there is practically no space between cities. As a result, we have brothers and sisters in Makeevk (6 miles from Donetsk), Hartsisk (25 miles from Donetsk), Enakiev (30 miles from Donetsk), and Dimitrov (43 miles from Donetsk). The biggest house-church is in Hartsisk – with 5 disciples and 3 babies.



City of
Donetsk



Crimea

Donetsk is famous for its Christian University. It is ranked second in all the ex-USSR for its level of education. Many of our disciples have had the privilege to study there, gaining knowledge in theology, service, and preaching. We have also built a valuable friendship with the local Baptist church.

Disciples in Donetsk meet in prayer groups, have worship services, and have a team of people who conduct programs in local orphanages. Every year, we like to travel together on hiking trips in Crimea, Ukraine's southern peninsula.



Our new sister in Christ!



Orphanage program

Good News!

In 2008, 4 new sisters were baptized, and one sister restored! We dream about the salvation of more people in this city of a million. Also, starting in December of 2008, working together with the city government, we started conducting new programs in orphanages in Donetsk.

We are always happy to welcome our brothers and sisters from other cities. May God bless you!

With love in Christ,
Your brothers and sisters from Donetsk
Our site: <http://dcoc.donetsk.ua/>

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

“You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”

2 CORINTHIANS 3: 2-3

DISCUSSION:

Paul wrote many letters to churches in the first century. Do you know which books of the Bible are letters?

Why do you think Paul wrote letters to the churches? How do you feel when someone writes you a letter or note?

ACTIVITY:

For the whole family:

Write a letter about your family in response. You can talk about your church, what you like to do together, your family, or whatever else you would like.

(To send these, contact rebekah.weidner@gmail.com)

CHALLENGE:

Think about somewhere your family would like to visit to support missions. Send them a letter to learn more.

Don't forget to pray for your family in Donetsk!