

EDITION 14 - DNEPROPETROVSK

FAMILIES ON THE EDGE



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

FAITHFUL IN DNEPROPETROVSK

POPULATION 1,100,000

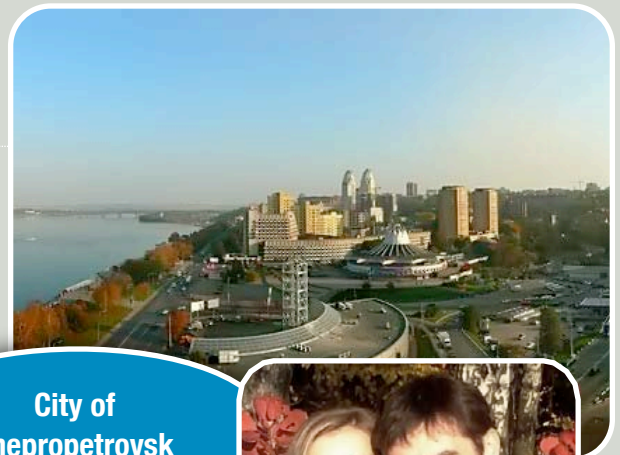
Greetings from your brothers and sisters in Dnepropetrovsk! The church in Dnepropetrovsk was planted in 1997, and our family here now has 62 members, about half married and half single. Over 12 years, five different couples have led the church here, led now by Eugene and Natasha Hill. We have 16 children ranging from 5 months to 15 years old. In 2008, two teens were baptized! Both of them are children of disciples.

Dnepropetrovsk is Ukraine's third largest city, located on the banks of the Dnieper River. Some famous people from here are olympic figure skater Oksana Baiul and Yulia Timoshenko, the current prime minister of Ukraine.

Surrounding cities

We also have disciples in the cities surrounding Dnepropetrovsk: Dneprodzerzhinsk, Krivoy Rog, Zaporizhia, and Pavlograd. All of these cities are located within three hours of us. We try hard to care for these disciples, send them weekly copies of our preaching and lessons, and dream of seeing many baptisms and dynamic house churches in these cities.

In Krivoy Rog, we have two married couples and one sister who all were baptized in Kiev and have returned to live there. These disciples meet together on a weekly basis to hold a worship service. We have sent weekend mission teams there, and about once a month they come meet with us in Dnepropetrovsk. We are always looking for ways to strengthen and encourage the disciples nearby so that they can grow in faith, and in number!



City of
Dnepropetrovsk



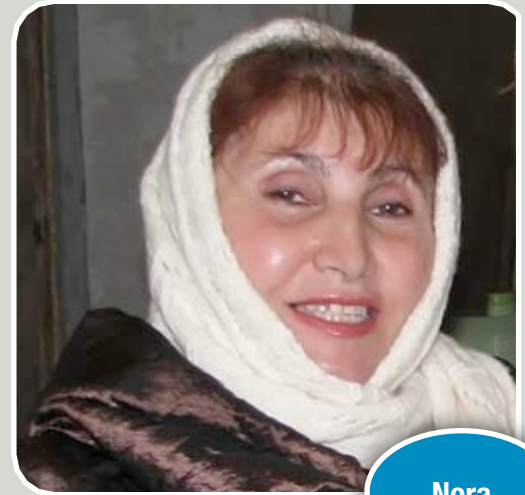
Eugene and
Natasha Hill

STORIES OF FAITH

NORA

Nora is 57 years old. She was baptized almost 8 years ago. She is Armenian, and it can be difficult for her to speak and communicate in Russian. But this absolutely does not stop her from actively sharing her faith with others! Six years ago, she worked in a students dormitory, where she consistently shared with students. Many of them came to the church service, and a few were baptized! One student, Ira, asked Nora if they could clean the dormitory windows. While they were cleaning together, Nora invited Ira to come to church. She decided to come because she saw Nora's strong and kind heart. After some time, Ira was baptized. She is still faithful to God and serves the church in many ways.

The dormitory became unhappy with Nora because she shared her faith so much, and told her they would fire her if she didn't stop. But she kept on inviting students. And regardless of her being loyal and hardworking, she was fired. But she accepted this from God as suffering for Christ. Even after this, she didn't lose her heart for students, and kept on coming to the students' services. Now, Nora dreams about the salvation of her niece, a teen, who is attending services and recently began to study the Bible. *What a great example of faith for us to follow!*



Nora



Yana and her husband Max

YANA

This is a story about how God works in even the most hopeless situations. I had a happy family – my mother, father, me and my sister. But this all changed when my father started drinking. Nothing seemed to be able to help him. In 1999, I was baptized. I would come home and tell my father about God, but he wouldn't listen. In 2002, my parents were divorced and he went to live in a different city. Me and my sister, and later my husband, would travel there to preach to him, but he still refused to listen.

In January of 2006, all of Ukraine was extremely cold and one of father's hands froze. Me and my husband decided to take him in to live with us. After some time, he found good work and was generally happy, but he continued to drink. At the beginning of that summer, my father discovered that he had stage four bone marrow cancer. Soon, he was unable to work, and a little while later, he finally gave up drinking.

My father's condition was getting worse. At one point, a doctor told him that she wondered how he was still alive, walking and sane! Not long after, it became clear that he was finally ready to listen to what the Bible says. Max began to study the Bible with him. He repented and understood he needed to be baptized.

For him, getting baptized was a physically painful effort. He was already very weak, and each step into the pool caused a lot of pain. But thanks be to God, he was baptized! Afterwards, he prayed and thanked God and us. And the next day, he passed away. It was an incredible loss, but what a great victory! We now have the hope of spending eternity with him in heaven, together with God and Christ. *God works powerfully when we put our faith in Him and never give up!*

DISCUSSION:

Read the following scriptures about faith:

MATTHEW 17:20 - 21

MARK 11:24

LUKE 1:37

What did you learn about faith? Prayer? Is there anything that God can't do when we have faith?

ACTIVITY:

Make an "impossible" list - Draw the outline of a mountain. Then, on the mountain write a list of things that you feel like are impossible for God to do for you. Pray for them every day this week. Remember that God answers your prayers with your best in mind, but has the power to move mountains!

CHALLENGE:

Pray to God for a heart full of faith. Watch and see how He answers!

Also, pray for the church in Dnepropetrovsk, that they can grow in their faith and share with more and more people.