

EDITION 18 - BUILDING UP THE KINGDOM

# FAMILIES ON THE EDGE



Kiev  
Church Choir

## “EAT AND BUILD”

**Devotional by Dima and Oksana Lapchenko, Kiev**

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

**Romans 15:13**

**Goal:** To help understand what church meetings are for and why we give money to the church

**You will need:** Fruit (bananas, grapes, apples, etc.) and building blocks for younger children or a deck of cards for older children

**Instructions:** Tell everyone that you are going have family time, and learn about the importance of church services. To start, sing a few songs together. After singing, hand out the fruit and invite everyone to eat. Next, say “We are going to build a house together!” Use the building blocks and joyfully help the children make a house. (For older children, use the deck of cards to build a card tower). Discuss the following questions:

*When we sang, were we filled with joy? When we ate fruit, did it taste good?*

This is just like at a worship service. When we praise God in song, we are filled with joy. Then, when we listen to the lesson we enjoy something tasty and healthy for us - God’s word.

*And when we built a house, did it come together?*

When we give money, we do it help build the church. Only with everyone building together does the church come together. You can help by sharing your love, joy, toys, etc.

When we do all this together, we are a family! We go to church not just to receive (eat), but also to give (build).

*“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

**2 Corinthians 9:7**

## Tigers and Teens in Kiev

In the Kiev church, the teens, preteens (called “tigers”) and parents have their own sector with separate meetings. Right now, the first generation of “kingdom kids” in Kiev are growing up, and many have already made the decision to become disciples and have been baptized!

Like in America, what teens and preteens in the church most look forward to is summer camp. Last year (2008) was the first official teen camp, entitled “Transformers.” The lives of teens from all over Ukraine were changed as they were inspired to make changes for God. Following the camp, many started to study the Bible.

Last summer, the teens also participated in a day camp, where they met every day to spend time and participate in many fun activities, always including a quiet time. A group of teens from Chicago came for a visit and participated in this camp. One of them, Tabby Walquist, said “Meeting the Kiev teens was so inspiring, not only because of the faith they had and how much they enjoyed being with each other, but also because I saw people singing the exact same songs and loving each other the same way as in Chicago--there's a beautiful power to that, I think.”



Teen Camp 2008



## Building Up God's Kingdom by Dima Lapchenko

In 2000, my wife Oksana and I led the teenagers in Kiev. We had a group of about 150, only 2 or 3 of which were children of disciples. Everyone was preparing for the special missions contribution. The goal was to collect 15 times our regular weekly contribution. With the teens, this goal was purely symbolic (as teens don't make a lot of money). But the teens were so inspired they could participate in giving to Ukrainian missions! They started to do odd jobs in different places to earn money for missions. When it came time for the special missions contribution, not a single region was able to meet its goal of 15 times, but the teens raised over 16 times their normal contribution! God is pleased, and blesses us when we decide to build up His Kingdom!

### DISCUSSION:

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

In the Bible, Paul describes the Church as a body - the body of Christ. What part of the body do you think you are? What special talents has God given you? How can you use your talents to build God's Kingdom?

### ACTIVITY:

**For smaller children:** Conduct a talent show where each child and adult uses their unique talents.

**For older children:** Go around the room, sharing about each person in your family - what you think their talents are.

### CHALLENGE:

Together, think of creative way to raise some extra money this week to give to Ukrainian missions (maybe kids can do some extra chores, save their lunch money, etc.) Rejoice in this opportunity to build up God's Kingdom!