

Update 16 - written March 14, 2017

Attract what you expect,

Reflect what you desire,

Become what you respect,

Mirror what you admire

Birthday: 52 just kind quietly crept up on me last month. With my mind occupied on several fronts, I was perfectly content not to celebrate another **year...but my** friends were not. It was a fun day with cards, emails, phone calls, flowers and 4 cakes! My gifts covered the whole spectrum from a lawn chair & camp fire stool (for our upcoming summer camps), to a cup & tea towel, small back pack, handmade picture of flowers made out of ribbons to 3 jars of mushrooms and a nacho/taco dinner complete with homemade salsa! The day left me feeling very loved :)

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

Corrie Ten Boom

Purpose Driven Life study: Sunday I had to confess to the class what I had believed. After church for the past 7 Sundays, a group of between 8 and 15 **people have met to discuss two chapters from Pastor Rick Warren's** book. When it was discovered that I had not printed out enough hand outs yesterday, I was **caught and had to admit, “My actions reflect my belief.** I really thought that after about 4 weeks, that fewer and fewer people would **attend....that the class would kind of just fall a part.** But you are still **here!”** The group of 10 let me know (nicely) that what I thought would happen was wrong. Getting things started on time, facilitating discussion and sharing personal stories have been my role; while the Bible, book and Holy Spirit have been doing the teaching. **I've enjoyed our time together.** But it is more than that. I am deeply grateful to God for all the people He has put in my life over the years to encourage me to push further on in my relationship with God, who have called me upward in my faith walk and for those who had the courage to call my bluff when I said all was great between God & I. They **invested in me....now have the honor** of investing in another.

If your prayers aren't scaring you, they are not scaring the enemy.

Lisa Bevere

English Club: Being an American, my teaching style is quite different than what you would generally find here. I use that to my advantage and so far I **haven't been kicked out!** For example, we always start with a game. I love how it ' **breaks the ice**' and **moves us into a relaxed** atmosphere. Another thing I like to do is let other students help with the teaching. Out of the 6 to 15 that come on Saturdays, there are 3 really high level students who can explain English grammar even so much better than I can. Besides reading, grammar and a little writing, we spend most of our time in conversation discussing opposing topics. For example, we've talked about - Success & Failure; Forgiveness & Revenge; Free & Captive, War & Peace. What does the word mean? What are synonyms for them? And, then I ask them questions like: In your opinion, tell me two things that should be free. In your opinion, who should be held captive? For what/who would you be willing to fight for? What are two things you can do to create peace? The purpose is to get a guided discussion going and then towards the end of our time we read what the Bible has to say about the topic. Ahead are Like me (accept) & Not like me (reject) and Happiness & Sadness. As it comes to mind, please pray for my class. God is always working and oh that He would in their hearts! And, that He would give me His words to speak into their lives.

"He (God) does, however, want to be Lord of your life. Whenever you identify a place where you refuse to allow His worship, that is a place He will go to work.

He is interested in absolute surrender. God may or may not require you to do the very thing you identified, but He will keep working until you are **willing for Him to be Lord of all."**

'Experiencing God' by Blackaby & King"

Lytsk: It has been 15 days since I returned from this trip and I am still not sure what to say. Do I tell you about the trip - the train, blessing of having Era along and our first impressions? Or, about the amazing people I met and the God sized work He has called them to? Should I tell you how the teaching turned out or focus on the patients I saw? Would it be better to write about how, **once I again, I saw God's provision or how the trip called me to** repentance? Where do I start? **I really don't know where to start except to** say the those 4 days changed ministry life as it was and me.

There are volumes of emotions and thoughts inside **and I'm not going to try to share them all now, instead I'll focus on what God is doing in me.** You see I **had a plan...have had it for awhile in fact.** I like things organized, planned out, do-able and known. It was a nice plan I thought because it made sense, felt comfortable and it would make several of those closest to me

happy. However, as innocent as all of this sounds, it was a plan that I had **not and wasn't planning on asking God about.****Now hold that thought and fast forward to my trip to Lytsk...**

I had heard about this center through my friend and colleague Era. Over 10 years ago, I trained her in wound and ostomy care and for as many years she has been a fantastic **instrument of God's through their local church in Berdanysk.** For me, Era was the perfect companion for this trip as she knows Russian, Ukrainian perfectly and is excellent in her knowledge of wound care. When we arrived, Era already knew many of the people (patients and staff) as she has closely followed their ministry via their prayer newsletters. In a sense she met those whom she already knew and she was thrilled. I, on the other hand, had not even googled the Center to learn more about where I was going or getting into. So, for me, what I saw, heard, touched and experienced was huge - a tsunami of information and joy. What I saw there I have never seen or heard of anywhere. The vision God gave the director and his wife (Sergi & Natasha) is impossible to achieve in Ukraine. But, God got it done. The next step of the work God has called them to is also impossible. But, in His timing, God is going to do that too. **Anya, the Center's administrator, described Sergi (director) as, "Moses, Abraham and David all wrapped in one."** and by the end of my trip, I understood and agreed with her.

It's arresting when you realize that the God of the universe has chosen to use you; and, intensely humbling when God allows you to have a glimpse of a so much larger picture. The Center had not planned to work with patients who had pressure ulcers. But since they opened in Sept. 2016 and starting accepting clients in Oct. 2016, they have realized most of patients have at least one pressure ulcer. Precious time is being lost as the staff are having to delay rehab due to existing wounds. I was in my element! Wound care is a gift God has given me and like a fish back in water, it was wonderful to be doing again what I love to do. Within the first few days, the director, nurse and both doctors each told me that I was a direct answer to their prayer. I **wasn't sure what to do with that.** Inside I was mumbling **"But all I did was clean out the garage!"** But God governs our steps and cleaning the garage led to sending boxes, which led to an invitation, which led to 4 days of teaching, which led to an invitation to return, which is leading to becoming involved in another work God is doing 250 miles west of where I live. And, that brings us to the fork in the road.

And June said, "But, I had a plan."

"What about My plans?" God answered.

In the past 15 days there has been a lot of prayer, time to think and a chance to talk with my team leader as well as my area leader. I believe I am being invited by God to include the AGAPE Rehab Center into my ministry. And, if so there is a HUGE adjudgment that needs to be made as it is like trying to fit an elephant on my saucer sized **'life as it has been.'** And, as much as I would **love to know where this is all going and how it will play out....I don't.** I only know the first and second step.

"Ummmmm this is hard...really hard. But, Lord help me lay my plan at your feet and say **' Yes, Lord.'** And, **Lord, thank you for loving me enough to not let** me keep on the way I was. A part of me is dying (to self) and it hurts but thank you for calling me on this. God help me to want Your will most of all."

The second step is that I will leave again for Lytsk this coming Sunday night returning Saturday afternoon. The goal of this trip will be to follow up on the most serious patient I saw, continue teaching the medical staff about wound care and to discuss what other needs they have that I could help with. As you are led, please pray for my obedience. June

Some of the greatest battles will be fought in the silent chambers of your own soul.

Ezra Taft Bensen



One of 4 cakes I received on my birthday.

Friends who gathered to celebrate with me that evening.





Special Needs Birthday party - celebrating those kids who had a birthday during the fall and winter. A mid-morning tea just for us on March 8th - **Women's Day**. From left to right - Bethany Malone, Jamie, myself,

Sveta, Loretta (Chris **Malone's mother**) and Mary Malone. **Chris Malone** went to a lot of effort to make the day very special!



From left to right - Sergi - Director of AGAPE, Era (my colleague from Berdansk), **Natasha (Sergi's wife)**, **Sveta** (Rehab teacher at AGAPE), Carrie (American rehab specialist from the USA) and me.

This is a short article and some photos of our visit to AGAPE.

<https://www.agapeukraine.com/training-for-healthcare-22-02-17>

This is the website of AGAPE in English

<https://www.agapeukraine.com/main->