



*In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your **partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now....*

*Phil. 1:4-5*

**Praise Reports:**

- Timely encouragements
- Financial provision
- Prayer partners added

**Prayer Requests:**

- Maintain godly priorities in our *walk* and our *work*.
- Sale of our house; a home for our beagle, Cedar.
- Continuing wisdom and creativity in support discovery.
- Upcoming training: Our Member Orientation Program at **SEND** on July 7-18.

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## Discovering *Less* and *More* Than We Expected!

Welcome to our first *Benge Bulletin*—the newsletter that takes you behind the scenes and into the lives of a missionary appointee couple. After being appointed by SEND International on March 3 of this year, our first assignment was Support Discovery, identifying prayer and financial partners to join us in the mission to which God has called us in Ukraine.

If you are “right-brained” like Jerry is, that task is very simple. Contact friends, families and churches and wait for the support to roll in. We soon *discovered otherwise*.

First we discovered *less* than we expected. We found out that many friends and churches with whom we have had relationships over the years simply were not in a position to help due to the current economic situation. For others, their abil-

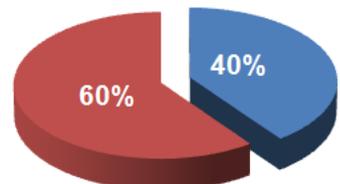
ity was affected by previous commitments to kingdom opportunities (a very good thing by the way!) Nevertheless, *that* discovery was both surprising—and discouraging.

But it set the stage for the next lesson: Discovering *more* than we ever expected—like the couple from our pastorate in Muncie, Indiana whom we had led to Christ and discipled several years ago. They sent us a generous gift for outgoing expenses—and monthly support of \$100!! But most exciting was learning that 16 years later, they are continuing as a military couple in Okinawa to do the same thing we did with them years before. They are evangelizing and discipling U.S. servicemen and Japanese citizens. Through Support Discovery, the biggest lesson God has taught us is His faithfulness— not only in providing our needs, but in continuing the work He has begun (Phil. 1:6).

### Ukraine in Brief

- Area: 233,090 sq. miles (slightly smaller than the state of Texas). 
- Population: 47, 110,000 (Third largest in Europe)
- Language: Primarily Ukrainian & Russian; Also Polish, Romanian and Hungarian.

### Monthly Funding Update



Monthly expenses: \$7261

Outgoing expenses: \$48,000

*Note: Any monthly support given prior to our departure will be allocated toward our outgoing (travel and start up) expenses.*

### Church Itinerary

- June 29: Holt Baptist Holt, MI
- July 13: Bethel Baptist St. Clair Shores, MI
- July 20: Lakeshore Baptist Grand Haven, MI
- July 27: Trinity Baptist Muncie, IN

Jerry and Kellie in Kiev

April 2007



### Housekeeping

Help us be good stewards of God’s resources by allowing us to send these newsletters via email (if possible). Just send your email address to [jwbenge@aol.com](mailto:jwbenge@aol.com) and we will add you to our online mailing list.

