



## “Ukraine Church Planting”

If you had told me that my first impression of the Ukraine would be of a group of naked men beating each other with a bunch of silver birch branches in a *banya* (Ukrainian sauna), I would have said you were crackers! Yet that is exactly what happened in January this year as I traveled to the Ukraine on a Church Planting management trip. The purpose of the trip was to meet the project staff and church planters.

Touching down in Kiev on the first day I was introduced to the project staff Igor, the director, Andrew and Costya the finance

and STM co-ordinators, ...in the *banya*. It turns out that the sauna is a favourite activity of the Ukrainian people and was there way to treat us to something special. Needless to say I slept extremely well that first night.



Overnight by train

We, that is Greg Swinamer the Church Planting Director and myself, spent a couple of days in Kiev meeting with the project staff before heading

throughout the country to visit a number of the church planters. Our first stop was in Sumi, the town that Viktor Yuchenko, the Ukraine's newly elected President hails from. We happened to be in the town on the same day as his inauguration so there was brass bands and orange scarves and bandanas all over.

From Sumi we tackled another traditional Ukrainian mainstay, the overnight train. Most Ukrainian people sleep on overnight trains when they travel. One sleeper cab consists of 4 bench style beds, you roll a basic mattress out, buy a couple of sheets a blanket and a pillow and snooze to your stop, at least that's the theory, We were travelling with Igor the project director so the

## Support Update

Our support has been steady for the past couple of months but we still need to hit the 100% mark in order to be able to do all we need to.

In May this year we have the Australian AOG Missionaries gathering in Budapest, it will be great to meet with other

Aussies who are working in Europe.

We need to also look at obtaining a small automatic car that we can use to run around in. Lynda is unable to drive our current car due to the many operations she has had on her arm so if I'm

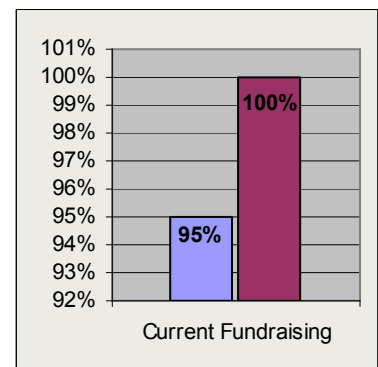
away the family is unable to go shopping etc.

Please pray with us as we seek to raise the necessary finance for these needs. The Lord has been faithful thus far to provide and we believe that He will continue to do so.

Blessings and thanks, Scott.

### Prayer Requests:

- Financial support to continue to rise
- Funds for Budapest conference
- Opportunities to speak to churches
- Sell our vehicle in Australia
- Scott to learn extra language skills
- Good health while traveling



## Impacting Nations

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**impacting nations through  
impacting missions**

Scott & Lynda Thomson are living in Bedworth, UK and working with Next Level International. NLI is called to empower a new generation of leaders to equip, transform and expand the Church throughout Europe. With three of their four children they have re-located to the UK.

Scott is the Director of Operations at NLI. With ministry opportunities in Western, Central & Eastern Europe, as well as pastoral ministry responsibilities in the UK.

NLI is a totally self supporting organisation and as such the Thomson's need to raise their own support. You can be involved in this exciting work in Europe by supporting them monthly, yearly or with a one off donation.

For a brochure email us or visit the website.

## Ukraine cont...



*Church planters regular training day*

three of us ended up sharing our compartment with an old grandmother, who was so scared of us that she wouldn't turn her

light off!

We travelled by various methods over the course of the next 8 days through snow and freezing temperatures in the pro-Russian East of the Ukraine. We met with the church planters, shared meals with them, laughed and cried with them. Their courage and hard work to raise the awareness of Christ in their towns is a real credit to them.

The overall living conditions are basic to say the least. Power outages, archaic heating systems and a 30% rise in inflation over the past few months is making things very tough for these wonderful

people, please pray for them.

[www.nlieurope.com](http://www.nlieurope.com)



*Speaking by candlelight with Igor, our Ukrainian interpreter*

## Thomson Family Update

What an incredible time it's been over the Christmas, New Year period. We celebrated Christmas together as a family, Toni our eldest daughter, flew in from Japan to be with us. Our first official Christmas in the UK was also a white one, although the white only happened at 10pm that night, it managed to just scrape in!

Scott traveled to the Ukraine in January, unfortunately he was ill during part of the trip which made it very difficult traveling. On the way home from the Ukraine he stopped in Prague for a meeting with around 40 ministers from a number of different denominations. They were very excited about the prospect of starting another church planting project in their country.

Lynda has been working really hard at the bank and heads off to London for a couple of days training.

Shannon is doing well in her job at D&G Insurance. The staff gave her a nick-name



*I to r .. Lynda, Scott, Asha & Daniel*

the first day. 'Sheila'. She has a good laugh about it.

Asha is building up a strong client base and has become an asset to the salon where she's working.

Daniel is catching up quite well at school. His mock exams went well with some good scores considering he has missed 1 and

1/2 years. He will graduate high school in June. Please pray for him, as we are negotiating with the college he is to go to, about fees. It seems they are the only college that won't accept Daniel unless we pay £4000, which is of course is an impossibility. Unfortunately, they are also the only college that runs the course Daniel is wanting to do. We trust that God is in control.

Thank you to all who sent us Christmas greetings and phoned us. It really helped to get through our first Christmas away from friends and family. It really lifts us when something arrives in the post. We appreciate all your prayers and support.

Feel free to contact us anytime, our email address is [scott@impactingnations.com](mailto:scott@impactingnations.com) or you can call Scott on our UK mobile +44 (0)77-6037-1717. Drop the zero in brackets when calling from outside the UK.

— Blessings from the Thomson's