



Esther Mueller's Update
from serving with Youth With A Mission
in Kyiv, Ukraine
January 23, 2018

With a vision to see believer's develop in faith and character so they are better equipped to make God known in the nations.

Hello Main Street UMC,

I hope you are doing well in this new year! As I get older each year seems to go by more quickly. Does it feel that way to you too? To help me slow down I like to use the new year as an excuse to reflect on the last twelve months and ask God for perspective and vision for the coming year. What visions or goals do you have for 2018? This update will include some of what God has in store for me this year. I am excited for 2018 and I hope you are too!

Ending 2017 with celebration!

In December our **seven students graduated from their School of Biblical Studies (see photo on right)**! I am so proud of them for persevering through all 9 months and studying all 66 books of the Bible.



Here are some ways our students were impacted by the school:

"I came to this Bible school thinking the main result would be lots of knowledge. I did gain knowledge but God really worked on growing my character which was the main part." - Lena (Ukrainian missionary to Turkey)

"God helped me see that my visions for ministry really belongs to him and I need to trust him to bring them to pass in his way and timing." -Igor (a Ukrainian missionary wanting to pioneer a dental ministry in the villages of Ukraine)

"Through studying the Bible God is preparing me to teach others about him and his word as I minister to Muslims and youth." - Roza (a Kyrgyz missionary to the country of Georgia)

All of our students will continue serving in ministry and missions across the globe in various ways. It was a privilege to help them know God more deeply and teach them how to study the Bible so they can make him known in the nations!

2018 – A time of training in Ukraine:

I am excited to continue serving in Ukraine! This year will involve studying **language and Biblical counseling** to be better equipped to love and serve others.

The majority of my time will be spent **continuing to learn Russian**. My goal is to learn enough Russian in order to have deeper conversations with our Russian speaking Bible students. We will run another nine month Bible school starting in March 2018 but I will not help right away so that I can devote quality time to studying Russian. After three and six months I will evaluate my progress and when I reach my goal I will stop formal lessons and serve in our Bible school. I will keep you updated on the progress.

I am also excited to **begin working towards a Bachelor's degree in Biblical counseling with an American Bible college through online studies**. The course is designed to be taken part-time for people who work full-time and want to be better equipped to serve others in ministry.

In two years I will be able to finish the Bachelor's in Christian Counseling (February 2018-February 2020). I will use "down time" to study each week and my team will let me use some work hours to study as well.

After completing a Bachelors I am considering pursuing a Masters and possibly a doctorate with the same school in order to become licensed as a Christian counselor. I truly believe this training will provide me with more skills to help believers deepen in their faith, and be better equipped to make God known in the nations. I am very excited for this year!

February at a glance:
1) study Russian
2) online studies
3) YWAM meetings and logistical service

Prayer Requests:

- joy and progress in Russian studies
- to learn a lot through online studies
- for graduates of 2017 Bible school to transition well back into ministry and missions

Thank you so much for your support and partnership as we help believers develop in faith and character so they are better equipped to make God known in the nations!

Blessings,