

# Our Ukrainian family

I returned from the Ukraine late May, yet am still having difficulty putting into words what I felt while among these precious men and women of God in both the churches and the Messianic congregations.



This is the first time I have been for any length of time in this former communist country where faith in God was ridiculed and believers persecuted, where families were often pulled apart—even sometimes rewarded for turning in a family member to the “party”—a nation that specialized in father wounds, mother wounds, and relationship wounds, where life was cheap and the best future one could offer was death. There seems still to be a great sadness over the land.



Yet amazing that in this country, schooled not to believe in God, some immediately believed when they heard the good news that Jesus brought. The gospel still is, as Paul told us, the power of God to salvation to both Jew and non-Jew. When an unbelieving heart hears the good news, really hears it, it wants to believe. Man’s inner spirit still yearns for the God Who created us. And so there exists in the Ukraine an amazing thriving people of God who passionately pursue Him.

This is true also among the relatively large Jewish population in the Ukraine, with whose leaders David McQueen (Abilene, Texas, pastor) and I spent several days. We were honored to be among this resurrected-from-the-dead Jewish “church” in this formerly communist country. And my father heart was on double-beat as I prayed a father’s blessing on many of them who would lay their head on my chest as I spoke over them.





This picture of the four brothers symbolizes God's work in our day.

\* David and Oleg Sherbakov (and I) represent a host of leaders worldwide who are getting the "Israel chip"—that we who bless God's host people (who brought the Redeemer to the world and who have yet to come into their full destiny as lights to the whole world) will come under greater blessing (Genesis 12:1-3 and Isaiah 60). Oleg is the spiritual leader of an association of churches (in the Russian speaking world) who are strong supporters of the Jewish people in their destiny in Jesus.

\* Boris Grisenko, Jewish, former atheist/philosopher made new through the blood of his Messiah Yeshua, represents the world harvest among Jewish people who are coming to know their Messiah. Boris is the spiritual leader of the largest Messianic Jewish congregation in the world (in Kiev).

\* I represent the intergenerational nature of the gospel of Yeshua/Jesus, the Abrahams, Isaacs and Jacobs of every generation. Our role as fathers is to keep our hands on the backs of the younger generations, encouraging them, calling them forth into their destiny and cheering them as they succeed. With King David, we cry, "Even when [we are] old and gray, do not forsake us, O God, till [we] declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come." (Psalm 71:18)

David and I were honored to accept the invitation of the Messianic Jewish Bible Institute to be in the Ukraine at this annual meeting of leaders. We join in prayer that these men and women of God will usher in a mighty awakening and harvest of souls in the former Soviet Union, among both Jews and Gentiles, and that the Lord will imbue His people with power in these days!