



## WALKING THE FIELDS OF THE UKRAINE

by Ann Farris

On our second trip to this unusual country, I learned even better the fields of the Ukraine: both the farms and the people.

First, there were the farms. The eastern portion (“our” part of the Ukraine) is largely agrarian, the breadbasket of the former USSR. The soil there is dark and rich, more agreeable in nature than ours in Central Texas.

Although I did see a 1960 John Deere tractor in one field, the planting is still done mostly by hand. Reaping occurs without coaxing. In each field there are homemade hothouses where farmers grow their own seedlings. The hothouses are made with clear plastic spread across 6” tall rebar joints. And it works! Herbal tea is made using a loose mixture of herbs gathered from the garden. Eggs come straight from chickens. Milk comes straight from cows, with no time lost to pasteurization. The root of a mysterious native plant is used to shrink scars and heal sore throats. And, sometimes, a baby goat becomes dinner, sadly, on behalf of the “American delegation.”

Second, there are the people. The people in the eastern portion (“our” part of the Ukraine) are still trying to find their way—economically (What can they export?), politically (Why not remain communist?), religiously (Surely freedom of religion is not available to everyone?), and socially (Is the wearing of head scarves by married women worth fighting over?). They love each other and us, with women hugging and kissing women and men hugging and kissing men. Between the tea parties

and meals populated by potatoes, we fattened, literally, under their care. Their love for Jesus was most clearly manifested in their Bible study (We lost every single Bible drill opportunity that presented itself.), their fervent prayer, and their propensity to witness on every possible occasion. Their sense of humor rests under decades of hopelessness, it seems to me, but, when it surfaces, it rocks! I still laugh each time I recall the lady who prepared meals for us in Luhans’k; by nature, she was hard working and not funny. When meals were ready, our only responsibility was to be there, sitting down.

***Our dear Ukrainian friends met us at the train station when we arrived, laughing and helping us to carry our suitcases. They accompanied us to the train station when we departed, crying and helping us to carry our suitcases. That really tells our story best.***

### Christian Unity Ministries:

...exists to assist and equip Christian organizations to experience Biblical unity.

...accomplishes its mission through training events, conflict intervention, and publications to churches and Christian organizations across all evangelical denominational lines, with the objective of moving brothers and sisters in Christ toward Biblical interpersonal relationships with one another.

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One evening after the church service, when one of the congregants took Blake aside to talk, the talk extended beyond dinner time. We looked up to see the cook, standing with her hands on her hips, as only cooks can, looking intently at both Blake and the congregant. Then she said, clearly, "Set my people free." We laughed so hard that we held our sides. She did not smile. We moved quickly to the dinner table.



In summary, our dear Ukrainian friends met us at the train station when we arrived, laughing and helping us to carry our suitcases. They accompanied us to the train station when we departed, crying and helping us to carry our suitcases. That really tells our story best.

From our Ukrainian friends we learned two incredibly important blessings that we are compelled to share with you. First is their form of "God speed." When translated literally into English, their phrase becomes, "May God help you go away." (How useful is that?)

Second is their response to multiple sneezes. It goes like this:

First sneeze—May God bless you!

Second sneeze—Richly!

Third sneeze—And give you a big red cow!

We left the Ukraine richly blessed, with big red cows.

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¡Mira!  
¡Se hablamos  
Español!

## 5 Principles of Unity

*Spanish Edition*

Available now through our  
website:

[www.christianunityministries.org](http://www.christianunityministries.org)

## Help Publish "Five Principles of Unity" in the Ukraine

God is at work in the Ukraine, and He has used Five Principles of Unity in that work. The testimonies of those from Christian Unity Ministries who taught in the Ukraine in October are compelling.

Will you help us take the *written* message of "Five Principles of Unity" to the church in the Ukraine? It has already been translated into Russian, the predominant language of the eastern half of the Ukraine and arrangements are underway for it to be published by a Ukrainian publisher. 100% of the costs for publication and distribution will come from contributions from friends like you.

Can you help? Make contributions on line at [www.christianunityministries.org](http://www.christianunityministries.org) or send them to:

**Christian Unity Ministries**  
**P.O. Box 701685**  
**San Antonio, Texas 78232**  
**Attn: UKRAINE**

*Be a part of what God is doing!*

## Reflections from the Ukraine



*After our last trip, my lesson was how much Jesus loves these people. This time my lesson was how fragile they are.*

Connie Whilden



*The song "They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love" was never so apparent as in Luhans'k where there is a stark difference between the non-Christians and Christians.*

Kristi Tschoepe





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## ***How Your Church Can Partner With Christian Unity Ministries***

God is at work, restoring health and unity to His church. Christian Unity Ministries has joined that work, bringing His message of Biblical interpersonal relationships and Christian community to local congregations. We do this through a multi-piece training program aimed at various aspects of church life.

God has begun to call churches to partner with us in this effort—churches who not only are intentional about their own health, but who also feel a responsibility for contributing to the health of other local congregations.

Would you pray, and seek to know whether YOUR church is called to be a partnering church with Christian Unity Ministries?

For more information, contact us at:

**Christian Unity Ministries**  
P.O. Box 701685  
San Antonio, Texas 78232  
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### **BECOMING A PARTNERING CHURCH WITH CHRISTIAN UNITY MINISTRIES**

*Our **Partnering churches** are intentional about preserving the unity of the Spirit in their own congregation and receive all of our training at significantly reduced costs. They partner with us in each of the following ways:*

- *Regular monthly financial support in any amount;*
- *Being proactive about sharing testimony with other churches' leadership about this ministry;*
- *Sending their pastor or other designated representative to the Unity Ministries Annual Conference in San Antonio.*

*Join us in equipping God's people for unity. **Be a part of what God is doing!***