

The Good News

September 1, 2009
Volume 3 Number 2

Nordic Newsletter

Putting Faith in God First — Artur's Courageous Story

Please go to www.kubik.org/ucgee for instant free electronic subscription

Artur Aleksandrov lives in Tallinn, Estonia. He has been reading the Good News magazine for more than two years.

This June he graduated from high school. But, it was not easy. He had important exams to take, some of which had to be taken on the Sabbath Day. If not taken, he would not be able to graduate. He could also be denied admission for further education and look at a bleak future. This did not dissuade Artur. He put God first. God responded and blessed him mightily. The words below are Artur's. We found them inspiring as we hope you will, too.

Now that the more important things related to school are behind me, I am sitting down to tell you how it all went and how our shared Lord constantly blessed me through this time.

As you know, just recently I was a high school senior, trying his best to

balance school, God and various 'cares of this life.' When the new year started, I wanted to focus on picking the right national exams to take. When I decided on which ones I preferred, it didn't even come to mind that one of them could fall on the Sabbath. By nature being rather forgetful and slow, I didn't notice the day of the week I was to sit for the first two exams (both were on the Sabbath). I lived on unsuspectingly until, about three weeks before the first exam, one of my teachers casually mentioned something that made my pupils triple in diameter. That's when it hit me!

I informed the teacher about the

situation and asked if I could maybe do it on another time - she said that I'd have to ask for permission from the National Examination Center. The people at the center are the ones that create and check the exam materials; they

also arrange a second time to sit for the exam(s) for those that, due to serious reasons, couldn't take the exam(s) at the standard appointed time. My teacher told me that my only hope is that the second dates for exams don't fall on Saturdays. I looked up when the additional time for exams would be and found relief. This was the first blessing from God - that the additional exams

weren't on the Sabbath - and it saved me a whole year of my life. I could complete the exams this year but had to hurry with asking the center to allow me to take them. I wrote a letter of request to the center explaining my affiliation with a Sabbath keeping church and then I started to wait. They tested my faith and patience for a whole month before I got a reply on the 5th of May. They also requested an affirmation from the church as proof, which Mr. Lambert duly composed for me. They respected my beliefs, and although my request came way too late, allowed me sit for the exams on the additional time appointed by them. This was another blessing from God. It was an answer to numerous of my prayers to Him while I was still awaiting the reply from the center (see "Artur" on page 2)



Artur Aleksandrov

Spring / Summer 2009 Visits to Nordic Countries

As we mention in this newsletter, we travel often through the Nordic countries visiting members of the United Church of God and Good News readers. As senior pastor of this region I enjoy talking to people who in many cases live in isolated areas. People are scattered. Holding any kind of regular meetings is difficult.

In May and July we were pleased to meet new people in Copenhagen and Aarhus, Denmark, as well as visit in Norway and Sweden. In Sweden we visited with three families. We did not visit in the Baltic States but will be in Estonia for the Festival of

Tabernacles from October 2-10. We will report on this in the next issue. As you see our area of coverage is quite monumental!

In July we also visited Ukraine. In Ukraine we print literature that is sent out from Sweden and Estonia.

In Ukraine we have a few outreach projects to help disadvantaged people. In Western Ukraine we work with orphans and street children. We have also worked in the Chernobyl area for the past 13 years with a rehabilitation center (see "visits" on page 2)

The Good News

The Good News
PO Box 3535
111 74 Stockholm
Sweden
sverige@ucg.org

“Artur” continued from page 1

ter. In that period, I was partly preparing to receive a negative answer, which meant failing to graduate and staying for another year in school, and partly really hoping that God would still provide an easier way out. I knew he could - and he did!

21st of June was my graduation day, and I still ponder about how much of a blessing that extra month for preparation had been. People here are lamenting about how difficult this year's English national exam was. On the other hand, the English exam that was prepared for the additional time (the one I took) wasn't that hard at all! Actually, our group heard the listening part four times because the stereo kept getting jammed and the audio kept on repeating. So it could even be added that we - the 'second group'- had a great advantage! Also, on my Estonian exam, where we had to write a 600 word essay, I was blessed with several topics that I could actually relate to - I chose 'Forgotten value's and got a score of 8/10 for it. This is very good by my standards. Overall, the results I got for my exams were a bit higher than what I was expecting. Even the day of my graduation ceremony turned out to be a blessing, against all odds. I remember how my homeroom teacher told me in a surprised tone that this year's graduation ceremony will be held on a Sunday. She said that in previous years it had always been on Saturdays! I don't think that's a coincidence.

So, as you can see for yourselves, our Gracious and All Powerful Lord responded to our collective prayers with abundant gifts. I want to again thank you all for your brotherly goodwill and asking on my behalf. There is nothing more powerful in this world than the prayers of God's servants - his saints. I hope that I am on the road to becoming one myself. I appreciate you being there for me. When an opportunity presents itself, I'd be more than happy to help you as you have helped me.

Meanwhile, I am left here, in a spiritually left behind Estonia, trying to fulfill the purpose for which the Father drew me. What I see happening in my life is encouraging - it is my wish to become one of the pillars in God's church in Estonia, so that as God calls more people into His Church, they'll have someone to turn to for answers and encouragement.

- Artur

“Visits” continued from page 1

for victims of the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident 23 years ago. This summer we also conducted a two-week Teaching English as a Second Language Program as part of a day camp for disadvantaged children in Vinogradov, Ukraine. Four teachers, two from the United States and two who live in France conducted the classes. Much more about all our travels and work is in our eNews newsletter that you can subscribe for at www.kubik.org/ucgee.



The Genki program to teach English

You can read more details about our travels on our Travel Blog at www.ucg.org/resources/blog.htm.

Again, if you would like to talk to us about the *Good News* magazine, please do not hesitate to contact me at visit@kubik.org. I would love to hear from you!

- Victor Kubik



Teacher Cindy Harper conducting class for Ukrainian children

Comments from readers:

Thanks for the two booklets which I had requested and which I received today. If there are any booklets I need I will email you. Thanks once again for the booklets.

Blessings,

- AS in Denmark

“I live in Sweden. I am a reader of the Good News Magazine and I have been blessed from reading it. I am writing to request for a visit when you come to Sweden.”

- AK

”Jeg vil være glad for at få tilsendt dvd'en fra Mjölby-sammenkomsten 2006, hvis der stadig er et ex. tilbage. På forhånd tak for hjælpen.”

Med venlig hilsen,

- Kristian DANMARK