

Subject: VN Ukraine Team Meeting #3

Welcome everyone to the team for the very first Vida Nueva in Ukraine!

Introductions

We don't have any more introductions this week, so we'll be skipping those for now. You guys who haven't sent me any blurbs... well, you know what to do. New team members, please send me your information.

What is Vida Nueva?

Last time we covered a bit about the VN weekend. However, as important as this is, I am going to skip it this time because we have had a good deal of questions about traveling.

Timeline & Status Update

We have almost exactly four months until the weekends. The dates have now been hammered down to this:

Music Festival July 13-15

1st girls - July 16-18

1st boys - July 19-21

2nd girls - July 22-24

2nd boys - July 25-27

3rd girls - July 28-30

3rd boys - August 1-3

I don't know if I have mentioned the music festival or not, but this has been the reason our dates kept changing. This is the Mi-Cha Christian music festival that is apparently going to be a big deal. Nothing has been set as to whether or not we will attend the festival, but if you have an opinion about it, let me know.

Most of you should have your passport by now. If not, be patient. It will arrive. We will start to get worried if you don't have it at the beginning of June.

You should have at least half your funds by now as well. If you are having a hard time raising your funds, let me know and we'll brainstorm.

Traveling

Here's the part you've all been waiting for!!

I have gotten questions about our flight. The plan is this: You will fly out of your closest city to JFK. We will all meet up at JFK in New York and take the Ukrainian airlines (Aerosvit) direct to Kyiv.

Now here is some input I need from you guys: do we all want to travel together as a complete group or do the Young Men's (YM) team members want to leave the US later than the Young Women's (YW) teams (by about two days)? For example, do we all want to leave the US on July 12 and all leave Ukraine on July 28 – OR – does the YW team want to leave the US on July 12 and leave Ukraine on July 25 and the YM team leave the US on July 15 and leave Ukraine on July 28? **Again, it is important that I get your input on the travel arrangements so we can know how to book the airlines.**

I will also need to know what city you will be flying from. I know that there will be quite a few from Nashville, but I still need to know what other city you will be coming from. Another thought I just had is that we (TD/VN) can book your flight from JFK to Kyiv and back, but it can be your responsibility to get to JFK. Let me know your thoughts on that, too. Once I have input from everyone, I will let you guys know what arrangements we will be making and the flight information, etc.

And finally, on the flight arrangements: I looked Friday, and the price for JFK to Kyiv and back was \$975. Today (Sunday) I looked again and they were \$1135. The price changes all the time, so we need to plan on about \$1300 for the entire trip.

Prayer Request

I have a huge prayer request for you this week. We are currently having problems with team unity in Ukraine. We have some people who want to do one thing and some people who want to do another. Please pray for me specifically on what God wants me to do in this situation, and pray for the Ukrainian TD/VN leaders that they will know and do God's will for VN.

Now, we *all* have been involved in TD/VN weekends long enough to know that we are all human, and we are not perfect. I do not want the Ukrainians judged by this situation. **What I want is prayer, and lots of it.** Plus, I am having a meeting with one of the Ukrainian team members on Wednesday and I need lots of prayer for that.

One Order

My "One Order" as I like to call it, will be reiterated each e-mail team meeting, which means I am going to cram it down your throat (ha ha, just kidding). Remember...do what God wants you to do. The scripture for the weekend is Hebrews 10:9, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." Therefore, I expect you to prayerfully consider your actions and what God is telling you to do.

Final Thoughts & Reminders

Remember to send me your thoughts on travel arrangements. I am going to be frank here (and get used to it) but if you don't share your opinions on things, you can't complain later when you don't like what happened.

Again, don't forget to send me a blurb about yourself to share with the rest of the team if you haven't already done so. We have had a couple of new people join, and we all want to get to know you! (link to the current YM/YW team lists from America

<http://ukraine.ctvn.info/team.html>)

If you haven't applied for your passport, do so now. If you are raising funds for your trip, you should already have request letters out there and some money back. If anyone else is having as hard a time as I am getting funds, let's all add that to our prayer lists, too.

Finally, again, I do not have team positions assigned yet. Part of the reason (actually, most of the reason) is because of the issue with the Ukrainian team. But God just told me to stop waiting on them and do what he's telling me to do here, so I think that I may have some assignments before the end of the day. Still, be in prayer about where you feel God is leading you to serve. If you feel like you get an answer before I do, please let me know so that I may pray about it as well.

Next time, we will continue with the "What is Vida Nueva?" segment and I will start talking about trip preparations, such as packing!!

If you have any questions, or have topics that you would like for me to discuss in a team meeting, please let me know. I am available by phone (615-793-4017) or by e-mail (shrogers@comcast.net).

Thank you so much for serving on these weekends. You will be blessed!

Much love,
Shelly Rogers