

Subject: VN Ukraine Team Meeting #4

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

Introductions

Happily, I would like to introduce Joyce Durall. Joyce is going to be in charge of prayer here in the United States. While she will not be able to go with us to Ukraine, she will be gathering a group to pray for us and the Ukrainian team. She asked that each team member contact her by e-mail (kyladysmile@yahoo.com) with a short biography and prayer concerns. She will then assign a prayer partner who will commit to praying, starting now, until we return from Ukraine.

We don't have any more introductions this week, so we'll be skipping those for now. You new guys should send me a blurb about yourself. I also need everyone's contact information (i.e. name, address, phone, e-mail). I have just a few and would like to have everyone's on file.

What is Vida Nueva?

Two meetings ago, we covered a bit about the VN weekend. However, as important as this is, I am going to skip it this time because we updates about traveling.

Timeline & Status Update

We have just over three months until the weekends. Again, the dates are as follows:

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

After e-mails from some, it has been determined that we will travel from July 12-July 28. We will leave the U.S. on the 12th from our closest major city, meet up in New York at JFK airport and then all fly to Ukraine together. We will depart Ukraine on July 28, which will put us back in the U.S. on July 29. The flight back will be the mirror of the flight over; all leave Ukraine together and split up at JFK.

I understand that there are some who can not be gone for 17 days. So, if you would like to travel at a different time than the group, such as leave the U.S. later or leave Ukraine earlier, just let me know so that we can book the flights appropriately.

I also need to know the city out of which you will be flying. So far we have Nashville, Atlanta, Dallas and Savannah. I need to know your city within two weeks (April 19). We are beginning to

gather all our information together for the flight purchase at the beginning of May, so we need to have all your information quickly.

**IF YOU DO NOT CONFIRM YOUR TRAVEL DATES OR
YOUR CITY OF DEPARTURE WITH ME BY APRIL 19,
WE WILL CONSIDER YOU AS “DROPPED OFF” THE TEAM.**

Please contact me if you have any questions or issues preventing you knowing this information.

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 already sent in your first half of your funds. If not, please send those funds to MCTD at P.O. Box 696, Brentwood, TN 37024 - **OR** - 6311 Ramsgate Court, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Traveling

First we will talk about packing. You will need to bring casual, comfortable clothes and casual, comfortable shoes. There is a strong possibility that we will attend a church, but I do not believe that “church clothes” are really necessary unless they are easy to pack. I would not recommend anything dressy at all.

There is really no access to washing machines, so we have two options: (1) bring enough clothes to wear for the entire stay; or (2) bring a small container of laundry detergent so that you can hand wash anything you want to wash. I would recommend Woolite or some other easily rinseable detergent. You will have to do your handwashing in a bathroom sink, which is about as big as ours are, so that's what you can expect. There is a third option: you can bring one week's worth of clothes and wear each outfit two days in a row without washing anything!

Basically, keep in mind the space you have to pack in, the clothes you want to bring, and the handwashing you will probably have to do.

I am a Charmin gal. So let me warn you now, Ukraine does not have anything like Charmin. Do you remember the brown paper towels in the school bathrooms? That is exactly what Ukraine toilet paper is. It is brown, stiff toilet paper. So, here's what I did last year: I bought four packs of Charmin flushable wipes and carried part of one with me *at all times* and packed the rest. Not only were the wipes good for freshening up while traveling, but they were a lifesaver to a lady who got sick and had diarrhea for a few days during our trip. So, take that for what it's worth. If you think you can handle the brown toilet paper, good. If you have concerns, bring a back-up roll or two of toilet paper.

Remember that plugs are different in Ukraine. They have the two round European plugs, so if you need to bring a hairdryer or other electrical appliance, you will need to purchase an adapter. Radio Shack carries them, but be sure and tell the sales person what you need it for because there are differences between adapters and voltage converters. The salesperson will know what you need so be sure and talk to them first.

Next, there are limits on luggage. There is a two-bag maximum for checked luggage with a weight limit of 50 lbs. for each bag. There is also a limit of one carry-on bag and one personal item, such as a purse, laptop, umbrella, etc. Keep that in mind while packing.

When flying, remember that we will be in the air for at least 8 hours. Wear something very, very comfortable and if you can, shoes that you can easily slip on and off as your feet may swell. You may bring something to read, watch, or whatever, but most likely there will be a movie or two provided on the plane. The headsets for the movies are also free. There will also be at least one meal provided during the flight, sometimes two depending on the hours we are traveling.

Feel free to ask me any questions you have about packing and flying. I probably left something out, so let me know.

Funding

At this point, you should have already have some, if not all, of your funds. Remember to keep good records of what you have received and make sure that you send thank-you notes very promptly. Your financial records should include the name, address and phone number of your contributor, the amount they sent you, and if possible, the check number. It never hurts to make a photocopy of the check either, just in case there is a question.

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

I also want to apologize for being so behind on my team meetings. I have been very busy and a bit overwhelmed.

But, please remember that I absolutely need the following from you:

1. Your contact information
2. Your city of departure
3. Your travel dates

Also send your information and prayer requests to Joyce Durall (kyladysmile@yahoo.com).

If you are a new team member, please review the past team meetings at <http://ukraine.ctvn.info/team.html>. If you don't see your name on the list of team members, let me know so that I can add it. If you have team members in your area or whom you see regularly, please make sure they are getting a copy of these e-mails.

And 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.

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