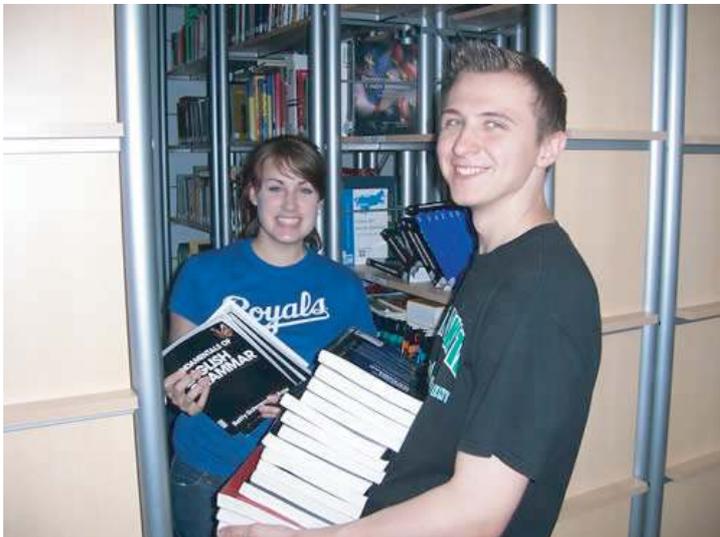




Summer Expansion

In March 2004, we began considering how to expand the Center's library. The main goal was to increase book shelving space. By that time, we had 16 shelving units that were 120%-140% full of books. We had books double-shelved, books on top of each other, books falling from shelves under the pressure--all the things that would pain an experienced librarian or any book lover.

Library growth is always a positive thing, especially when it serves to increase God's kingdom. The only solution was installing more library shelving units, making it more comfortable for our visitors and prolonging the longevity of our collection.



Amanda Plummer, our summer intern and Lipscomb student, and Alexei are helping move books.

After some tedious considerations, with great help from Jonathan Shaub, we decided to move the library downstairs to the room that used to be the video room. By moving downstairs, we would be able to install 9 more shelving units, thus increasing the shelving space by more than 50%.

After getting the renovation project approved by

Generous Summer Donations

The UEC was blessed this summer with a series of very generous donations.

Dan and Roberta Andrews have been supporters of the UEC now for several years. Recently, thanks to their encouragement, the **Forest Hills Church of Christ** made a substantial donation to fund the salary of our manager. We are very grateful for this major gift. It alone should be able to fund the manager position for several years allowing us to devote our limited resources to other areas of need. The Andrews have also made a generous contribution toward the library renovation project.

After **Jonathan Shaub** finished his internship, he made a generous gift to our library fund so we can purchase much needed Bible study materials in Ukrainian and Russian.

Highland Church of Christ members, led by our board president **David Ralston**, gave generously to completely fund our summer renovation project. This vital project made it possible for our library to expand in order to serve our growing number of patrons.

the UEC's board, we ordered the shelving units from Lithuania. The shelves are high quality but quite expensive. A large crowd of church members volunteered to move the 8,000 library items out of the library into temporary storage rooms so the current shelving units could be moved downstairs. About a month later, the same crew moved everything downstairs onto the new shelves.

So far, the project has cost \$8,201.98, which includes moving the library downstairs, knocking

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A Summer Baptism

Sasha Tolmachyov, a first-year university student at Linguistic and Law University, was baptized into Christ during Nivki Church's annual summer conference. As a weekly visitor to the Center, Sasha regularly checks out books and meets at the UEC for Bible studies with Lena Morozova. Sasha is now an active member of Nivki Church of Christ.



Chris Lovingood, Sasha Tolmachyov and Lena Morozova moments before baptism

Bibles! Bibles! Bibles!



Lera giving a free Bible to an ICU student

Thanks to a generous gift from Eastern European Missions, the UEC has been able to give away several hundred Russian Bibles and Bible study materials. The Bibles are available free of charge to all our patrons.

Thanks to David Ralston, we were also able to provide 130 English Bibles to first-year students of ICU-Kyiv. Chris Lovingood is teaching Introduction to Biblical Studies there this semester, and many of his students are finding their way to the Center to get a free Bible and to use our Bible study resources and computers.

Jonathan Shaub Looks Back

Amongst my friends in Kyiv, it was not uncommon to hear someone say simply, "I'm going to the Center," or, "I'll leave it at the Center for you." Still today, back in the U.S., I catch myself constantly saying, "Yeah, that's a picture of Sergiy; he's the manager of the Center." Sometimes I call it the "UEC," but usually the Ukrainian Education Center simply becomes the "Center" when I'm talking. And fittingly so. When I think about the Center and the three-pronged mission it strives to serve, I see a central haven of solidarity surrounded by swirls of faces, learning, growth, and, of course, books.

Although all the peripherals of the Center constantly fluctuate and wobble on the edge of uncertainty, there is a stolid core, intangible perhaps, that supports its multiple facets. Its library depends entirely on donations, from patrons and supporters in Ukraine and abroad. At times, books arrive; at times, they do not. Sometimes the customs office interferes after books have taken six months to reach Ukraine and ships them back, the Center forced to wait for an indefinite return. Utilizing all of its monetary resources for the benefit of patrons and workers, the Center operates financially with extremely little margin for error, sometime thrown off by surprise

taxes or unforeseen bills from the unstable social and governmental structures. Plus, although there are definitely the "regulars," the faces at the Center inevitably fluctuate. New freshmen at the city's universities, especially ICU, flood the Center every fall. Interns, like myself, arrive and depart. Workers graduate, are hired, leave for the summer, or move on to begin careers. Every day new patrons join, and every day something changes in the Center's typical composition. Volunteers who spend hours one semester "bar coding" or shelving books take on full time jobs, more classes, or simply decide to dedicate their time elsewhere. In Ukraine, uncertainty and instability are part of the country's fabric, and this aspect echoes in the Center as well. However, despite the flux and variation, the Center retains a concrete "soul" of sorts, a center amidst the chaos that illuminates what is truly important.

Although student populations fluctuate, their struggles, needs, and interests remain basically the same. Students, away from their homes for the first time begin to seek their unique selves; they scour life for

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knowledge, for individualized belief, and for independent understanding. The Center provides a venue ideally suited to their pursuit. Each Friday last year, I cooked a big pot of soup and read through C. S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* with 7 to 14 students. Although the faces changed from first semester to second, all of these students showed up because they were hungry, interested, and seeking answers. Chris Lovingood taught the older generation of the church about the Old Testament; he and his wife Lena studied the life of Jesus with old and young Christians alike. Up to twenty people listened to my weekly lecture on Science and Religion first semester, and World Religions second. Furthermore, countless people peruse the library's ever-growing collection daily for knowledge, for schoolwork, for answers. **The Center is a center of learning.**



Regular UEC patrons check out materials

I remember sitting in the Center at five am, eating pizza after a marathon cleaning session; we five were preparing the facility for the arrival of an American singing group. Empty and spotless, the walls and floors seemed totally unrelated to the cacophony of voices and muddy tracks of hundreds of shoes that overtook them the next day. Over 100 people overflowing from a single room, listening to high schoolers praise Jesus, then singing back to them in turn in three different languages. I remember sitting in a study room after Soup Group playing chess with one of my students while a couple of others studied and watched at the same time. Every Wednesday night I watched the Center perk up with the arrival of three church groups, tantalizing aromas calling from the kitchen surrounded in the laughs and chatter of friends cooking together. Soon after, the muffled sounds of song penetrating the walls littered the air. Saturday morning, ten o'clock - time to meet at the UEC for the

weekly Frisbee game. Where else would we meet? **The Center is a center of community.**

Walk into the Center and see your friends' smiles light up the air. See a younger girl talk through her troubles with an older friend in an upstairs room. A student delays and delays, hesitant to leave the friendly confines but already late to class, before she finally says goodbye and hugs four people before leaving. Four pairs of hands clasp in a circle as heads bow before the Lord, leaders lifting up their church group members and their struggles. A brand new patron walks through the door, met by an enthusiastic greeting and patient assistance. **The Center is a center for Christ's love.**

Throughout its growth from a small apartment checking out books via notebook to a superiorly modern facility offering thousands of books, CDs and videos for checkout through a sophisticated computer catalog, the UEC has maintained certain ideals and a constant focus. Assaulted by various whirlwinds of change and obstacle during its lifetime, the Center prevailed because it remained the same. Relocation, renovation, departing workers, governmental interference, etc. have all failed to move it an inch. When I remember the Center, so many images dance in my head, so many memories: faces, group meetings, hours of work, after hours play, Soup Groups, Lewis classes, lectures, movies, books received, chess games played. This carousel exists



ICU students studying in the study room

because it has a center, an axis on which to rotate. The spirit of the Center eludes exact explication, but seeing the dynamic tornado, furiously spinning, witnessing the events and faces that continuously define and redefine the UEC leaves a person with one unshakable realization. There is something unchangingly special at the Center.

--Jonathan Shaub, after completing his UEC internship, now lives and works in New York City.

Summer Staff Changes

(by Chris Lovingood)

This summer, three of our part-time workers left the UEC, and to replace them, we hired Lera Cherednichenko, a recent ICU-Kyiv graduate, to work as our second full-time employee. She works in acquisitions, manages Book Trades, processes all our new materials, and takes her turn managing the reception desk. A few thoughts from Lera follow:

We celebrated the Ukrainian Education Center's third anniversary recently. It was a very special day for me personally because it was exactly three years since I and three of my good friends, invited by the UEC intern Katie Boyer, first came to the Center. While enjoying some pizza and cake together with Chris, Sergiy, and Lena, I let some of the warmest memories connected with the UEC flow up in my



Lera at her working place

head. It is amazing how small things like the joy of finding the right book with the help of the UEC staff, or finishing the English Composition assignment on time, working long hours on group projects, watching some of my favorite movies for the first time, inspiring conversations with Anya (former UEC employee), and drinking many cups of nice warm tea during cold winter evenings lit my way to Christ. Later on, I realized what a blessing for the growth of my faith it was to have access to a collection of Christian literature, use of the Center's facilities for my church's home group meetings, and attending the Study Center classes that take place in the UEC. Now, after these three years of being served, I am a part of the team, and my greatest hope for this job is to pass on to other people the everyday small blessings that I've been receiving.

Lena Morozova (the wife of Chris Lovingood, the Kyiv director) also began working at the UEC as a volunteer. She helps manage the reception desk and has the thankless task of contacting patrons with overdue library items. A little of Lena's perspective follows:

As I work in the morning at the Center, I am witness to a rather inspiring phenomenon. Often freshmen come in groups. The ones who had visited the UEC earlier were leading the new ones. Most of them looked scared and unsure about why--by Ukrainian standards--this gorgeously-renovated place existed. The most frequent question was "How much does the membership in the library cost?" Many could not believe that they could use the library resources, computer center, kitchen, and reserve study rooms for free. It took about a month for the information to sink in. The word about "a miracle place" spread. Now five of our computers are used most of the day by students working on their term papers. Many come to the library looking for resources. On some days all of our English-English dictionaries are checked out by those who are doing their homework for composition classes. Fall usually signifies the beginning of the end in nature, but it brings revival to the UEC.



Lena moving CDs

Statistically Speaking

So far this year, the UEC has logged 26,063 visits, 15,841 library items have been checked out, and we have registered 545 new patrons, raising our patron base to over 2,300. Our computers have seen 4,821 hours of use; our rooms were used 6,282 hours. We have also received 1,524 new library items this year. We now boast 8,253 items in the collection.

Summer Expansion

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a hole in a wall to create a new door, installing new lights and a new computer network, moving the video equipment upstairs, and adding the additional shelving units. Several other smaller projects had to be delayed due to bureaucratic snags. Hopefully, we will complete those changes before next summer.

Renovation of any kind always seems easier and faster than it winds up being. We had a very tense schedule of meetings with several uncooperative suppliers and numerous trips to stores and open-air construction markets for three weeks in August. Due to delays from several suppliers there are some minor things left to do.

Still many patrons tell us they like that we are easier to get to now since they do not need to walk up the stairs every time they come. Patrons also have more comfortable access to books and other materials since almost every shelf has some space for expansion.

Everybody at the Center, including the many patrons that have paid us more than 6,500 visits since we moved the library, thank all those who supported this project and made it possible by prayer and financial support.

Visit our website www.uecenter.org galleries to see the renovation project's progression.

Soup Group Update

(by Chris Lovingood)

In our last newsletter, we reported about Zhenya and our weekly Soup Group. Late this summer, Zhenya decided that she did indeed want to become a Christian but needed to learn more. Every Monday, Zhenya and I have been meeting for a two-hour discussion of her questions and to study the Bible. Zhenya is a regular visitor to the Center, and it's exciting to see the UEC helping her along in her faith journey.

Second Book Trade

(by Valeriya Cherednichenko)

The UEC hosted its second Book Trade on September 24-25 and October 1-2. The idea emerged last spring. Wanting to free shelf space of redundant materials and in hopes of expanding our collection, Jonathan Shaub and Sergiy Lyakh engineered the first Book Trade on May 28, 2004. Encouraged by its results, we decided not only to continue this practice but also to devote more time to it.



UEC patrons make use of the Second Book Trade

The second Book Trade was held on two weekends so that people would have more time to look through our materials and inform their friends about the event. We advertised the event through our e-mail list of 1,200 addresses and ads posted everywhere at the Center.

Over 900 books, CDs, and videos were offered for trade. It's no wonder that every visitor left the room with books or CDs to their interest and taste. It was a great encouragement to accept some of the visitors' thanks for making their dream of having a *Handbook for College Writers* or a *Rainbow Study Bible* finally come true.

It was also our joy to enlarge our collection by 140 new items.

The UEC staff wants to wish all our friends and supporters a very happy Thanksgiving. We are especially thankful to those who make monthly financial gifts which keep the Center running:
Highland Church of Christ (Memphis), Hillsboro Church of Christ, Dan and Roberta Andrews, Dr. Mack Craig, Dr. Gerald Jerkins, Drs. Paul and Valery Prill, and David Ralston.

UKRAINIAN EDUCATION CENTER
4301 Hillsboro Road, Suite 300
Nashville, TN 37215

центр

Thank You, Library Donors!

Since the March newsletter, the UEC has received more than 1,100 donated items from:

<i>Sarah Alexander</i>	<i>Alexander & Katya</i>
<i>Svitlana Artyuh</i>	<i>Lugovskoi</i>
<i>Julia Babiychuk</i>	<i>Sergiy Lyakh</i>
<i>Andrei Blazhkun</i>	<i>Zoya Milovanova</i>
<i>Josh Boyd</i>	<i>Jonathan Moore</i>
<i>Scott Broadway</i>	<i>Lena Morozova</i>
<i>Jerry Collins</i>	<i>Ludmila Morozova</i>
<i>Amanda Corn</i>	<i>Alexei Olyinik</i>
<i>Mack W. Craig</i>	<i>Scott Owings</i>
<i>A. Danyl'chenko</i>	<i>Kseniya Sakharova</i>
<i>John Durham</i>	<i>David & Sharon Shaub</i>
<i>Anna Ezhova</i>	<i>Jonathan Shaub</i>
<i>Amy Gregg</i>	<i>Oleg Skutsenya</i>
<i>Matt Hearn</i>	<i>Fletcher D. Srygley</i>
<i>Dmitriy Kalinin</i>	<i>Christopher Strange</i>
<i>S. V. Kazimirov</i>	<i>Jeannie Tabb</i>
<i>Perry Kolodzy</i>	<i>Nastya Tolmachyova</i>
<i>Nastya Kulenko</i>	<i>Alisa Zhuravlenko</i>
<i>O. O. Kuzmenko</i>	<i>Anna Zubkova</i>
<i>Megan Linger</i>	<i>Konstantin Zubov</i>
<i>Chris Lovingood</i>	<i>Otter Creek Church</i>

Fall Schedule

Please pray for church-sponsored events held at the UEC. More than 150 people participate in these activities:

Monday	History of Christianity class Bible Study
Tuesday	Systematic Theology class Bible Study One church small group
Wednesday	Two church small groups
Thursday	One church small group Bible Consultation
Friday	One church small group Bible Consultation
Saturday	Student Night