



# Ukraine

## The Youth Initiative "Gloria Deo"

Is a voluntary association of young people with an evangelical-lutheran confession, and the belief in the importance of execution of the great assignment given by our Lord Jesus Christ: "Go and learn all people.." (Mat 28,18-20).

Was founded at a general meeting of youth in St. Paul's church in Odessa, in September 2007. The idea is to organize the youth and give them the desire for evangelical mission, to further development of the children and youth ministry, and to awaken the rest of the church. The activities of the Youth Initiative is defined by the initiatives council, and is limited to the evangelical-lutheran communities of Ukraine.

The name Youth Initiative "Gloria Deo" comes from the desire of youth to glorify God through the service. We join in with the angels from heaven to give our glory to the Lord: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among men who enjoy His favor!" (Luk 2,14).



### In St. Paul's congregation, Odessa:

Weekly services: Three Sunday schools, groups for teenagers, youth and families group, drama ministry, a prayer meeting. In addition: youth seminars - 4 times a year, day time camps for children in January, a holiday for all family in February, Easter night, evangelical actions in the street and others.

### In Odessa region:

Sunday schools, teenage service, social and diaconical help in villages: Kudrjavka, Petrovka, Petrodolina, Novogradovka. Our missionary is sent from the Youth initiative to work in Novogradovka and Petrodolina. The Initiative supports the most part of its projects trough own donations.

### In Ukraine:

Together with other voluntary coworkers in the evangelical - lutheran congregations of Ukraine the Youth initiative "Gloria Deo" organizes and holds the International Christian camp "Gloria".



In 2009 there was 8 Gloria camps: three day time camps in villages and 4 allukrainian camps for different groups: families, children, teenagers and youth for 488 participants.

We invite all people believing in God and wishing to glorify Him together with us, to cooperate in:

1. Training youth at seminars.
2. Support missionary service in villages.
3. Support the ministry of Sunday schools in villages.
4. Projects rendering of the social help to children and the adults living below the breadline.
5. Support the service of Christian camp.



*"GLORY to God in the highest!"*  
*"GLORIA in excelsis DEO!"*



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The next step is to build a **bible school** at this location in Petrodolina. The goal is to give deeper knowledge about the bible and Christian life, and equipping for further ministry. The need for more skilled leaders is in both in small congregations without pastors and the bigger ones. We hope that a year in Petrodolina may give fruits in the local congregations and groups when the leaders return. Eventually the Lutheran church in Ukraine also needs more pastors, and we hope that the Bible school can be a good basis on which students can build their continuous theological education on. The education in the Bible school will consist of blocks of teaching, and times of practice. However, we hope that the Bible school will be more than just a place for theoretical knowledge, but also a place for personal and spiritual growth.



### Petrodolina

**The village Petrodolina** is located 30 km from Odessa, in the south of Ukraine. It has nice location outside Odessa, but with good transport links with the city. This village was founded by German settlers in 1804. During the First World War the majority of these emigrated to America or other countries. Those that remained were by the Soviet authorities deported to Central Asia in 1941. After the fall of communism, there became possible to return to Petrodolina. In the beginning of the nineties some tens families of these ancestors arrived. A new settlement was built just outside the village for these "Germans".

With these there was also founded a Lutheran **congregation** in the village. Today the congregation is not big in number, but has good work with children. We hope that the Youth Center and the future Bible School will also be a blessing for the local congregation.

### Our needs at the moment

We are still in need of financial support for the Youth Center. First, the current heating system was build in the 90's, in an inefficient way. It takes much energy, but gives minimal heating. This will cost about 5000 € to replace with a new system. Second, the new house (mission center) that will be build this spring need a basement, which is not included. This will cost 10000 €. This basement will function as a storeroom for equipment for Camp Gloria and things used for mission. And till end of 2010 Youth center must pay back credit of Bavarian church 37000 €.



We are grateful for prayer and other support!  
We invite to cooperation.

### Our address:

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# Bible school in Petrodolina, Ukraine



*"The Bible school in Petrodolina  
- a place for learning and  
equipping"*

## The three steps

**The purpose** of the Bible school is to engage people in the study of the Word of God, to help grow in the personal relationship with God and to equip them serve in the church as staff or volunteers.

**The teaching** of the Bible School is based on Holy Scripture and confessions of the Evangelical - Lutheran Church.

**Russian language** opens for people from all Russian-speaking Eastern Europe to come to be student at the Bible school. The Bible school can be a basis from where students can be go to **further study of theology** in the Theological Seminary.

## Why is this project so important?

The need for a Bible school came from the situation within the Lutheran Church in Ukraine and other Eastern European countries. Churches in villages and small towns that do not have pastors - as well as various groups in larger communities - are in big need of trained coworkers. Most members in the DELKU are short on knowledge about fundamental issues concerning Christian faith and life. The church needs coworkers and leaders with more than just a minimum knowledge about the bible and Christian ministry. The hope is that existing and potential leaders (and other interested from all Russian speaking world) can take a one year course at the bible school. There they will get more indepth teaching from the bible, teaching and practice about ministry, and experience a Christian fellowship that stimulates personal growth. Our hope is that trough this project the «spiritual quality» of the church will increase, and then result in that more people in Ukraine and other countries will learn about Jesus Christ.

In the winter and spring 2008 - 2009 much reconstruction has been done in the attic of the church building at Petrodolina. Four new rooms now provide the beds for 14 people. There are two toilets and showers, a kitchen all in high standards. From the 10th of May this has been the location of the **youth center**.



This center is a place for different seminars, conferences and camps. In these people who are involved in the church can come from all Ukraine and be equipped, taught and inspired for continuous and more effective ministry. The hope is that this youth center will be a blessing for both the local congregation, the congregations in Odessa region, and in all of Ukraine. Hire and from hire was organized in summer 2009 three children and teenagers camps, two seminars.

In spring 2010, thanks to support and credit from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, there will be build a second building (**mission center**) at the ground outside of the youth center. Here will be house for Pastor Alexander Gross, and in the first floor one flat and some rooms for short-time guests and teachers. Here Ukrainian evt. other Russian speaking missionaries can be trained, or foreign missionaries can stay for a time for learning language and about the culture.