

Ukraine 2006

*Following
Jesus*

**Morning Bible Studies,
Programme of the Week
and Bus Timetables**

Leader's copy

Following Jesus

Someone once said, 'The main thing, is to keep the main thing the main thing'. What is the main thing we are doing in the Ukraine? Why are we going? What's it all about? What do we hope to achieve? What is the main thing?

The answer to all those questions is quite simply that we are 'following Jesus'. He is the one who first put this mission idea into the hearts of those who first went out. He is the one who has enabled us to go. We go in His name and for His glory.

Jesus is the centre of all we are about as we share a part in His mission to Ukraine. Our theme song, 'Jesus be the Centre' has been chosen for this purpose. For this reason, and in order to keep the main thing the main thing – we are going to focus on what it means to follow Jesus by looking at different aspects of following Him in our daily bible studies in each village each morning.

We will start by looking at what it means to be called by Jesus to follow Him and then how He needs to be allowed to shape us to be more like Him. To follow Him means to pray like Him and in following His example in all things to obey Him with our lives even when we may have a different view. As we shall see, following Jesus, means relying on His power and not just our own strength. Finally we shall explore together what serving Jesus is really all about.

It is my hope and prayer that God will draw us together to be a people who truly follow Him and show it visibly in our love and respect for each other and in our love and respect for those whom we are serving.

Let's be followers of Jesus Christ together!

In Christ,

Stu.

Provisional Bus time Guide

| Time | Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat | Time | Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat |
|-------|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 07:30 | Uj Akli - Akli | 14:00 | Akli - Uj Akli - Gyula |
| 07:30 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Akli | 14:30 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Akli |
| 07:45 | Akli - Uj Akli - Gyula | 15:00 | Akli - Uj Akli - Gyula |
| 08:00 | Akli - Uj Akli - Gyula | 15:30 | Gyula - Uj Akli |
| 08:15 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Akli | 15:30 | Gyula - Akli |
| 08:30 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Akli | 16:00 | Uj Akli - Gyula |
| 08:45 | Akli - Gyula | 16:00 | Akli - Uj Akli - Gyula |
| 09:00 | Akli - Uj Akli - Gyula | 16:15 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Akli |
| 09:15 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Camp - Akli | 16:30 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Akli |
| 09:30 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Camp - Gyula | 16:45 | Akli - Uj Akli - Gyula |
| 10:00 | Akli - Camp - Akli | 17:15 | Akli - Uj Akli - Camp - Gyula |
| 10:15 | Gyula - Camp - Gyula | 17:30 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Akli |
| 10:20 | Akli - Camp - Gyula | 18:00 | Akli - Uj Akli - Gyula |
| 11:00 | Gyula - Camp - Akli | 18:00 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Akli |
| 11:00 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Camp - Gyula | 18:30 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Akli |
| 11:30 | Akli - Camp - Gyula | 18:30 | Akli - Uj Akli - Gyula |
| 12:00 | Akli - Uj Akli - Gyula | 19:00 | Akli - Uj Akli - Gyula |
| 12:30 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Akli | 19:00 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Akli |
| 13:00 | Akli - Uj Akli - Gyula | | |
| 13:30 | Gyula - Uj Akli - Akli | <i>Evening</i> | <i>buses to be notified locally</i> |

Final Sunday - Church

| | |
|-------|-----------------|
| 07:30 | Gyula - Akli |
| 08:15 | Uj Akli - Gyula |

Please note:

- To provide a guide we are publishing a provisional bus timetable.
- Please note that these may well change and indeed timings before 9am will change from Thursday onwards when the medics location changes.
- Please also note that priority should be given to medics and teachers and school children before 9am and for the youth from 09.30 onwards
- There should be 3-4 minibuses operating so we hope that there will be space for all most of the time.
- Please do NOT hold up the bus - as this will affect the whole timetable for everyone

Saturday 5 August
Serving like Jesus

A follower of Jesus is to be a servant of others.

Check out: Mark 10 v 35-45

After James and John ask for the seat of power in heaven, Jesus contrasts Christian leadership with leadership in the world around.

What does worldly leadership look like (v42)?

It's about Power, Status and Authority

How does Jesus turn this on its head (v43-45)?

Jesus, the greatest leader of all time, God the Son, came to serve and die for the world. A follower of Jesus will serve others also.

We are all serving Jesus here – we all have a responsibility. The temptation here and back at home is to take pride in our status and even lord it over people. Are we willing to do the most menial jobs? Do we some-how have a view that we are better than others? If so, Jesus challenges us like he did his first disciples. When we serve each other, or these Ukrainians, by doing the not-so-nice jobs to help someone – we are following in the footsteps of Jesus – then we are the servant of all - then we are great in God's eyes.

At a time in the week when energy is running low, let's pray for God's strength, his untiring love and the determination to be a servant to all today and when we go home.



Monday 31 July
Called by Jesus

"Jesus knew His calling. He wasn't just passing through life, but pursuing a vision"
Leighton Ford

The Bible is full of people who God calls (e.g. Moses, Jeremiah, David, Apostle Paul and the disciples)

Check out: Luke 5 v 1 – 11 where Jesus calls the first disciples...

After using Simon's boat to preach from Jesus asks Simon to do something that doesn't make sense to Simon – to fish in the day even when they haven't caught anything all night (the normal fishing time). Yet Peter is willing to obey Jesus even when he doesn't get it.

Simon Peter's act of trust in what Jesus said led him to witness and experience a miracle (the huge catch of fish). What was Simon's response to seeing this miracle?

(He was aware of his sin and total unworthiness to be in the presence of Jesus)

This realisation of sin and amazement of who Jesus is, is what Jesus is looking for in all those he calls. What is Jesus' reaction to Simon Peter's cry of unworthiness?

(Reassurance and a calling to a new life.)

What should be our attitude as we go into this week then? - Amazement that Jesus has called us to know him and a sense of unworthiness that he should be interested in us and want to use us here.

Did Simon Peter and his friends take Jesus' call seriously?

(Yes – they left everything and followed him. They had the most fulfilling life of service ahead of them...)

If you are thinking, 'Why am I here in the Ukraine (again)?' Answer: Jesus has called you here. He has a plan – we are all part of it.

How should we react to God's calling on our lives? Like Simon Peter lets talk to Jesus now in prayer - admitting our unworthiness, praising him for his kindness to call people like us, and accepting the calling by serving him this week.



Tuesday 1 August
Shaped like Jesus

We haven't just been called to 'do' things for Jesus, we have been called to 'become like Jesus'. Jesus is more concerned with our character than our career.

When Jesus calls us to follow him, he gives each one of us his Spirit to help us.

Check out: Galatians 5 v 16 – 26

Without God's help – our internal sinfulness rules. From the list in v19-21 and any others – share sins that you struggle with that need to be brought under Jesus' power....

God the Holy Spirit is a gardener and his work is to grow his fruit in us to make us like Jesus. What fruit do you need God to grow in you the most... this week...back at home? Each share.

Pray for each person one by one and end each prayer with the words, 'make <name> more like Jesus today as they serve you here.'

Friday 4 August
Powered like Jesus

Jesus relied on the power of the Holy Spirit and so should we. It is impossible to really serve Jesus unless we are open to the Holy Spirit to work in and through us.

Check out: Luke 4 v 1: Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit. By his power he resisted the devil's temptations.

Check out Luke 4 v 14: Jesus returned in the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is so easy in Christian service to just go through the Christian motions, do good things but in our own strength. This is a particular temptation if we have been a Christian a while or served in this way before. The enemy to being open to the Spirit's power is pride – the 'I know what I'm doing' mentality. Therefore it follows that the way to being filled with the Spirit is to come to Jesus in prayer with a humble heart – saying, 'Lord I need you to work in and through me today, otherwise my service for you has no eternal value'.

Have a moment of quiet before God confessing where you have been serving in your own strength.

Sing together the theme song:
Jesus Be the Centre

Those who feel the need of the Holy Spirit more in their lives – stand and let the group leader lay his hand on you and pray for the out-pouring of God's Holy Spirit upon you for Jesus to get the glory through your life.



Thursday 3 August
Obeying Jesus

To follow Jesus is to follow his instructions. His instructions give shape to our lives and show us how to build our lives...

Check out: Matthew 7 v 24 – 29

This well known children's song and parable from Jesus is all about how to build our lives on Jesus. What did the wise man and foolish man do and what do they represent?

(The person who hears God's words and puts them into practice (obeys them) and the person who hears them and does not put them into practice)

In the parable, before the storm, would a casual observer be able to see the difference in the houses?

(Probably not – as the foundation is unseen. Only the storm brings the reality of the strength of the house into the open.)

In other words we can be going to church, reading the bible, listening to sermons, even be here in the Ukraine ... living what seems like a Christian life – but if we are not obeying Jesus words – putting them into practice in our daily lives we are not following Jesus.

Have we been building our life on something else recently? Let's resolve to obey God's word completely.

Prayer: Thank God for his Word the Bible. Ask for courage to obey – even the tough stuff. Share any areas you need prayer to be faithful to Jesus today.



Wednesday 2 July
Praying like Jesus

To follow Jesus is to follow his example. Jesus was a man of prayer. In fact his life was soaked in prayer – check out these verses (get a person each to read a verse)

Luke 4 v 42 – 43: Jesus was up early in the morning praying.

This gave him direction, kept him to his priority – to preach the kingdom of God. It is great that we can copy Jesus' model this week – will we do this back at home?

Luke 5 v 16: Frequent withdrawal.

With all the busyness of ministry, he needed time with his Father – just to be! If Jesus needed to do this – how much more do we! It is difficult to do this here – but make sure there are a few moments in the day to sit with God.

Luke 6 v 12-13: All night in prayer.

Before a big decision (choosing the 12) Jesus dedicated a night in prayer to hear from his Father. That might be tricky here – but there will be times to sacrifice other things in order to pray – even sleep!

Luke 22 v 31-32: Prayed for an individual – Peter.

We are called to pray for each other to avoid temptation and keep following Jesus.

Luke 22 v 39-42: Battle in prayer.

His prayer with his Father enabled him to face and go to the cross. Prayer is submitting to God's will even when it costs.

I wonder if our prayer life reflects Jesus? His prayer life led to action – not to him becoming a hermit!

Have some silence as you each sit with God for a minute or so.... then someone close in prayer and ask for God's direction, courage and strength for the tasks ahead today.



| Day | Location | Event/Time | Personnel | Lead/Co-ord | Notes | Day | Location | Event/Time | Personnel | Lead/Co-ord | Notes |
|-----|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Sun | Church | AM | In your village | | | Fri | G,U&A | Prayers0730 | All in each village | Stu, Stuart & Mike | |
| | Gyula | Fair 1430 | Everybody | Stu | | | Akli/Gyula | Most of the day | Preparation for social | Sue | Assistance needed |
| | Gyula/Uj Akli | Set Up 1630 | Mission team assist sch & camp | | | | Gyula | Visits/Clinics1000 | Mission Team | | Some elders needed |
| | Akli | Set Up 1630 | Mission team help clinic set up | | | | Gyula | Visits/clinics1400 | Mission team visits & assist | | Some elders needed |
| | | | | | | Gyula Clubhouse | Social 19.30. | All staying in Gyula | Roger | | Assistance needed |
| Mon | G,U&A | Prayers 0700 | All in each village | Stu, Stuart & Mike | Welcome interpreters | Sat | G,U&A | Prayers 0730 | All in each village | Stu, Stuart & Mike | |
| | Akli Church | Elders meet 0900 | Mission Team | Stu | | | Gyula | Clinics1000 | Mission team assist | | |
| | Akli | Visits/Clinics1000 | Mission Team | | Some elders needed | | Akli | Most of the day | Preparation for social | Sue | Assistance needed |
| | Uj Akli | Visits/Clinics1400 | Mission Team | | Some elders needed | | Gyula/Uj Akli | Packing1400 | Mission team assist closedown | | |
| | GyulaClub | Film 19.30. | All staying in Gyula | Neil | Assistance needed | Akli | Social 19.30. | All staying in Akli | Mike Bigden | Assistance needed | |
| Tue | G,U&A | Prayers 0730 | All in each village | Stu, Stuart & Mike | | Sun | Akli | Church 0830 | All in Akli+ | Stu | |
| | Uj Akli | Visits/Clinics1000 | Mission Team | | Some elders needed | | Uj Akli | Church 1000 | All in Akli and Uj Akli+ | Stu | |
| | Akli | Visits/Clinics1400 | Mission Team | | Some elders needed | | Gyula | Church 1130 | All | Stu | |
| | Uj Akli | Film 19.30. | All staying in Uj Akli | Stuart | Assistance needed | | Gyula | Lunch1300 | All with Gyula Hosts | | |
| | GyulaParish | Dinner1930 | All staying in Gyula | Jeno | | | Gyula | Depart 1400 | All | | |
| Wed | G,U&A | Prayers 0730 | All in each village | Stu, Stuart & Mike | | | | | | | |
| | G,U&A | Day/half day out | All with hosts | Andrew | | | | | | | |
| | Akli | Film 19.30. | All staying in Akli | Dudley | Assistance needed | | | | | | |
| Thu | G,U&A | Prayers 0730 | All in each village | Stu, Stuart & Mike | | | | | | | |
| | Gyula | SetUp0830 | Help clinic set up | Roger/Neil | | | | | | | |
| | Gyula | Elders Meet 0900 | Mission Team | | | | | | | | |
| | Gyula | Clinics1000 | Mission team assist | | | | | | | | |
| | Gyula | Visits/clinics1400 | Mission team visits & assist | | Some elders needed | | | | | | |
| | Akli/Uj Akli | Most of day | Preparation for social | Sue | Assistance needed | | | | | | |
| | Uj Akli | Social 19.30. | All staying in Uj Akli | Stuart | Assistance needed | | | | | | |