

PURE RELIGION

They Were Married, and Given in Marriage

Yulia and Yevgeny had fallen in love, but they could not marry. Not now. Not in the post-cold war Ukraine. Not with an unemployment rate among Church members of more than 50 percent.

Neither had a job, and even if they had, with the average wage in the Ukraine being less than the equivalent of US\$200 per month, how could they start a family with such meager income? And the expense of traveling to marry in the temple was simply a dream beyond practical realization.

Yulia and Yevgeny sought counsel from Elder and Sister Murri, who were serving as Church humanitarian service missionaries in the Ukraine. With the help of LDS Employment Services, the Murrises had set up an employment office in Kiev and had begun providing training in job search skills. With Elder and Sister Murri's expert help, Yulia and Yevgeny began working on preparing resumes, developing job contacts, and practicing interviewing.

When Elder Murri learned of an opening for a music teacher in an English-speaking school, he encouraged Yulia to interview for the position. She was reluctant to do so because, even though the position appeared to pay well, it would mean giving up her graduate studies in music for the time being.

"What do you want to do with your degree once you have it?" Elder Murri counseled with her.

"Teach music."

"And how many music teaching positions are available?"

"Few."

"And how much can you expect to earn in a position once you have your degree?"

"Perhaps \$70 to \$100 a month."

"And how much is this new job offering?"

The position in question offered \$700 per month. Possibly as much as 10 times what she had hoped to obtain with her graduate degree.

Yulia interviewed for the job and so impressed the school with her skills and abilities that they offered her the position.

As a result, Yulia and Yevgeny not only were able to get married, but they could afford to travel to Freiberg, Germany, and even pay the way for Yulia's parents so that they could see the couple married in the temple for time and all eternity.

Today, Yulia is happily doing what she always dreamed of doing, and Yevgeny, although still looking for work, is serving as president of the Peremoga Branch of the Church in Kiev.

