



## BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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July-August, 2022

*“ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” Romans 3:24*

### Dear Pastors and Friends,

Greetings from the Slobodian's. Somehow, we may have missed a prayer letter since we can't find one for May and June. However, since the war started in Ukraine, we have been putting out more information than ever before since we have been publishing a weekly war relief e-mail update every week and posting video updates on our website regularly. Currently we have over 60 video updates on our website where you can view reports from our nationals in Ukraine. This is in addition to our monthly prayer and praise sheet called the *BIEM's of Light* and our quarterly newsletter, *The Challenger*. If you are not receiving our weekly war relief e-mail updates, please consider signing up for them. The best way to sign up for this is to use the following link:

<https://www.baptistinternational.org/campaigns/view-campaign/fLR0UpV7NUSqLEPr3-efzOo81an72xBal0qL2kfGuPZqkgu5pm3fZUUM5uWjmTGbMz5PsPp7U3Gi5hBKwOIfM2GMMiJamLb>

Right now, we are concluding another trip to Ukraine. As we travel, we notice one big change. When we stop at gas stations, we are no longer limited to just 5 or 10 gallons but can now fill up without a special permit. When I asked why the difference, the explanation is that now more fuel from Europe is flowing into Ukraine. We don't understand exactly how these things work, but we are thankful!

Our War Relief efforts involve not only the distribution of humanitarian aid, but also the evacuation of refugees from occupied or embattled areas. Our men are bringing aid into these locations and exiting with refugees. Currently, we are conducting such operations in areas of Ukraine near Kharkiv, Kherson, and Mykolaiv. Vitaly Bilyak from Ternopil is spearheading this most recent effort which involves several people. We look forward to posting a video of this project soon.

Thank you for your prayers concerning Vitaly Yurchenko's request for special permission to leave Ukraine under a recently announced program which allows Ukrainian pastors to leave Ukraine for religious purposes. Vitaly was one of the first Ukrainian pastors to receive such permission and we are looking forward to traveling with his wife Alona for meetings in Indiana and Minnesota. We hope some of our other men will also be granted such permission in the near future.

A highlight of this trip was a baptism and ordination in Fastiv, Ukraine for one of our first Ukrainian church plants. Since this church's founding, they have started some daughter churches and are now enjoying a period of growth as people are being saved, following the Lord in believers' baptism, and growing in the Lord.

Our camps in Ukraine are in full swing now with many more campers than expected. I heard the following story while visiting one of these camps: A man who lived a wicked life of crime, alcohol, and violence was saved nearby and began attending church. At the time, he was under surveillance by a policeman who followed him to church, certain that this was a ruse to throw off the authorities. When this man continued to attend church and abruptly ended his wicked ways, the policeman asked the pastor, "What have you done to this man? Many have tried to get him to change his ways with no results." The pastor replied, "I didn't do anything but preach the Word of God to him, and God changed him. Please bring others like him here so they can also hear the Word of God and find new lives in Christ." "Absolutely not," said the policeman. "If I did that, I would soon be without a job!" Praise God for His amazing grace!!

### *The Slobodians*

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*"...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel." Mark 16:15*