



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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"For God is King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding." Psalm 47:7

Dear Pastors and Friends,

Warm greeting from Ukraine where this winter has been the harshest that people can remember in decades. Just like in much of the states there seems to be no end as we continue to have snow almost every day of our seminary sessions here. The churches here are like the trains, no cancellations ever. No one remembers a service ever being cancelled. Of course things are different here from America in that a good number of church folks live within walking distance. Snow removal is far from US standards and the politicians are not always responsive to complaints by the citizens. For example the mayor of Kiev recently told reporters, "let those who are complaining take shovels and remove the snow."

Nevertheless, our February seminary session in Kiev has been a blessing as shared by director Vitaly Yurchenko, "Thanks be to our Lord for His constant love and care toward us. Our Seminary brings much fruit for our Lord and His Kingdom. Many students are very thankful for the opportunity they have to study and use the experience they get in their everyday life. God always blesses every ministry done for His glory. Studying in the Seminary helps students preach God's word more effectively and broaden His Kingdom."

Praise God for answered prayer in that our container has now been officially and completely cleared for distribution. Wading through all the levels of bureaucracy and several layers of customs agents is not an easy task and our Ukrainian workers are thankful for each of you who prayed for these efforts. Now they are engaging in the more delightful task of distributing the donated clothing, toys, medical supplies and glad for the opportunity to evangelize such efforts make possible. This container also contained a considerable amount of ministry items for national missionaries and churches such as tables, file cabinets, books, Bibles and literature and one large pulpit which fits perfectly in the church planted in Fastiv, Ukraine.

The middle of winter is a great time for planning ministry efforts for spring, summer and beyond. As we have met with workers and ministry partners much during these days it is also a good time for evaluation. There is a consensus we have come to which will have some impact on our work with needy children in light of the government launching a program encouraging Ukrainian families to adopt orphans. The president and other government officials have done this after evaluating the statistics of what happens to youth who are a product of the orphanage system. The outlook is extremely discouraging as most turn to crime and many commit suicide. There has been an encouraging response by Christian families in this effort and some of our own BIEM workers, partners and pastors have adopted children. While we plan to continue our outreach among homeless children and orphanages we plan to put most of our efforts in those ministries which are local church operated rather than state run and in helping Christian families in their adoption of needy children. We believe the long term results of this kind of effort will be very powerful in the lives of these children and their adopted families. Look for more information on some of our efforts in this area in our next newsletter, *The Challenger*.

We thank God for your faithful prayers and support. As we continue in our efforts of reaching souls, planting churches and training nationals your involvement is needed and greatly appreciated. May God bless and continue to use each of you in His great and wonderful work.

The Slobodians

Church Planting • Evangelism • Bibles & Literature • Training Nationals

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