



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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"And behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places to which thou goest..." Genesis 28:15

Dear Pastors and Friends,

Thank-you very much for your faithful support and prayers! We are grateful for a fruitful summer. With a couple more weeks left in the camping season we rejoice in over 1,000 campers with 229 souls saved thus far. Over one dozen have been saved over the past month in Muslim countries where BIEM has personnel faithfully proclaiming the Gospel. Baptisms have been conducted sometimes in full view of an Islamic public that did not always understand what they were watching. In one instance our church planter who conducted the baptism right on the Mediterranean Sea wearing dress slacks, shirt and tie was approached by folks that thought he was a special swimming instructor for VIP's! We continue to be amazed at the opportunities that God bestows on our group of dedicated national missionaries.

Our main need right now is developing the Serviceman's Center that will be a part of the church planted in Ukrainian on a military base. The Lord has prepared an excellent candidate to head up this outreach to soldiers. Igor Balashov has the type of background that soldiers respect. As part of his testimony, he begins, "I was born and brought up in a military family, a family of communists. My parents by their political creed were members of the Communist party and atheists. I had nothing in common with God and religion." Little did he guess in his youth how greatly that situation would change! Later Igor distinguished himself as a special forces paratrooper, earned an award presented by Ukraine's Minister of Defense and eventually achieved the rank of Lieutenant.

However, the Lord wanted Igor in spiritual warfare, not physical warfare. In January of 2005 Igor and his whole family were reached through the efforts of Vitaly Yurchenko and his family who are longtime BIEM church planters. Before long, Igor Balashov was in Bible classes and beginning to share his new-found faith. Igor began assisting with children's camps, teaching Sunday school, and other forms of ministry. Eventually brother Igor graduated from our seminary in Kiev, Ukraine. As he gained experience in ministry both he and others recognized that God has given him the gift of evangelism. He joyfully accepted the ministry of preaching in the village churches of Borivka and Komarivka and has begun ministering to soldiers in Desna even before the Servicemen's Center is completed. "After meeting with the base's *zampolit* (an assistant commander), they allow me to speak to the soldiers regularly," he says. At the same time, though, he understands that it's his past record of military service that won the officers' respect and friendship. "They accept me as one of their own." The younger soldiers also look up to him as a man who understands them, a man who—years earlier—also passed through Desna as part of his training before moving on to higher ranks.

We now see better the purpose that God had in mind when He enabled us to purchase a very large brick building in this military city of Desna—a building that was actually larger than what we needed for a church. This building is large enough to house two ministries—the church itself on one end, and a servicemen's center on the other. The location is ideal, soldiers walk past it every day. Although much physical labor has been accomplished toward renovating this big brick structure, more needs to be done. The immediate need is for \$15,000 which will bring a gas line from town to heat the building. So far we have received about \$8,000 of this need. Beyond that, an estimated \$27,000 will still be needed to complete the portion of the building containing the Servicemen's Center. Eventually we hope to raise monthly support of \$1,000 to fully operate this ministry, which will both evangelize unsaved soldiers and provide a place of fellowship for saved soldiers who find themselves stationed in Desna. But for now, our main need is simply to heat the building properly before winter, and then to complete reconstruction. Pray with us that God meets these needs through His people. May God bless you!

The Slobodians

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