



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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“The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.” Psalm 34:22

Dear Pastors and Friends,

Hello again from the Slobodians! We are thankful for each of you who partner with us in fulfilling our Savior’s command to spread the Gospel in the regions beyond. Rest assured that your prayers in behalf of this ministry are effective according to God’s word and very much appreciated by us.

During the months of March and April we had Ukrainian church planters, Vitaly and Alona Yurchenko from Kiev as well as Igor Fomichov from Desna visiting with us. They were a blessing to the churches we brought them to, and they in turn were blessed by the love and care that was expressed to them.

Many are asking us about what our Ukrainian brethren think about their new president Volodymyr Zelensky, an actor and screenwriter best known for his television role as an ordinary Ukrainian teacher who becomes president and tries to rid the country of corruption. This television series drew a massive audience. Corruption in Ukraine has been a systemic problem. One cannot help but agree with Russian president Putin who said that he felt sorry for the Ukrainian people because “every time they hold an election they vote in a new band of thieves.” Nevertheless, every election since Ukraine gained independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union has brought about a sense of optimism, especially after the Orange Revolution following the election of 2004. Many Ukrainians thought that things would change following such a massive uprising that brought in new leadership which made many promises that seemed sincere. Nevertheless, neither they nor any succeeding administration has been able to rise above the corruption and inefficiency that has held this nation back.

Now once again, though not universal there are many that are hoping there will be a change for the better. The answer to what our Ukrainian brethren think about the election is somewhat the same as their countrymen. Though some doubt that the new president will bring good results, there are many who hope he will. At the same time there is this difference: the believers place their hope in the Lord rather than in men. No matter what positions of power are attained by leaders of nations, Scripture tells us, *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.* Therefore, please pray that God will see fit to direct the newly elected leadership in ways that are righteous. Especially that the current state of full religious freedom would continue in Ukraine. The blessing of this freedom has greatly aided missionary work in this needy land.

Please continue to pray for our upcoming Missions conference in Ukraine focusing on Muslim lands. Pray that God would work in the hearts of the Ukrainians attending during and after the conference. Pray that they would answer the call to the lands to the south of them which contain multitudes of unreached souls who live under the darkness of Islam, an area where laborers are much needed.

We are grateful for all of you who have been praying for our grandson Noah Harvey ever since he had his heart transplant when he was only a few weeks old. Your prayers are especially needed now as the Harveys are facing some new challenges. A website has been launched where you can get more information (www.COTAforMightyNoah.com) Thank you for your part in our work for Christ.

The Slobodians

Church Planting • Evangelism • Bibles & Literature • Training Nationals

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