



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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January-February 2024

"Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 124:8

Dear Pastors and Friends,

Praise God for His saving grace and for the privilege of being able to serve Him in these challenging times. As we continue to see the political struggles of our country and the war which tragically continues in Ukraine as well as conflicts and troubles throughout the world, it is a comfort to be reminded in Scripture that our hope is not in human leaders but in the Lord God Almighty who never fails and has a purpose and plan for every person and every nation.

In January and February much of our focus was on the project that was launched at the end of last year as a part of our War Relief effort in Ukraine. The purpose was to provide warm clothing to Ukrainian soldiers during these cold winter months. The goal was to provide \$100 worth of warm boots, socks, gloves, thermal underwear, and other winter gear for 1,000 Ukrainian soldiers on or near the frigid front lines of battle along with New Testaments and Gospel literature. This effort was not aimed at just any soldiers, but rather soldiers that members of our church plants and partnering churches had direct contact with. There was an application filled out by participating churches which required a commitment on the part of these church members to purchase the clothing and get it to the soldiers they took responsibility for. It helped a great deal that during this time, a shipping company in Ukraine was providing free shipping for parcels sent to soldiers in battle. Through the military, soldiers would contact the shipping company who then provided promo codes they would pass on to those that had volunteered to ship the packages. The goal was to raise \$100,000 which would provide warm clothing for 1,000 soldiers.

By January 5th \$44,000 had come in and by February 3rd we surpassed our goal of \$100,000. Praise God funds continued to come in which were greatly needed because we were being inundated with applications from partnering churches who compiled long lists of sons, daughters, fathers, brothers, uncles, husbands, friends, and neighbors that were active military in need of warm clothing. When the program ended in February, \$165,000 had come in! Praise God! We are sincerely grateful for all who gave and prayed for this project which enabled 1,650 Ukrainian servicemen to receive warm clothing, New Testaments, and Gospel literature. BIEM has received many heartwarming words of thanks from soldiers. One of the participating churches was surprised when a contingent of special forces showed up at the church to present them with a plaque thanking the church from their commander, a major General! We plan on sharing some of these testimonies in the Spring issue of our Challenger newsletter.

The first week of February the winter session of our Seminary in Kyiv took place. This was at a time when the Russian military continued to target Kyiv. Although the realities of war prevented some students from attending and compelled others to leave Ukraine as refugees, 32 students still came to the classes to grow in the Lord and in their knowledge of His Word and to become more effective servants of the Lord. During this period of classes, Russia attacked several cities throughout Ukraine including forty attacks on Kyiv which included cruise and ballistic missiles and Shahed-type drones. 4 people were killed and 35 injured, according to the city's mayor. Praise God for His hand of protection on the students, workers, professors, and us as well. Please continue to pray for the war to end.

In February the new church planted in Ternopil by Sergiy and Karina Koop began Sunday Services. Also, in February our container was finally received and distributed in Ukraine after significant delays due to difficulties in crossing the border due to striking truck drivers in Poland. Thank-you very much for participating in this ministry through your generous giving and effective prayers.

The Slobodians