



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." 1 Corinthians 3:9.

Dear Pastors and Friends,

It is a blessing to greet you once again and share blessings and news from our ministry. The coronavirus has certainly brought challenges to our ministry and life as well. Praise God the work of the ministry goes on and the Gospel continues to go forth. These days we frequently find ourselves thanking God for the technology which enables us to continue conducting our ministry as we can easily communicate with our partners overseas. So far, we have been healthy though two of our missionary families overseas did contract the virus, one family in Ukraine and the other family in Russia. Both have since recovered and are doing well.

There is one area of ministry that has been thwarted for the time being but another that has surged forward due to the pandemic. What has been halted is our shipments of humanitarian aid, church planting materials and ministry equipment. Currently, we do not know when we can resume these shipments, so we ask you to please pray specifically that this would happen by Spring. On the other hand, church building is surging forward. Largely because, due to the pandemic, there are many in construction who need work. Following is an update on the 4 building projects taking place right now.

Smolin, Ukraine Sasha Petrenko was saved at the church planted on the military base in Desna, Ukraine. Eventually, a missionary call brought Sasha and his wife Ira to Goncharovsk, which is the next military city to the north. God gave them a harvest of souls even though renting a place to meet in was always very, very difficult. When war came to the East it became impossible since Goncharovsk has even tighter security than Desna. This base provides much of the fighting men for the war. God provided funds to buy a house in the bordering town of Smolin. This location works well for the church and expands their outreach into Smolin. The plan was to remodel the house into a simple church building by adding onto it. However, it soon became apparent that this would not work, and the only realistic solution was to demolish it and build a new structure. The old building has been demolished, and the church secured a military tent to meet in while the church was being built. The foundation has been laid and walls are going up. It is important that we get not only the walls up but the roof, windows and doors in before the severe weather of late winter comes. At least \$50,000 is needed for this, so any help would be appreciated.

Borschiv, Ukraine This area of 65,000 without a Gospel witness is where one of our graduates, Sergei Skripnik is planting a church. We shared this project in a recent issue of our newsletter *The Challenger* that a generous donor had provided funds to purchase a nearly completed 4,166 square foot house to convert into a church. At least \$15,000 is still needed to complete the transformation and purchase the neighboring corner lot which would put the church right next to a huge vacant area that is slated for a residential development.

Siberia, Russia This project has been funded by gifts which were given in memory of Pastor Peter Rumachik. This was requested by his family since brother Peter considered himself a missionary to Siberia after being sentenced to imprisonment there after his first arrest during the Soviet era. Please pray that they too can get the building closed in with heat before the extremely cold Siberia winter.

Undisclosed Location In a restricted Muslim country God is doing amazing things through Sasha who also was saved in Desna, Ukraine. Call or write for more information on this opportunity. May God bless each of you as you continue in your service for Him!

The Slobodians

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