



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL *Challenger*

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A Trip to Siberia

In the spring of 2019, BIEM invited friends to donate toward building a church in Siberia in memory of Peter Rumachik. Many responded, and that church is now serving to the glory of God! Below is a condensed version of a letter from Russian pastor Pavel Rumachik (one of Peter's sons), who shares about a trip to that region, including the new church.

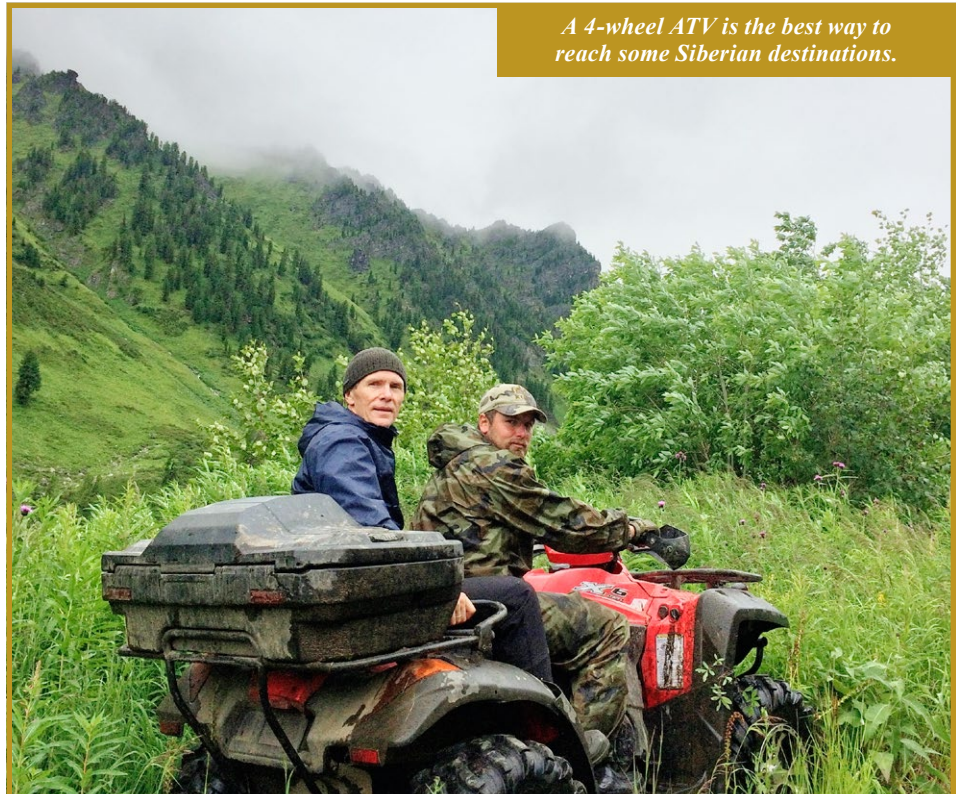
Greetings, dear friends. I want to share about our trip to Siberia this past summer.

I traveled with our church's youth (twenty people) to Siberia. The pastor of the local church had invited us there. In Soviet times, this region held many exiled believers. That pastor's parents had given the exiled believers much material aid, providing warm clothing and food. We rejoiced to hear this. Our fathers had sowed faithfulness to God, and now we are reaping good fruits.

That pastor's family is very hospitable. They received our large team with joy, and they fed us and found us places to rest. The next day, all of our youth set out to visit the mountains. I stayed back, because I was invited to the dedication service of a church building in one of the surrounding settlements. After that, I went to join the youth.

The road to the mountains is beautiful but difficult. A regular car can't go there. You need four-wheel drive vehicles or a quadricycle. We had to ford mountain streams with no bridges. Several times we drove alongside rivers for hundreds of meters [in search of a place to cross]. The next day, we held a worship service, and at the end of that service the driver of the

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A 4-wheel ATV is the best way to reach some Siberian destinations.



The youth traveled to the mountains in this luxurious vehicle.



Thank You from Lipovka

How do you start a church? As the following letter shows, ministries to children often provide the foundation for a new church. In his letter, the pastor thanks BIEM for many blessings, but you are the ones who pray and give to make ministry possible. So, we pass along their thanks to all of you!

Dear Baptist International Evangelistic Ministries,
Our young church sincerely thanks you for your invaluable contribution to our growth and development. With deep gratitude, we want to share with you our story and blessings we've experienced.

Our church was founded thanks to evangelistic outreaches for children that we held in our village of Lipovka in the Mikarovsky



Once again, a thriving church has grown out of children's ministries.

area of the Kyiv region [Ukraine]. Local children who were poor, both materially and spiritually, joyfully embraced the Gospel and shared it with their parents. Before long, we felt a need to start a ministry for adults as well. That's how our church began.

Until recently, our congregation had never organized any events with help from BIEM. We built our church using sacrificial donations from our building team, all of whom are members of Temple of Salvation Baptist Church in Kyiv. [Note: This is the church that houses BIEM's seminary.]

Even though we've experienced many material needs in our history, God has

never forsaken us. One of His miracles was your mission's offer to help. You showed up at the exact time our primary sponsor (a man named Yuri) could no longer provide support due to family circumstances. You became a huge answer to our prayers and needs. We sincerely thank you and the Lord!

Not so many years ago, a teen girl named Julia was visiting our children's meetings. Now she has grown up and become not only a wise young lady but also the head of the Lipovka village council. She highly values our church's role in the

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"Reaching the world for Christ since 1981"
Dr. Peter Slobodian, Founder

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In word and deed, Pastor Anatoly shows his love for God and others.



Blessings in Borschiv

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!” Once again, our hearts overflow with praise to God. Allow us to explain why.

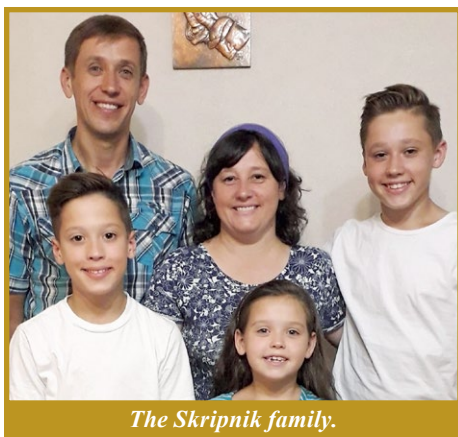
Some time back, we asked you to pray for our church planters in Borschiv, western Ukraine. After Sergei Skripnik graduated from our seminary in Kyiv, he and his wife Vika moved to this region of 65,000 to plant a church.

Although church planting is demanding work, Sergei comes from the area and understood how greatly it needed a solid, Bible-based church. So firm is his belief that God called him to this labor that he declined invitations to

pastor existing churches in Kyiv and Lutsk. Vika fully supports his decision.

However, for a long while the Skripniks’ apartment served as their only meeting place. (Sergei leads two separate

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The Skripnik family.



The main building.

...Lipovka continued from page 2
spiritual enrichment of the community, particularly of the children.

Julia attends our services. She testifies to both children and adults, “Go to this church! They teach only good things. I attend it myself, so I know what I’m

talking about.” Her words carry great authority. Julia’s mother also began visiting our services.

Thanks to your support, this past year Christmas came to every destitute family in our village. We were able to deliver packages of groceries to lonely widows and those who are bedridden. Those gifts weren’t merely an encouragement for unhappy people. They provided a powerful testimony to their relatives and neighbors. That act of kindness established a good reputation for our church among the villagers, and it testified to them of how God’s love is alive and active.

During last year’s Christmas season, thanks to your financial assistance, we held four evangelistic services. Following those, eighteen new people (six of them children) began attending our church regularly. And thanks to you, each child who visited at Christmas received a sweet

treat. All them join us in expressing great gratitude to you.

Young people have proven to be a source of energy for our church. They participate in a church music school that we organized, and in our services these children praise God on musical instruments. Their participation touches our hearts and gives us hope that our church, our village, and our country have a future.

*With love and thankfulness,
Anatoly G. and Evangel Baptist
Church in Lipovka*

Dear friends of BIEM, never doubt that your prayers and your gifts make a difference, both on earth and for eternity. If you would like to send a gift for Widows, Orphans and Needy Children, churches like this one will apply those gifts locally.



Gifts of groceries to widows and the bedridden gave a strong testimony of Christian love to the community.



The living room offers ample room for services.



The yard offers plenty of space for children's activities.

...Borschiv continued from page 3

groups there— Sunday services for fifteen people, plus a ministry to about fifteen teens.) Larger facilities were unsuitable or too expensive. Then God stepped in.

A local man had started building a large home (4,166 square feet, and that doesn't count a separate brick building with multiple potential uses). However, before finishing construction he decided to emigrate. The unfinished building went up for sale with a price tag of \$80,000. But no locals wanted such a home. (The first floor living room is huge—larger than many Ukrainian church auditoriums, which is ideal for church services, but extravagant for a dwelling.) The asking price dropped, then dropped again.

Due to multiple construction projects, BIEM wasn't in a position to make an offer, even at a reduced price. Then God did something amazing. A generous donor who has helped BIEM with other projects agreed to pay the purchase price, which ended up just over \$50,000. True, finishing the building will require another \$15,000–\$20,000, and we'd like to buy the neighboring lot. But at least now we have a building to improve.

So, we invite you to join us in praising the Lord for providing a property with an assessed value of \$104,347 at a rock-bottom price, all for the glory of God!

Looking for a Year-End Project?

*In the final days of each year, many friends like to send special, year-end donations. But they wonder, "Which fund should I help?" If you're asking that question, here's a list of key needs. Gifts to any of them are greatly appreciated.**

- **Bibles** – Due to regular evangelistic outreaches, gifts to this fund are always appreciated. In general, \$3 provides one Bible, and \$1 provides a New Testament.
- **Church Construction** – Used for both construction and reconstruction, this fund enables us to build churches or to restructure existing buildings into churches. Current projects are underway in Smolin, Borschiv, and Lviv in Ukraine.
- **Christmas Evangelism** – Each year BIEM helps congregations to hold evangelistic Christmas outreaches, which include candies and small gifts for children.
- **Shipping Containers** – About twice a year, BIEM sends 40-ft. containers of supplies, Christian literature, medical equipment, and gently used clothing for our mission fields. These are huge blessings. Friends donate much of the contents, but shipping costs about \$8,000 each time.
- **Training Nationals** – We try to keep expenses for our Seminary students to a minimum, but one year of classes for a student costs \$400. Can you help?
- **Christmas Gifts for Missionaries** – BIEM's missionaries don't live luxurious lives. We try to brighten their Christmas with cash gifts for whatever needs they might have.
- **Widows and Orphans** – Evangelistic meetings for widows and orphanage kids provide packages of groceries or small gifts along with a copy of God's Word.
- **Aid for Christians in the War Zone** – Believers who live in the war zone between Ukraine and Russia suffer economic hardship from a situation they didn't create. Aid helps through local churches.
- **Ministry Vehicle** – The First Baptist Church in Bilogorodka has a van that has become undependable. But they really need a vehicle for those who are too elderly or live too far to walk there. So far, \$5,000 has been given, but \$5,000 is still needed.
- **Summer Camps** – Although summer is months away, it's never too early to give toward the \$40,000 needed to sponsor evangelistic camps for children and teens overseas.
- **General Fund** – Although its name might sound less exciting than overseas projects, the General Fund is crucial. This fund covers BIEM's operating expenses, on which every other fund depends. It pays to keep the lights on, the water running, the building in proper repair, and for many daily expenses. If the Lord urges your heart to help a specific project, please do. If not, the General Fund is an excellent way to support the whole ministry.

*Any year-end gift of \$100 or more will receive a complimentary Sound the Trumpet at Christmas CD.



...Siberia continued from page 1

truck that had brought our young people to the mountains repented. Praise God.

Twice we climbed high into the mountains, where we spent the night and beheld the beauty of God's creation, drank water from mountain streams, ate berries, cooked food over open flames, spent marvelous evenings around a campfire,

sang songs, and enjoyed fellowshiping. We considered in particular the parables of the prodigal son and of the good Samaritan. An additional blessing was the fact that in the mountains there is no cellular connection; the youth were able to get away from telephones and Internet. In such an atmosphere God felt closer somehow than in the city.

Our days in the mountains passed quickly; then we returned to the settlement for Sunday. We had a wonderful service. Our youth and the local church participated quite a bit. At the end of the service there was an invitation to repent and get one's life straightened out. Several people from our youth walked forward and prayed with a minister. Praise God!

On that Sunday evening they held the first meeting in the church building that you helped to build. Many adults and children came. We sang several hymns, and then I talked about how God had heard their prayers and provided this building for them. I briefly shared about the life and ministry of my father Peter, and I expressed my wishes that this building would serve to the praise of God. The local pastor shared about the ministry of his father to exiled Christians and about

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The young people learned to drink from mountain streams and to cook over a fire.

Although the building that will become a church in memory of Peter Rumachik isn't finished, Pavel's group joined Siberian believers in holding its first worship service.



A memorial of Soviet times: "In this place on October 29, 1937, were shot 22 Evangelical Christian-Baptist ministers."



...Siberia continued from page 5

the resulting blessings we receive from God for the faithfulness of our fathers. At the end, we all knelt and sincerely thanked God and asked that, right from the start, He would bless the ministry in this house of prayer.

We had three days remaining before our departure, and we spent them in a worthwhile way. On Monday we all set out for a distant settlement, where another brother ministers. Believers there were building a church, too. By the time we arrived, only the walls were up. With God's help, our men worked alongside locals and managed to put up the trusses and to finish the roof in two days. Praise God! The local believers were so grateful for the big help, and our young adults enjoyed the opportunity to assist them.

On the drive back, we stopped in the forest at a tomb where, in 1937, over twenty local Baptist preachers were shot to death. Listening to a local brother who retold this tragic story made a strong impression on the young people. We placed flowers on the tomb then got

down on our knees and thanked God for faithful ministers.

God abundantly blessed this trip! At the farewell dinner, each person shared their own impressions, and everyone was very pleased and grateful to God and to the local friends for their Christian love, good example, and the rich spiritual food. We were glad to hear them say our joint fellowship and labor had brought them a blessing. Praise God.

Our young people were amazed at the poverty of those Siberians. So much so that, after returning home, they collected a large boxful of things and shipped it to Siberia as aid to the poor.

Once more we thank God and all the friends who helped us make this trip. May the Lord reward you!

The Rumachiks have a long history of involvement in children's summer camps. Although the weather is now cold, we're already anticipating the needs of summer. If you would like to help introduce kids to Christ in camp, designate your gift "Summer Camps." ■



New Christmas CD!

Our new CD, *Sound the Trumpet at Christmas*, is now available. These classic Christmas numbers feature Sam Slobodian on trumpet with full orchestra accompaniment.

The suggested donation for this new album is the same as our previous CDs, which is \$15 plus \$4 shipping, a total of \$19.

Bonus! The quality of *Sound the Trumpet I* and *Sound the Trumpet II* has been upgraded through digital remastering. We are offering the new Christmas CD plus *Sound the Trumpet I* or *II* (two CDs) for a donation of \$25 + \$5 shipping. Or choose the new Christmas CD plus *Sound the Trumpet I* and *II* (three CDs) for a donation of \$30 + \$6 shipping.

To order, simply send \$19 for the Christmas CD, or a donation of \$30 for the Christmas CD and *Sound the Trumpet I* or *II* (please specify), or \$36 for all three—the Christmas CD and *Sound the Trumpet I* and *II*. Orders can also be made by telephone (317-718-1633) or online at BaptistInternational.org. (Call for orders of ten or more CDs to receive the bookstore discount of 50%.)

Note: In what may be of particular interest to trumpet players, for the first time we are offering Sam Slobodian trumpet arrangements with piano accompaniment from all three trumpet CDs as well as orchestra soundtracks. These also can be ordered on our website.

BIEM

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Young men from Pavel's church helped local believers to finish the roof on this church for a distant settlement.

