



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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March-April 2012

"For his merciful kindness is great towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord." Psalm 117:2

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings from Ukraine where students are gathering for the Spring session of the school where we provide ministry training for pastors, missionaries and other Christian workers. These sessions are always a blessing as we host pastors from the United States who come to teach about half of the classes. These days the other half are taught by nationals who have achieved the necessary experience and training themselves. This session is special for us because Sam's sister, Ann, has come along since her husband, Dr. Rick Shrader, who pastors the Metro Baptist Church of Gladstone, Missouri, is teaching one of the classes. The Shraders along with us are going to Western Ukraine to minister in some of our church plants in that needy part of Ukraine. While in Western Ukraine we are looking forward to visiting the village where the Slobodian's father, Peter Slobodian, was born. Except for Sam, this will be a first for the rest of our group and sure to be an amazing experience to see our very humble beginnings first hand and marvel at God's grace to our family. Our family is also grateful for our first two grandchildren! Sophia Grace Crouch born March 5th and Ella Louise Anger born April 4th.

In March, we had the joy of traveling to many of our supporting churches with some of our national church planters from Ukraine. This trip also included Pastor Nikolai Velichko, the Ukrainian national leader who pastors Ukraine's largest independent Baptist church that we partner with in many church planting projects. This church had over 30 members imprisoned for Christ during the Soviet Era one of whom was Georgi Vins. Some pastors asked Pastor Velichko how Americans can prepare for the persecution which some feel may come for Bible believing Christians. His answer was, there is no special way to prepare, being a good and faithful Christian is the best preparation. From experience he pointed to the truth of Matthew 10:19,20 *"But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak; for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak, For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you."*

One of the purposes of our travels was to raise funds to cover the cost of shipping a container of donated humanitarian aid and church planting equipment to Ukraine. Praise God that this container was shipped out of our warehouse at the end of March. This shipment is bound for Lutsk in Western Ukraine where BIEM church planters have planted churches, which have developed a needy children's ministry and a very effective drug and alcohol rehab center. This shipment will greatly aid the work of rescuing children and delivering men from the bondage of drugs and alcohol. Thank you very much to all those who donated items and gave funds to make this possible. Please pray for the safe passage of this container and especially pray for our folks to be able to wade through some formidable challenges of bureaucracy and red tape Eastern Europe is known for.

We still have a continuing financial need for the shipment of containers for two reasons. First since this shipment is going to Western Ukraine, the overland trucking once it reaches Ukraine is going to cost us at least \$1,000 more than we expected. Secondly, almost as soon as we emptied our warehouse for this current shipment we received a large shipment of donated items which means that while we may be ready to send another shipment soon, we do not have the funds to do so. One of our ministry vans in Ukraine is a 1995 Dodge 15 passenger with over 300,000 miles. While it will continue to serve in a local ministry, we have a great need for a newer passenger van. If your church has such a van available that is no older than 6 years, it could be classified as humanitarian aid and shipped duty free on our next container. Thank you for your prayers and giving that enables us to reach souls and plant churches.

The Slobodians

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