



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Planting in Chervona Sloboda

2nd Quarter 2010 Report

April 2010

It has been six months since I last wrote about Chervona Sloboda. Since September 2009, I have taken on the responsibilities of Rector of the Kiev Theological Seminary. This time for me has not been easy; there's a lot of work in the new position, but the Lord has blessed this ministry. But today I do not want to tell about the seminary but about Chervona Sloboda. I hope that everybody who has donated for the service and sacrifice continues; it will be interesting to see what happens in Grace Baptist Church at Chervona Sloboda. I have long prayed for the church, the ministry and for a man who could replace me in this ministry. In my plans, I plan to perform other ministries that are needed in the BIEM mission. One person was willing to serve in my place, but the circumstances were such that they did not allowed us to implement this plan. So, I have stayed on to serve in Chervona Sloboda. At the moment I'm praying about it, that the Lord will see this matter, and send His servant to take my place, if He so chooses. While preparing one brother, who is local, and studying in the seminary, perhaps it would please God that this brother served in the church instead of me. I am praying to that end.

I want to give information about Sloboda from the past six months. May God has preserved us all during this time; He remains faithful. Praise Him for it.

One woman's husband died; he was Orthodox. While waiting for an Orthodox priest [at the funeral], we were singing psalms. I read the word of God and preached. Then the priest came and performed the Orthodox rite. People were talking about the dead man, that he was probably a very holy man, if it took two churches to bury. Another person much preferred the way we [Baptists] conduct a funeral service. Someone asked to be buried at our church and not by the Orthodox. There were also those who are interested in our church and promised to come to worship. The woman, whose husband died after a funeral back in the church, said she will not attend church because of some resentment toward someone. But the extended attention and assistance from the church, melted her heart, and now she visits with us.

Brother Slavik graduated from seminary and actively participates in the work of the church. He often walks around the village and testifies of God. Thus, recently, Slavik met one woman dying from alcoholism. She repented, accepted Jesus into her heart and now regularly attends worship. Slavik aids her spiritually.

To sister Alina was born a son, a great joy in the family, but Alina for several months already has been ill, often lies in a hospital. She has an inflamed nerve in the face, doctors cannot do anything. Pray for her recovery.



We cannot finish our building project for a Sunday school because of lack of finances. Lord willing we plan to have a group of doctors from America and we would like to prepare the building for the reception of doctors and to install a toilet. Part of the work we have done, but not enough money to finish. We need \$1000, which would complete the restroom. Please pray about it.

We had needy projects, we helped the elderly living alone in their needs, buying groceries, helped around the house, testified to them about Christ. Pray for the elderly, that they will be saved.

I am very grateful to everyone who continues to pray and support us in ministry. Thank you for your hard work and prayers. Thanks to you, God's work accomplished, and in the Ukraine. God Bless you!

May 2010

In May 2010, in Kiev Theological Seminary, located on 4 Pukhova Street, held a regular session. It took place in an excellent location in good time and with experienced teachers. In a beautiful tradition, the school started with the words of the rector. Vitaly Yurchenko read the text of Scripture from the book of Daniel. My wish was that the students would be like Daniel in our time—in a constant in relation to God, to be sincere believers, to be clean before God.

The first subject was "Advocacy sermon" by teachers from America. The lecturers were John Dzheuers and James Johnson. They are accessible and have an interesting way to present the material and the language barrier was not evident. The main theme, in my opinion, was the idea that preaching is not only a preacher, but more so for the audience. Preaching should be clear to understand, it should combine harmoniously several factors. Here are some of them: the basis of the Word of God, the presence of simple structure, unity, the corresponding illustrations, connectivity, clarity, conviction and sincerity.

The next item was "The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit." Instructor Rich Hall focused on the following topics: ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments; His help in wisdom, in effect, a prophecy, inspiration of the Holy Spirit in writing the Bible, the ministry of the Spirit in the life of Jesus Christ, the Church's life. The Holy Spirit gives believers a consolation, the ability to work in the church, to be faithful to the Lord.

These two items, the first week of the session ended, examinations and evaluations of merit. On Saturday and Sunday each student to practice their knowledge by participating in the service of the Church of Kiev and the Kiev region.

The second week of training began with the subject "Spiritual Growth", Professor Ivan Ivanovich Virk. He is a preacher of the Bulgarian Christian Baptist Church (BHBTS). The lessons touched upon: the Law of the Spirit of Life, Awakening, Repentance, being born again, Imprinting, Adoption, of purification. He is a master of theology and gave lessons and volume respectively.

In the evening brother Virk taught not only for students but for everyone. The theme of the meeting: "God elected to salvation through faith and love." On the example of Abraham's faith was considered some "steps" of faith, which all students defined themselves, their faith and trust in God.

Also, this session included lessons on dogma. Teacher Khmil Vladimir. He invited the students' attention to eternal truths about Christ and the Church of God's will for humanity. Vladimir Mikhailovich, as director of apologetic center, spoke about the existing views on the Bible, the Church, Israel, on the coming events. And not necessarily the views of people coincided with the Word of God - the Bible. Students learn to analyze the statements, events, actions, as individuals and groups and nations, in light of the Bible to be clarified in order to have a true picture of events in the world.

Each student was fascinated by the lessons, as each of us is responsible before God, before the churches, before Him, in front of teachers. Responsibility not only for lectures but also in service, in walking before the Lord. This unique session filled many hearts with even more gratitude for the hospitality of the church at Pukhova, for the support of the Brotherhood of Independent Baptist Churches and Missions of Ukraine, with the mission of BIEM, for the hard work of teachers, for the prayers of the students, with the assistance of the Lord.

I thank all the brothers and sisters who prayed for us and supporting us. Thank you. God bless you!

June 2010

The Sloboda children, however, like all children, want more attention. Do I need to be a teacher or tutor, to pay attention to them? No need to have the willingness to give without expecting in return.

At the beginning of each camp you can't help asking yourself: "Is it worth it to do, and who needs it?" The answer usually comes in the camps. But more about that later. Meanwhile, heavy training and work.

So we are the leaders, they are the children. People are lost, but children need entertainment, and we want to tell them about God. How to hold their attention and raise the level of spirituality? Lord enlighten, humble and open up children to us for a week. Accordingly, the regime of the day was:

- 09:00 - Breakfast;
- 10:00 - The beginning of camp;
- 11:00 - worship;
- 11:30 - skit;
- 12:00 - Bible lesson;
- 12:30 - sports games;
- 14:00 - mini-meal;
- 14:30 - worship;
- 15:00 - common prayer and farewell ... gifts, awards, etc.
- 19:00 - dinner;
- 20.00 - talk by the campfire.



It should be noted that this was the plan for children. But we, the leaders, of course, got up very

early ... After all, you must wake up, remind yourself that we came to work for children, not just entertain them, but at the same time talk about the salvation of their souls. Here, on this basis, our day began, as stated above ... Then personal prayer, then the total for the leaders of Common Prayer ... After a light breakfast for the team. Here we are ready to work ...

At the end of the day, summing up, we ask children questions: "Who created you? Who sends the rain, sun, etc.?" - "What do I need to be saved?" We begin to answer your question: Yes, not in vain, the day passed, the children heard a lot about God, they became friends, become more tolerant of each other. Thank God for this opportunity to testify about Christ. And yet, so pleased to hear from the children words of gratitude and appreciation.

Friends, our task is to teach children to believe in Jesus Christ as personal Savior. This will require not just one week of camp, but the constant communication and nurturing of children in their love and faith in Jesus Christ.

The evening campfire, guitar sounds, the outdoors heard Christian songs glorifying God. It draws local youth, they are attracted by the fire and the young people at a fire. They develop new acquaintances: "Who are you? Why did you come? Is this simply to serve children for free?" Many people cannot understand how this could be, after all we are accustomed to, that good deeds are a rarity in our time.

The camp ended, and the children are interested in when will the next one be. I am pleased with these questions, then I ask myself "Is it worth it, and who needs it?"

We are very grateful to you dear brothers and sisters, because you have helped us to hold this camp, which is so important for children. We thank you for your support and prayers.

God bless you!