



## BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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*“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28 KJV*

#### Dear Pastors and Friends,

Greetings from Ukraine, where we have had a wonderful time with our Ukrainian brethren. We started in Zdolbuniv in the far west, which is the location of one of our men, Pasha Usach. He has organized much war relief, which he does along with his home church, a strong congregation where many volunteer to help. He is also one of those who travel to the war front bringing aid and sharing the Gospel in war-torn areas. In addition, Pasha directs a camp located on property BIEM helped to buy outside the city—an ideal location for camping ministry. We visited the camp, which began to function just last summer but has already seen many youths saved in the several camps they conducted. One camp had over 80 campers. The church has done an impressive amount of work completing a kitchen area with seating that can also be used for services. Although campers currently sleep in tents, the men have constructed their first good-sized cabin. The most exciting development is that camp leaders met local families when they invited their children to attend camp along with the youth from churches. The parents were quite curious, so when they came to observe, camp staff had opportunities to get acquainted. When Pasha asked whether they would attend should he begin regular Sunday services on the campground, they agreed! Now a new church meets every Sunday in this newly built cabin. Over 20 are attending. Praise God!

After our time in Zdolbuniv, we continued to the Kyiv area, where we spent time in Bilogorodka. While there, we participated in yet another baptism and a distribution of aid to widows, including war widows. All those women heard a clear Gospel message and received Christian literature and a New Testament in their package of aid. The ladies of the church prepared a wonderful meal, and the youth put on an amazing musical performance while the ladies ate. Pastor Eugene was especially glad because this event marked the first time in their church's history that all four neighboring homes had someone attending a church service!

Next, we traveled north of Kyiv and visited the military cities of Desna and Goncharovsk. In Desna, due to the war, we had halted completion of the building that will house their drug and alcohol rehab center. This visit convinced us that we need to resume construction as we saw first-hand the overcrowded conditions of their current facility. Unfortunately, the war has produced a rise in alcohol and drug addiction, which has hit the military community hard. Therefore, we need to make room for more men as soon as possible.

Then we traveled back west to Ternopil, where people are continuing to come to Christ at the new church, which is in a large community of war refugees. Brother Sergiy Koop reports that a lady from Donetsk has been saved along with a woman from Berdyansk in the Zaporizhzhia area, not far from Mariupol. The church plans to hold a baptism soon. Pray especially for a young man, Sasha, who has come to Christ, because his family is vehemently opposed to him being baptized. Please pray for their hearts to soften towards this.

Presently, we are concluding our trip to Ukraine by spending time in Lviv with brother Yura, whose church is also experiencing growth. One of their ladies is a blogger, whose blog posts on the Christian home have attracted many followers. The producers of a popular TV show called *Super Mama* contacted her about featuring her on one of their episodes. She asked Pastor Yura if she should do this. He replied that it might give her an opportunity to share her faith. Sure enough, that is exactly what happened. Since her life revolves around the church, where her whole family is involved, the camera crew came to the church and filmed several events. So, the church also appeared on the nationwide TV program viewed by millions of Ukrainians. I was able to watch a video of this broadcast and was blessed as Alla gave a strong testimony for Christ, adding how important the church was in their lives. Thank you for your prayers and for partnering with us in God's wonderful work!

#### *The Slobodians*