



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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January-February 2021

"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you." Jeremiah 20:12

Dear Pastors and Friends,

Hello again from the Slobodians! We are grateful for each of you who reads our updates, prays for the needs mentioned, rejoices with us over the victories and invests in this ministry. You play a vital role in the proclamation of the Gospel and we thank God for you.

Just like everyone else we look forward to the time when the effects of the pandemic will diminish, so that life and ministry return to normal. Praise God for progress, as we were able to take a step forward by having some of our national church planters visit the United States this month, after not being able to bring in any nationals from overseas since the crisis began a year ago. It was a great blessing to have Vitaly and Alona Yurchenko with us, and to travel with them to give reports to supporting churches. We look forward with hope to more of our nationals traveling to the United States in the months ahead. Praise God that the Winter Session of the seminary in Ukraine went well with 40 students attending, and another 30 who joined them for a special class on the Christian home. Please pray that we will be able to attend the Spring session coming up in late April.

It has been interesting to see how God has been using this health crisis to work in the hearts of people. Many of our church planters continue to report increases in attendance and hearts opening to the Gospel. For example, brother Eugene in Bilogorodka, Ukraine reports that outreaches during this time of Covid have reaped more souls attending church. In Chernihiv, Ukraine brother Lyosha reports that a number of youths have begun coming to the church. He attributes this to boredom brought about by the lockdown. Pray that as these visitors hear the preaching of God's word they will believe, and trust Christ!

Recently we shared a deep concern for two of our national missionaries in challenging fields who were facing government intrusions. One was in Siberia, where the church building program was halted by city authorities after an unexpected inspection. The other was in a restricted Muslim land where local authorities sent a commission from the mayor's office including the city prosecutor, plain clothes police, the health department, and a fire inspector, to examine the building Pastor Righteous and his congregation meet in. Praise God that in Siberia, construction has resumed after the church was able to take care of the issues that were raised by the city. Praise God as well, that the Commission not only found no cause to close the church building where Pastor Righteous was holding services, but God gave him both the opportunity and boldness to share the Gospel with this Commission. After one official began asking questions which indicated an interest in spiritual matters, the person leading this commission said, "we better leave before any of us join your church!". These and other needs were shared in our monthly prayer and praise sheet called "The BIEM's of Light". If you do not receive this but would like to, please contact us.

Finally, we would like to share a heartwarming story from Belarus which brother Nikolai shared with us. It begins more than 30 years ago when he had an opportunity to share the Gospel with a man over lunch. Afterwards, Nikolai invited this man to his wedding. He accepted, providing that he could also bring another couple since he had never attended a religious ceremony before. Soon, three of the four accepted Christ but the man originally invited to the wedding was killed in a car accident, leaving his wife a widow with two children who Nikolai would faithfully bring to church. Unfortunately, these children drifted into the world but when they had children, the grandchildren were brought to church. By the grace of God one of them, Alexandra, fell in love with the Lord and became active in church. Later, Alexandra and Nikolai's son Anatoly fell in love and were recently engaged. Their wedding is coming up this May 29th! May God bless you!

The Slobodians

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