



November-December, 2019

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

Dear Pastors and Friends,

Warm Christmas greetings from the Slobodians! We trust that you are enjoying this special time of year. As we look back over 2019 we are grateful for God's goodness and faithfulness. He has blessed us with good health, open doors for the Gospel in our fields, wonderful opportunities to evangelize, plant churches and train nationals and a wonderful group of supporters and pray partners who make our ministry possible as well as a gifted and dedicated team of national church planters and workers. We have so much to be thankful for.

This year we have been blessed with many donations of items needed for Ukraine. Along with tons of clothing, shoes, medical supplies, and youth ministry sports equipment, we have been blessed with a good amount of church furnishings including many tables and over 200 well padded auditorium chairs. Along with all of this we have received a good number of musical instruments such as pianos and guitars as well as band and orchestra instruments. This enabled us to completely fill a forty-foot container which has recently arrived in the Ukraine port located in Odessa. Due to changes in government because of a new presidential administration in Ukraine, there is a backlog of containers waiting for government approval to be released like we have never seen before. Please pray that our container would soon be released so that it can be distributed by our church planters to meet ministry needs as well as helping the poor and needy in their communities.

A great highlight of this past year was the wonderful summer camp outreach God abundantly blessed. Over 3,000 attended camps operated by our national church planters and partners in more than two dozen locations. Over 1,000 young people made decisions at these camps. There were so many wonderful testimonies and pictures from these camps that we could not possibly fit them into any of our regular publications. Therefore we have compiled a special 24 page report that we would be glad to send or e-mail you upon request.

Other significant projects launched this past year have been new outreaches established in two Ukrainian orphanages and four important church building projects have been taken on. The new building projects in Siberia, Russia and Borschiv, Ukraine are featured in the current issue of our newsletter, *The Challenger*. The other locations are Lviv and Smolen in Ukraine. If you are not receiving this publication you can request to be added to our mailing list or download issues from our website, BaptistInternational.org.

There is a special prayer need we would like to call your attention to regarding a strategic facility we purchased in a restricted country where we have been able to place dedicated and trained nationals. This facility not only serves as a meeting place for the church established there but also serves as BIEM's designated "safe house" in the event that we would need to evacuate a family in danger. This location was chosen with that in mind because we would be able to quickly obtain visas if such a situation were to occur. Of course we hope and pray that this would not ever happen, but just the same we want to be prepared. Due to some zoning changes, as well as wear and tear, we need \$25,000 to upgrade this facility. Please pray concerning this need.

At this joyous time of year, we extend to you our wishes for a blessed Christmas and wonderful New Year. May God bless each and everyone of you!

The Slobodians

