



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

121 Commerce Drive, Suite 50 • Danville, IN 46122 • e-mail: Missions@BaptistInternational.org

September-October, 2018

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction...”

James 1:27

Dear Pastors and Friends,

Greetings from Ukraine where we are concluding a missions trip with a group from our home church along with a couple from Canada. This mission trip focused on reaching out to orphans and widows. Special services were conducted in 8 different cities in the areas of Kiev, which is in Central Ukraine and Ternopil which is in the far West. God greatly blessed these efforts as the Gospel was presented through preaching, sharing testimonies and special children's presentations.

It was exciting to see how God used each team member, all from different walks of life to impact people for Christ. The fact that so many people would come from so far to help needy Ukrainians was a powerful expression of God's great love. One elderly lady said that in all her 90 years she had never seen such a manifestation of Christian love and care. One couple from our church who came on this trip are totally blind. Their testimony of how despite being physically blind, they can see Jesus every day made a powerful impact over and over again.

Folks were moved to tears as widows received good sized bags of groceries and children joyously opened their special care packages. As Bibles were distributed to those without many happily clutched their very own copy of God's word. These special outreaches did not end with this missions team. Our church planters and workers are continuing these special outreaches through the month of November. So far we have received \$10,145 of the \$12,000 needed for these efforts. Please pray with us for the remaining need of \$1855.

Another need for prayer is our container we shipped to Ukraine which is now at sea. It is due to arrive in the port city of Odessa on November 22. It will then be trucked to its final destination of Ternopil where our folks will distribute the contents to churches who will use the items to reach out to their communities. Clearing this container through Ukrainian customs is a huge task which involves an amazing amount of difficult work for our Ukrainian brethren. Once this container arrives in Ternopil, it is unloaded into a secure storage area under the watchful eye of customs agents who seal the door. Then our folks must provide documentation for each item on the container showing that it is for humanitarian or religious use. Please pray for wisdom and God's enabling hand for Vitaly Bilyak, Eugene Buyko, and many of our other men as they take on this huge task.

The churches and believers in the Luhansk area of the war zone need your prayers. Their church buildings were confiscated by the Russian backed rebel authorities that control this area. They were told that they must re-register their congregations by October 15th. Shortly after that date, the re-registration applications of all congregations that were not Russian Orthodox were rejected, and they were told that they were illegal. Andrei Litsoev who is the head of the Religious Organizations and Spirituality Department of Culture, Youth and Sport Ministry in Luhansk refused to explain why the applications were rejected and what actions would be taken against those meeting for worship without permission. Later other officials said that these actions were taken at the request of the Russian Orthodox church. People continuing to meet in churches would face huge fines. Meeting for worship in homes in groups of more than 5 people is also banned, and those caught would also face similar fines. There is grave concern that all of this is setting the stage for a return to the persecution of the Soviet Era in this area. Please pray for our brethren as they face these great difficulties

Thank you for your prayers and support. May God bless each one of you in your service for our wonderful Lord.

The Slobodians

Church Planting • Evangelism • Bibles & Literature • Training Nationals

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