



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL *Challenger*

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“Thank You for the Gift!”

BIEM received this letter in response to a gift sent to one of our younger church plants in our most recent container. It underscores what a wonderful impact ministry tools can have.

Dear brothers and sisters in America! Thank you very much for the wonderful gift for our church—a flannelgraph!

When we saw the box, our joy knew no bounds. But even then, we couldn't imagine how useful it would be for us in telling and **showing** children about our Lord.

This year, we had already decided to add something fresh to our Bible lessons in summer camp. We wanted a way to make them especially memorable. But

it's good that we began preparations for camp early. For nearly a week, we cut out the pieces and sorted each one into its storage place. (At first, we'd thought we could do it all in a couple days!)

large size is very suitable and practical for camp. None of the children had to squint or strain. Every scene was easy to see. For many children, this was their first time ever to see a flannelgraph. But not just the children. Our older Christian girls were simply in ecstasy. Never before had they seen such a teaching tool. They all wanted a chance to stick the figures onto the flannel backing. In two of the groups for younger children, we presented the Bible lessons with the aid of the flannelgraph.

Once again, thank you for such a remarkable gift! Now we will continue to use it in our Sunday school classes. God's blessings to you!

The Buyko family

The children really enjoyed taking turns placing the Bible character figures on the flannelgraph. This

If you would like to help sponsor the purchase of Betty Lukens flannelgraphs, they are needed and are a tremendous blessing for children's Bible lessons. See the list of Year-End Projects for details. ■



This teaching tool that is common in the U.S. was a novelty in Ukraine.



Cutting out the flannel figures required sharp scissors—and lots of time!



Letting kids apply figures keeps them fully engaged.



Camps in 2020

Kids crave action, fellowship, fun, and laughter. Summer camps that deliver these ingredients create ideal environments for evangelism. However, for the first time since Soviet years, in 2020 we wondered if we could even hold such events. Camps planned for June had to be postponed. Nobody wanted to spread

Covid-19. Our missionaries fervently prayed for wisdom and guidance.

And God answered. By July and August, restrictions began to ease. Even parents who don't attend church began asking, "Will you hold camp for our kids this year?" So, not every camp originally planned was held, but we thank God that many children,

teens, and young adults in Eastern Europe did get to attend our Christian camps. Better yet, God worked in hearts and saved souls. Contact the BIEM office if you'd like a copy of our larger camp report.

Meanwhile, here are some quick glimpses. Thank you so much for supporting the camp ministry! ■



In Glibochok, Ukraine, local authorities at first banned gatherings. But then they reversed that decision, enabling a blessed teen camp!



Children in the village of Smolin, Ukraine, rejoiced when they heard believers would once again hold a Christian camp for them.



Some of these Ukrainian kids never knew how to pray before summer camp.



A special camp for adopted kids in Belarus introduced kids to our Heavenly Father.

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"Reaching the world for Christ since 1981"
Dr. Peter Slobodian, Founder

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In Extreme Youth Camp in western Ukraine, half the campers came as unsaved. That week, various ones gave testimony of placing faith in Christ!



In Central Russia, as elsewhere, there's something powerful about teaching God's Word away from kids' normal environment.



The positive influence of godly counselors can continue long after camp.



White-water rafting in the Carpathian Mountains may have encouraged fervent prayers!

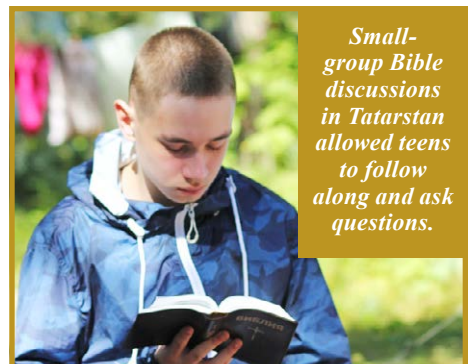
After tent camp in Desna, Ukraine, parents thanked leaders for holding such a wholesome event. So did city administrators!



Vitalik, after receiving a New Testament: "I read poorly. But I'll read the Bible bit by bit." He ran home to show it off!



Bonfires like this one in central Russia create wonderful settings for sermons, testimonies, and calls to salvation.



Small-group Bible discussions in Tatarstan allowed teens to follow along and ask questions.



Christmas Music!

Our CD, *Sound the Trumpet at Christmas*, features classic Christmas numbers with Sam Slobodian on trumpet and full orchestra accompaniment.

The CD includes Joy to the World; Hark! The Herald Angel Sings; White Christmas; The Holy City; I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day; Go Tell It on the Mountain; Silent Night; Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas; O Little Town of Bethlehem; I'll Be Home for Christmas; Ring the Bells; and O Holy Night.

The suggested donation for this album is the same as our previous CDs, which is \$15 plus \$4 shipping, a total of \$19.

Bonus! The quality of *Sound the Trumpet I* and *Sound the Trumpet II* has been upgraded through digital remastering. We are offering the Christmas CD plus *Sound the Trumpet I* or *II* (two CDs) for a donation of \$25. Or choose the Christmas CD plus *Sound the Trumpet I* and *II* (three CDs) for a donation of \$30. Both bonus offers include free shipping.

To order, simply send \$19 for the Christmas CD, or a donation of \$25 for the Christmas CD and *Sound the Trumpet I* or *II* (please specify), or \$30 for all three. Orders may be made by mail, by phone (317-718-1633) or online at <https://www.baptistinternational.org/shop>. (Orders of ten or more CDs receive the bookstore discount of 50%.)

BIEM

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Year-End Projects that Could Use a Boost

*In the final days of each year, many friends like to send special, year-end donations. But they wonder, "Which fund should I help?" If you're asking that question, here's a list of key needs. Gifts to any of them are greatly appreciated.**

■ **Bibles** – Due to evangelistic outreaches, gifts to this fund are always appreciated. In general, \$3 provides one Bible, and \$1 provides a New Testament.

■ **Church Construction** – This fund enables us to build churches and to restructure existing buildings into churches. Ongoing projects in need of funds are Smolin and Borschiv in Ukraine, plus another in a restricted access country.

■ **Christmas Evangelism** – Each year BIEM helps congregations to hold evangelistic Christmas outreaches, which include candies and small gifts for children.

■ **Shipping Containers** – Although the pandemic has halted our container shipments for now, when we resume, hopefully next year, approximately \$8,000 will be needed to ship gently used clothing and supplies for the mission fields. These are huge blessings.

■ **Training Nationals** – We try to keep expenses for our Seminary students to a minimum, but one year of classes for a student costs \$400. Can you help?

■ **Christmas Gifts for our Missionaries** – BIEM's missionaries don't live luxurious lives. We try to brighten their Christmas with cash gifts for whatever needs they might have.

■ **Widows and Orphans** – Evangelistic meetings for widows and orphanage kids provide packages of groceries or small gifts along with a copy of God's Word.

■ **Aid for Christians in the War Zone** – Believers who live in the war zone between Ukraine and Russia suffer economic hardship from a situation they didn't create. We channel aid through local churches.

■ **Summer Camps** – Although summer is months away, it's never too early to give toward the \$40,000 needed to sponsor evangelistic camps for children and teens overseas.

■ **Flannelgraph Sets** – Large deluxe sets (excellent for big settings, such as camps) are currently on sale for \$298. Small deluxe sets (suitable for Sunday schools) are on sale for \$158. Simply designate your gift "Flannelgraphs."

■ **General Fund** – Its name might not sound exciting, but the General Fund is vital. This fund provides BIEM's operating expenses, on which every other fund depends. It keeps the lights on, the water running, the building in good repair, and covers daily expenses most people don't consider. If the Lord prompts you to help a specific project, please do. If not, the General Fund is an excellent way to support the whole ministry.

**Any year-end gift of \$100 or more will receive a complimentary Sound the Trumpet at Christmas CD. Thanks for helping!*