



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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November 27, 2016

Dear Friends of BIEM,

Thirty-five years ago, in autumn of 1981, my father Peter Slobodian and I met with a small group of pastors and a businessman in our two-story flat on the North Side of Chicago. The reason? We wanted to discuss the prospect of using shortwave radio to broadcast Gospel sermons into the Soviet Union. That discussion gave birth to Baptist International Evangelistic Ministries. Later, the basement of that same home transformed into our first recording studio. There, Dad began recording Russian and Ukrainian Gospel programs entitled "The Scripture Says." No one at that first meeting could have guessed how greatly the Lord would bless that humble beginning. There, He created a tool with which to win countless souls and establish over 100 churches in one of the most challenging mission fields of our day.

To celebrate these 35 years of ministry, we are offering a 35% discount on all of our books and CD's. Page 4 of this *Challenger* describes the items available for this suggested amount. These items make excellent gifts. But bear in mind we use media mail, which takes a little longer than standard mail, so order early to receive them before Christmas. In addition, we will also send a *free* copy of our founder's biography, *Giving God the Glory*, for any gift of \$35 dollars or more toward any of the needs listed on the response form below.

In conclusion, let me say that no mention of our 35th anniversary would be complete without thanking *you*, the believers who read these newsletters, pray for us, give financially, and invite us to represent the mission in your churches. God raised up this ministry, but He uses all of you to keep it functioning! Thank you!

Sincerely in Christ,

Sam Slobodian



Reaching Russia, Eastern Europe and Muslim Lands

Yes, I would like to help BIEM reach souls and plant churches in Russia, Eastern Europe, South America and Muslim lands. Please use my gift of _____ for:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

- Church Construction
- Bibles
- Training Nationals
- Where needed most
- Add my email address to the video update list
- Please remove us from your mailing list

If you would like to make a donation by credit card, we accept the following: MasterCard, Visa and Discover. Please call our office with your credit card information using our toll-free number 1-888-655-9693.



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL *Challenger*

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Church Buildings that Multi-Task

When it comes to building churches, a major concern in most of the world is justifying the cost of a facility that's used only a few hours per week. So, there are great advantages to buildings that are usable for more than worship services. Three of BIEM's current construction projects are examples of buildings that multi-task for their congregations.

Since most of you won't have an opportunity to visit them, let us take you on a brief "tour" via this article.

Bilgorodka, Ukraine

In the early planning stage of this church building, a question arose concerning a basement. Should the building have one? Building from the ground up would be cheaper, but would skipping a basement be shortsighted?

Because Bilgorodka is near the capital of Kyiv, discussions led to the realization that, with lodging facilities in a basement level, this location could fill various needs, including:

- Lodging for seminary students.
- Guest quarters for attendees of conferences.
- Pastors' meetings.

To accommodate such specific goals, the plans were revised to include a full basement with eight bedrooms, restrooms with showers, and a meeting area, plus more rooms and restroom facilities on the second and third levels. The design included a kitchen and eating area. The result was a multi-purpose church building that could house 30–40 people.

Long before the building was complete, the downstairs quarters were made available for seminary students, who were thrilled. These new surroundings provided a huge upgrade from the crowded housing situation they had previously endured. Since then, the building has housed mission teams, Christian refugees in transit from the war zone, and pastors who gathered for annual meetings.

Ternopil, Ukraine

Due to the downtown location of this church, the cost of a stand-alone building was far out of reach. The solution, by God's

gracious provision, was to purchase the first floor of an apartment building. (This is an area most typically used for stores, shops, and other businesses in Ukraine.) The first

Still nearing completion, the new church in Bilgorodka, Ukraine, already serves multiple uses.



floor that BIEM helped the congregation to buy includes two separate entrances besides the main church entrance.

This large downstairs area makes possible multiple uses that dovetail with the church's outreach to the community. For instance, church leaders immediately designated basement space to receive and store BIEM's container shipments of humanitarian aid and ministry equipment. (We've already sent one shipment.) BIEM missionary Vitaly Bilyak plans to use

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Unlike many buildings in Eastern Europe, the Bilgorodka church will provide easy access for both handicapped and more agile worshippers.



In summer 2016, the new Bilgorodka church hosted its first day camp. The basement provided space for lunches.

Called to Serve God

How did God move young men into ministry during Soviet years? Pastor Pavel Rumachik shares his personal testimony. BIEM thanks the Lord for the blessing of our continuing ministry with Pavel and his father Peter for many years.

I was born into the family of a prisoner, a servant of God. And although in childhood I grew up practically without a father, because he was often in bonds for his faith, my father's example of faithfulness to Christ inspired me. I wanted to be like my father. [Pavel's father, Peter Rumachik, was arrested and sentenced multiple times for being an active Christian. In all, he spent over eighteen years as a prisoner for his faith.]

In childhood I went to Christian camps geared for the kids of prisoners three times. Sometimes famous preachers who had spent more than one term in prison visited us. They had talks with us, and they always asked, "Children, what



In May 2016, Pavel Rumachik was one of the speakers at a Bible conference in Rummyantsevo, Russia.

would you like to be when you grow up?" Most of the boys replied they would like to be pastors or evangelists. I answered, "I want to be an evangelist."

After my baptism, I learned that church leaders were planning to hold underground courses for preachers, and I wanted to attend. To my great joy, at my young age of sixteen years they accepted me to these courses. There I found myself in a good, spiritual atmosphere among ministers and spiritually minded brethren.

After fulfilling my mandatory army service, at the age of twenty I began to labor actively among the youth at church. I began preaching at services of our church. Before long, *perestroika* came, and we young people started going into Moscow to evangelize. We took along tracts. Later we took New Testaments (when they became available) and a guitar. We would pick out



During Pavel's childhood, his father was often serving terms in the Soviet penal system. In 1979 they enjoyed a precious chance to fellowship.

a place where there were many people and started evangelizing. We sang songs accompanied by guitar and distributed literature. Between hymns, we took turns preaching short sermons calling people to repent. Large crowds gathered around, and people were eager to hear the Word of God. Such services greatly inspired us. Next we began renting the House of Culture and other auditoriums where we celebrated Christian holidays, held concerts, and showed the film *Jesus*.

At this time, brothers from America visited and suggested opening a Bible

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"Reaching the world for Christ since 1981"

Dr. Peter Slobodian, Founder

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Flanked by BIEM board member Jason Grubbs (left) and Sam Slobodian (right), Pavel shows Truth Baptist Church in Nahabino, the second church he planted and currently leads.

...Called to Serve God *continued from page 2*
 institute, Biblical Education by Extension. We agreed. So in 1991 a large group of brethren including myself began studying there. One of my very favorite courses was “Evangelism and Discipleship.” It was during these studies that I felt God’s call to missionary ministry. I asked another brother from our group to pray about this, so that together we might plant a new church in our city of Dyedovsk, in Moscow oblast. He agreed and, with the blessing of our congregation, we rented the House of Culture for two hours on Sundays and started ministering among the citizens of our city. [The Dyedovsk House of Culture is the same building where Pavel’s father was publicly tried and convicted years earlier.] God began to work. People came. They repented, and

a church began to develop. In the summer of 1992 my father, Peter Rumachik, and another minister ordained me to the ministry of missionary.

Since that time, I have continued laboring for God. I rejoice that God is using my desire to serve Him for His glory, a desire that began in childhood! ■



Under Pavel’s leadership, his church established a Christian Rehabilitation Center. Many who were once enslaved to drugs or alcohol have found freedom and new life in Christ.

Photos from the Fields



At a youth conference in Brest, Belarus, on Nov. 7, young people repented of sin and placed their trust in Christ. Hallelujah!



This year, for the first time, BIEM missionaries held a children’s camp in Central Asia. This is significant, considering most parents are Muslims. Over half the kids trusted Christ!



In Yatskovichi (19 miles from Brest, Belarus) opponents of the Gospel entered a window and set fire to the village’s church building.

In Peru, missionary Wilber Huilca (right) praises God for new believers following the Lord in believers’ baptism.



...Church Buildings *continued from page 1*

another room in the basement as a youth ministry center. A separate entrance from the street leads to two separate rooms, one on the left; another on the right. As the church grows, these will be ideal for developing ministries such as a day-care center, food-pantry, or clinic. Any of these would enhance the ministry of the church and provide opportunities for evangelism.

Shakhovskaya, Russia

Since this community of over 200,000 people has had no Gospel witness (the believers there travel by train to reach the nearest church), this church-building project is the answer to the prayers of pastors and other Christians who have been praying for this city. A second prayer was that God would provide a church planter to shepherd this work.

The church-planter God provided brought a big challenge. Brother Andrei, the experienced church-planter called to this work, has a huge family with thirteen children. Where are you going to find a home for so many people? Since blueprints for the building had yet to be created, the solution was to make a good portion of this church building a large parsonage adequate for this family.

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This ground floor location was originally intended as a store to service the surrounding apartments. Refurbished and beautified for the local church in Ternopil, Ukraine, it will serve in a more important way!



Blessed with men skilled in construction, the congregation in Ternopil has been transforming drab rooms into an attractive place of worship to the glory of God.

...Church Buildings continued from page 3
Approaching completion

Amazingly, God provided a donor who offered a matching-fund gift large enough to push all three projects to the point of being able to hold services. As these three projects near completion, the last step is to finalize their interiors, including church furnishings and seating.

Praise God! And as if that were not blessing enough, BIEM has now received another matching-fund offer of up to \$40,000 to match whatever other donors will give toward Church Construction. Thus, if gifts from friends of BIEM add up to \$40,000, then those funds will automatically double to \$80,000—enough to furnish these three buildings, plus provide a badly needed roof for the Soroon Women’s Shelter in Central Asia.

Dear friend, if you would like to make a special year-end gift for Gospel ministry, this matching-gift offer will maximize

your donation’s impact. To finish these jobs, simply designate your gift of any size “Church Construction.”

May God bless these constructions, and may He save many souls in their communities!

Christmas Gift Ideas!

Giving God the Glory

In 2016, BIEM completed its 35th year of ministry! Who would’ve expected a small boy from a small village in Ukraine to grow up and found an international ministry? God does amazing things through yielded hearts. Gain a fresh glimpse of how God works with the biography of Dr. Peter Slobodian, *Giving God the Glory*. 200 pages, softbound.

A Path Not Lined with Roses

The inspiring true story of Pastor Peter Rumachik, imprisoned over eighteen years in the Soviet Gulag for preaching the Gospel. An eye-opening encouragement in the faith! 207 pages, softbound.

Missions Now: Just Add Me!

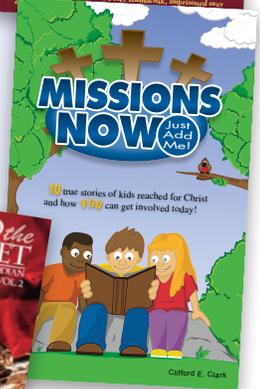
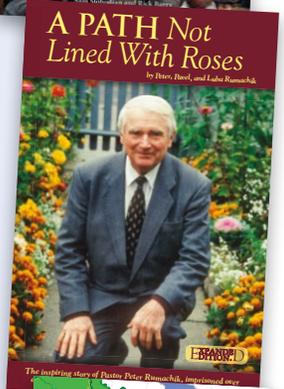
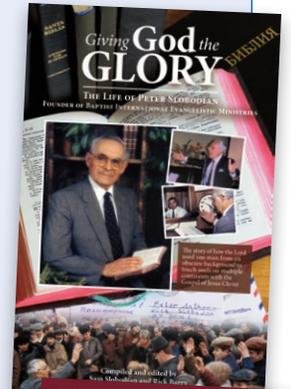
Dive into the exciting true stories of kids on mission fields around the world. Whether you are a kid or work with kids, this book can be a great start. 184 pages, softbound.

Sound the Trumpet, Vol. 1 & Vol. 2

Each album contains ten beautifully orchestrated songs featuring the trumpet of Sam Slobodian. A great addition for the instrumental area of any music library.

Suggested donations for books and CDs are normally \$15 (includes S & H). However, to help celebrate our 35th anniversary, we’re lowering that amount by 35%, if ordered before Dec. 31:

- 1 for \$9.75
- 2–5 for \$8.45 each
- 6–9 for \$7.15 each
- 10 or more \$6.50 each



Pastor Peter Rumachik (right) helped not only to raise funds for the new church in Shakhovskaya, but also to locate an experienced church-planter to head up that ministry.