



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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January-February 2016

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 14:6

Dear Pastors and Friends,

Greetings! Praise God for another New Year we can continue to work together with you in spreading the Gospel in the regions beyond. We are thankful that the door remains open in Russia and Ukraine despite the tensions and military operations that have claimed thousands of lives.

Sam has just returned from Ukraine where our winter session for training nationals in Kiev has recently concluded. It was a blessing to have several new students from Eastern Ukraine for the first time since the war broke out. Three of them were saved from lives of drugs, alcohol and crime. One, a military veteran (15 years in the Air Force) has an amazing story of God's redeeming grace. Volodya is his name and he fell into deep depravity way down to the depths of the world when he went home after military service. In fact during a period of profound drunkenness he killed a man. In prison he heard words from an evangelist that made an immediate dramatic effect on him. The words were, "God loves you". He sought the man out to hear more and soon accepted Christ! There was an extreme transformation in his life and he could not stop telling others of the love of God, the great truth that he had never heard which so completely changed him. There in prison he proclaimed Christ to everyone he could with such great determination that he even gained access to share Christ in restricted zones for those in solitary confinement. Somehow he was released after serving only 8 years and found a church which stood with him in his desire to preach Christ to those in prison. He continues this ministry and is in seminary to learn more in order to improve his effectiveness. Praise God!

The Lord answered prayer with above freezing temperatures for January and February, which greatly aided the various building projects going on. This is a blessing not to be taken for granted since not long ago we had two winters in a row where temperatures were 20 to 37 below zero for days at a time. Another answer to prayer is that the brethren in Ternopil, Ukraine, where our container arrived the first week in January, were able to have the entire contents cleared by customs. They can now begin with distribution that will certainly lift up the testimony of this church, which is in a needy urban area. Please pray that the Gospel, which is shared along with these distributions, would find lodging in hearts that would result in the salvation of souls.

Finally we would like to bring you up to date on the prayer requests concerning medical issues in our family that we shared in our last prayer letter. We are grateful that Amy's heart surgery in December went so well the surgeon said it could not have gone better. She is well into her recovery and has had no setbacks. There has also been some encouraging news concerning our grandson, Shane, who had developed some serious issues due to fluid on the brain. Soon after he was put on a stomach feeding tube there were some signs of progress so that the doctors, for the first time, said that perhaps he may be able to avoid brain surgery. Before they had said this was inevitable by late February. Another answer to prayer concerns Noah, who will be 4 in April. For a long time he just could not get past 25 lbs. due to issues related to his heart transplant. Praise God there has been a breakthrough and at his checkup last week he registered above 30 lbs! Please continue to pray for Noah and Shane.

Thank you for your prayers which God is answering in our lives and ministry!

The Slobodians

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