



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you all *very much* for your prayers for us as we traveled with a team of Bible college students in Ukraine. This has been a special time of ministry, filled with answers to prayer.

Typically, the team spent 2-3 days helping in each children's camp; then we would drive to the next one. This way BIEM gave our travelers a fuller picture of the mission fields in Ukraine, and many more campers (who really like having Americans visit) in a variety of places had opportunities to meet the team and interact with them. In addition to teaching Bible lessons, playing games, and doing crafts with kids in camps, we also did a 1-day program at the orphanage in Velike Polovetske.

Pam brought her Goody Bear puppet and used it to present object lessons concerning Bible truths. This hand puppet features a removable cloth heart, and kids enjoy getting to come forward to remove his heart and discover which items or verses are hidden there. Even done through interpreters, the kids enjoyed these lessons and wore big smiles.

For Rick, a personal highlight occurred in the town of Fastiv. Because it was Friday, the last day of camp, the man running the camp urged him to include a call to repentance and salvation in his closing message. So Rick preached, shared how he came to Christ as a young person, and then asked whether any campers were ready to do that? At first, silence. The kids looked at Rick, and at each other. He was about to step down when a boy named Misha raised his hand with solemn eyes. "All right, Misha. In a moment, we'll go to the back and pray together. Anyone else?" Within seconds, four or five other children likewise stepped out, a couple with tears of repentance already brimming. Rick and Lena (the local leader's wife) prayed with the kids in the rear of the auditorium. Praise God for working in hearts!

The most unexpected event of our trip ended with surprising consequences. In Lutsk, Rick ran into an oak bench and hit it just below the knee. The blow was painful and caused swelling, but he took Aleve and kept on with our schedule. Each night he elevated that leg and took Aleve for swelling, but the leg wasn't getting better. In fact, the swelling grew worse, discolored, and became inflamed. Long story short, nurses from the last church managed to get him a nearly free operation at a Ukrainian army hospital. A serious hematoma had developed, which required minor surgery to open and cleanse, followed by days of antibiotic injections. Even in this, though, we trust that Christ received glory, as Rick calmly trusted in Him. Perhaps this was the very wordless sermon needed by some teens who have been attending that church, but without embracing Jesus?

Please continue to pray for full healing for Rick and for the salvation of souls as he plans to lead boys at a tent camp in Russia, starting July 13.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rick & Pam Barry