



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; ..." Psalm 127:1

Dear Pastors and Friends,

Hello from Ukraine where our seminary is in session in April instead of May. It looks like this year is turning out to be a year of focusing much on building programs. While most years we do well to be working on one or two building programs, this year finds us in various stages of four different church building programs in addition to the continuing reconstruction of the drug and alcohol rehabilitation center destroyed by fire and the purchase of a building for a women's shelter in a restricted nation. This is especially exciting because when a new church obtains their own building it greatly lifts up their testimony in the community and greatly enhances their ministry. We want to bring you up to date on these building programs and identify prayer needs for each one.

Bilogorodka, Ukraine Bilogorodka is the town on the outskirts of the capital city of Kiev where the mayor donated land for the church building. The population is currently 30,000 but will be expanding to 120,000 due to development plans right around the location of the new church. This program is well underway where the foundation, including basement, was put in just before winter. Currently the first floor walls are going up and funds have been provided to complete the entire shell of the building, including the roof. Please pray that much progress will be made so that the whole building will be under roof by the end of summer. Pray also for the Lord to provide funds that will be needed to complete the building.

Dyedovsk, Russia This is the location of a building program being spearheaded by Pastor Peter Rumachik, whom many of you are acquainted with. He is the Russian pastor who spent 18 years in Russia's notorious Gulag prisons for his leadership in the unregistered Baptist churches during the Soviet Era. We have worked with Pastor Rumachik for many years. Though approaching 84 years, brother Peter is able to continue in ministry. This building project is in the final stages so the church is able to fully use the building except for the third floor, which is designated for future needs. Please pray for brother Peter's health, specifically that the medication prescribed by the doctors for a recent issue would enable him to avoid surgery and for the workman in the church that are doing all of the construction.

Ternopil, Ukraine This church is an urban ministry in a city known for its large population of students due to several colleges and universities. Recently the Lord laid it upon the heart of one of BIEM's supporters to enable this church to purchase an existing building in the city and remodel it for church use. This is a great answer to the church's prayers since they have had to relocate numerous times and currently rent facilities in two different locations, which is challenging. Please pray that God would enable BIEM church planter Vitaly Bilyak to locate the right building and that it could be successfully purchased and remodeled for church use.

Smolen, Ukraine This is a new church planting effort by BIEM church planters Igor Fomichov and Sasha Petrenko, who are ministering in the military cities of Desna and Goncharovsk. This town is very near Goncharovsk. These brethren have determined the best way to begin the church here is to obtain a building and begin with a children's ministry. BIEM church planters have often used this strategy. The Lord has already provided the \$8000 projected need for this purchase. Once again, please pray for direction in this purchase and that the Lord would overcome the opposition from an influential Orthodox resident that has made her opposition to a Baptist church known. Orthodox priests often oppose us since they view Baptists as a cult.

Psalm 127 states we may be busy doing much, yet nothing will happen apart from God's blessing. Therefore we thank God for each of you who partner with us and pray for His hand on this ministry. Thank you!

The Slobodians

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