



# BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14*

### Dear Pastors and Friends,

Hello again from the Slobodians. We trust that you are all doing well and surviving this amazingly severe winter. The next issue of our newsletter, *The Challenger*, which should come out in a couple of weeks, features an evangelistic outreach to the northern regions of Siberia undertaken by our national missionaries in Belarus. There temperatures of 50 below are common yet these dedicated servants are willing to brave the harsh bitter cold in order to bring the warmth of the Gospel to such remote places that in many cases can only be reached by snowmobile! Don't you feel warmer already? We praise God for your faithful support and prayers which enable us to preach God's word to so many places.

Sam just returned from the Winter session of our seminary in Kiev where 38 students came despite the cold and the political turmoil taking place there as well as other places. The current protests were originally inspired by the president's reversal on a promise to sign an agreement with the European Union in favor of closer ties with Russia. However the actions of the government, which included violence against people and journalists as well as improperly enacting laws limiting freedoms such as the right to protest as well as the revelation of grand scale corruption, has inflamed a portion of the population to the point that they now demand the removal of the current president and government. It is uncertain where this will all lead and there is great concern of the potential of a civil war. Discussing the situation with some of our Ukrainian brethren I asked them how Christians in America could pray for Ukraine. Here are some specific prayer needs they asked us to convey:

1. Please pray that through this political situation, which is resulting in much trouble in the way of grief, anxiety, frustration, violence and conflict, people would understand their nation is in need of divine help and that this would humble them to be open to spiritual truth.
2. As people see the failures of human political leaders pray that they would realize the need to put their hope in the Lord. This is a prayer for a revival that would turn the Ukrainian people to God.
3. Please pray that God would spare the nation from civil war. This is a prayer for peace and unity.
4. Pray that those in leadership now would be willing to give up their positions or at least be willing to call for early presidential and parliamentary elections. Many feel this is the best solution.
5. Pray that this situation would result in opportunities for God's people to evangelize. This would require being able to draw people's focus off of politics, not easy to do these days.
6. Pray for the Christians who bravely go to the center of the conflict in Independence Square to hand out Bibles, tracts, and to pray.
7. Please pray that whatever government or leaders God allows to remain or come into power, that Ukraine would continue to have freedom to preach the Gospel and do missionary work.

Thank you for joining us in praying for the people and the nation of Ukraine!

**Sam & Amy Slobodian**

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