



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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January-February 2013

"But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works." Psalm 73:28

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings again from the Slobodian's. As this New Year had gotten off to an eventful start we are thankful for the opportunities and open doors our Lord continues to give us in Eastern Europe and other needy fields. As we see souls saved and churches taking root we realize that much of the results we see are due to the faithful prayers and support of God's people which are absolutely our greatest resource. Therefore, we thank God for each of you who take the time to pray for us and read our prayer letters, our newsletter *The Challenger* and our monthly prayer and praise bulletin, *The BIEM's of Light*.

This January found Sam in Ukraine for the winter session of the seminary in Kiev where we have the privilege of training Ukrainians who have been called into ministry. The last two winters in Ukraine have made it quite difficult to gather for these sessions. Though it did not get quite as cold as the 37 below zero last winter, it was this January when a long power outage in the area of our ministry headquarters where we house our guests which suffered significant furnace damage due to frozen pipes and radiators. We are thankful that some of our Ukrainian brethren had the expertise and willingness to repair the damage for only \$1500. Nevertheless, this unexpected cost is something we could use some help with. Another \$1000 is needed for a battery backup system that would prevent these problems in the future.

One of the blessings of this session was 3 new students from the country of Belarus which borders Ukraine on the northwest. Two of the students are the sons of a couple of our church planters who are doing an impressive job in Belarus which continues to restrict believers as they continue to practice old Soviet style repression of religious freedom. Despite harassment which included fines and court appearances due to the arrest of one of our church planters, souls are steadily being saved, the new churches are growing and we are in our third church building program in this needy country for the Glory of God.

As you know from our last prayer letter, our board of directors generously made provision for us to visit the Holy Land in February for 30 years of missionary service. What an amazing privilege it was for us both to have the Bible come alive before our eyes! To be able to see those places where Bible history was made and to view those sites where our Savior ministered and paid the ultimate price was an unforgettable experience that had a powerful impact on our lives. We are deeply thankful for this spectacular blessing.

Finally, we would like to update you on our grandson, Noah. We are so thankful that such an amazing number of you have prayed for him and share in the wonderful miracle God did in preserving his life. Noah is doing very well though he is still on restrictions through the rest of cold and flu season. Noah's next heart biopsy to check for rejection is March 7th. Developmentally he has some delays but not as severe as doctors thought originally and time will tell if any will linger. As you pray, specifically ask the Lord to prevent any sickness during this cold and flu season which would be a major step forward and put him in a much safer zone. May God bless each of you in your service for and walk with Him!

The Slobodians

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