



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually." I Chronicles 16:11

Dear Pastors and Friends,

Greetings from Kiev, Ukraine where students have assembled from throughout Ukraine for our Fall session of the seminary. We are thankful for an enthusiastic group of students which includes several new faces who have enrolled this session. Sam is glad to be joined by a pastor from a supporting church in Michigan, Pastor Nate Birkholtz, who will be teaching I & II Peter. Jeff Swieringa, one of the men from this church, is also here to use his construction planning skills to help lay the groundwork for an exciting building project we hope to launch in the Spring or Fall of next year. This project would involve a skilled volunteer group of builders who would come to Ukraine to frame and roof a building in just 10 days. The next phase would be to have other groups of men from other churches come who are willing to help with the following items like drywalling, doors, windows, siding, plumbing, etc. Perhaps your church has men with construction abilities who would be interested in this project. Please pray for this first phase, which includes planning and obtaining property.

On this trip Sam also spent time with Sasha, one of our national missionaries working in a nearby restricted country. Also visiting was Pastor Vecheslav and his wife Lilia who pastor one of the churches we planted in the Moscow area, which has been self-supporting for quite some time. A great blessing is that this church is now supporting Sasha's missionary work in this Muslim land. Not only that but brother Vecheslav told us that there are other such churches in the Moscow area who are also interested in participating in this effort as well! Therefore Sasha will soon be making a deputation trip to Russia. Praise God for the thrill of seeing churches planted by BIEM catch a missionary vision and choose to support our missionary efforts among the largest bloc of unreached peoples of our day.

Another great blessing was to hear about an amazing soul winning opportunity Sasha had when recently in Ukraine to process documents needed to maintain his presence in the restricted country he is ministering in. He was able to strike up a conversation with an official helping with this matter when this man named Kolya shared that, along with some physical problems, he was struggling with spiritual problems and the difficulty of being estranged from his adult daughter. Kolya was especially concerned about his spiritual problems saying that he knew that he was guilty before God. When he asked what he had to do to get peace with God Sasha began to share the Gospel with him by sharing passages of Scripture. It turned out that Kolya was familiar with these Scriptures since during Soviet times he worked as a police investigator assigned to prosecute Christians who preached to him, shared their salvation testimonies and quoted these passages. Soon Kolya bowed his head, repented of his sins and accepted Christ! Almost immediately the phone rang. It was his daughter with whom he not spoken for a long time. They talked pleasantly and eventually agreed to meet and go to church together! Praise God!

This reminded us of the days back in the Soviet era when some of the churches we visited were being monitored by KGB agents. We heard that on some occasions these KGB agents would get saved. In fact a couple years ago at the anniversary of the church where our seminary meets, we heard the salvation testimony of one of those agents who was assigned to monitor the services of this very church. Even though this kind of persecution led to the pastor and over 30 church members being prosecuted and sentenced to prison, God's Word still penetrated the hearts of some of the persecutors. Now many years later it is so wonderful to see the seed of God's Word sown in times of great trial continuing to claim great victories in the hearts of former persecutors like Kolya. Praise God!

The Slobodians

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