



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL *Challenger*

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Cargoes of Love

BIEM's shipments of 40-ft. containers of humanitarian aid and church equipment are especially effective evangelistic tools. They open hearts to the Gospel, help new churches, and they lift up churches' testimonies in their communities. Learn the encouraging details, in the words of Ukrainians themselves...

It's such a blessing to see BIEM meeting not only spiritual needs in Ukraine, but also material needs. Because the economic crisis in Ukraine has dragged on for decades, people have seen humanitarian aid more than once. They distinguish good aid from a pile of rags. People who receive assistance from us are always grateful, because BIEM sends quality items.

When I consider the whole humanitarian-aid process — from receiving donated garments in Indiana all the way to distribution in churches, orphanages, and rehabilitation centers in Ukraine—I see the church of Jesus Christ united in fulfilling the Great Commission. Every carton of clothing, every chair, each blanket, is a token of God's love, sent to Ukraine

by brothers and sisters in America. This isn't just a mountain of stuff. It's carefully packed boxes of love in the form of folded blouses, sweaters, and pants.

When Eugene Buyko and I visited BIEM in America last spring, we helped to load a container. The process of shipping and receiving such aid is laborious. First, most of the clothing received at BIEM's warehouse gets hand-sorted by volunteers. Sorting and packing requires much more than a few days. When the warehouse is full, it's time to order a sea container. Once again, loading requires volunteers.

When loading, volunteers fill the container compactly. No empty space is left. The top is reserved for bulky or fragile things: bicycles, wheelchairs, cribs, strollers, etc. During loading, someone counts and logs each item. When full, the container undergoes fumigation. At last, a truck hauls the container to a port, where it's loaded onto a ship. Transit takes two months.

Our Ternopil church enjoys good collaboration with Social Services in our city. They know people who truly need help and accompany them to our



Tradition: our volunteers must pause for a photo.

church on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We offer everyone Christian literature, plus a children's Bible if they have kids.

Employees of Social Services feel at home in the church. I was talking to one, and he referred to it as "our church." I smiled. I like this trend. We pray that people, "seeing your good deeds, glorify God" (1 Peter 2:12).

Friends, once more I want to express to you great thanks for your ministry to Ukraine through humanitarian aid.

— *Vitaly Bilyak, Ternopil*

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This Fall, Ukrainian missionaries Igor Fomichov and Eugene Buyko helped to load a container of aid and supplies at BIEM.



Removing the legs of these pews helped to load the container compactly.

Tales of Two Men

*Sometimes souls come to the Savior
barely in time...*

Meeting the Messiah in Fastiv

In the 1980s in Ukraine, Alexander's Jewish mother and brother immigrated to Israel. But Alexander stayed in Ukraine, because he loved a woman whom he married.

Five years ago, Alexander E. received a terrible diagnosis of bladder cancer.



Alexander

After he fell ill, his wife kicked him out. He became homeless. Alexander ended up in our rehabilitation center, where he received humanitarian aid. More importantly, he repented of his sins and believed in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Through social media, the pastor of our church located his mother and brother. They hurried to help Alexander. They bought medicines, looked after him, even prepared documents to take him to Israel.

However, Alexander never made it to Israel. He died here. So our church buried Alexander and wrote on the grave his poem about the prodigal son's return.

Alexander's mother and brother are impressed by Christians' concern for a Jew. They continue to be our good friends.

Saved!

Praise God, this past spring Michael came to Christ in Russia through a ministry to homeless people by BIEM missionaries. He was baptized and growing



Michael (left)

spiritually. However, as a result of his past abuse of alcohol, Michael's body continued to deteriorate. He has now gone into eternity.

"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh" (Jude 21-23).

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"Reaching the world for Christ since 1981"

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Sign of the Times

Repeatedly seeing soldiers march past the church in Desna, Ukraine, missionary pastor Igor Fomichov was struck by a vision: Why not mount a sign on the church building? But even if there were funds for such a sign, which one verse or message should go on it? A Christian businessman suggested an electronic sign that could rotate through multiple messages—and then he offered to finance it!

The sign was installed this autumn. Now the many passersby can see Scripture verses while learning the times of worship services and Bible study. Soon, the sign will include a church website, where they can receive more information and hear sermons.

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Ps. 37:4).



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“You can’t imagine.”

Thank you for your prayers and for the material aid, which is so vital. In the economic collapse in our land, there’s much poverty. The brothers and sisters of various churches are grateful for the clothing you provide. This clothing is vital for us, since not many people can buy new things. Our churches receive small offerings, so we’re unable to buy church furniture. So chairs, tables, and other things from the container are really useful.

Here, not many can buy a car, especially in villages. When one brother received a bicycle as a gift, he was ecstatic. Now he gets around much more quickly.

Surrounding our church is a chain-link fence. Where did we get the fencing? From a container, of course! You can’t imagine how much you help us. Without your aid, our missionaries couldn’t have established a single church. Not one

church building has been built without your help, because we are “labourers together with God” (1 Cor. 3:9).

Over and over, I want to express appreciation to you for your invaluable support. May the Lord bless you!

— *Vitaly Yurchenko*

Showing, not just telling

Through your aid, our churches and people receive great blessing. Our church in Chernihiv has likewise been blessed. This time we received something we’ve requested in prayer a long time — furniture. There’s a desk with file drawers that hold our church office materials. We now have comfortable chairs for services. Before this container, our building was nearly bare. Now it looks great, and the furniture is truly helpful.

Since its independence, Ukraine has suffered from an economic crisis: low salaries, low pensions, corruption,



Yes, some kids really would be thankful to receive underwear for Christmas!

revolutions — and now war. All these factors hold our nation in relative poverty. That’s why our people understand “God’s love” through what His children do better than what they say. Helping our nation with clothing, furniture, wheelchairs, and medical supplies shows poor people the reality of transformed hearts. They receive it gladly, and their eyes and mouths are full of gratitude. You demonstrate that you can and do help. Thank you so much for everything.

— *Lyosha Savchuk*

A new song in Bilogorodka

Galya began attending our church regularly. After children’s camp last summer, Galya’s grandson Vadim (ten) began attending church. He takes accordion lessons in music school. Galya once said she dreams of her grandson learning just one hymn so he can play it at church. Our daughter Angelica found a hymn for

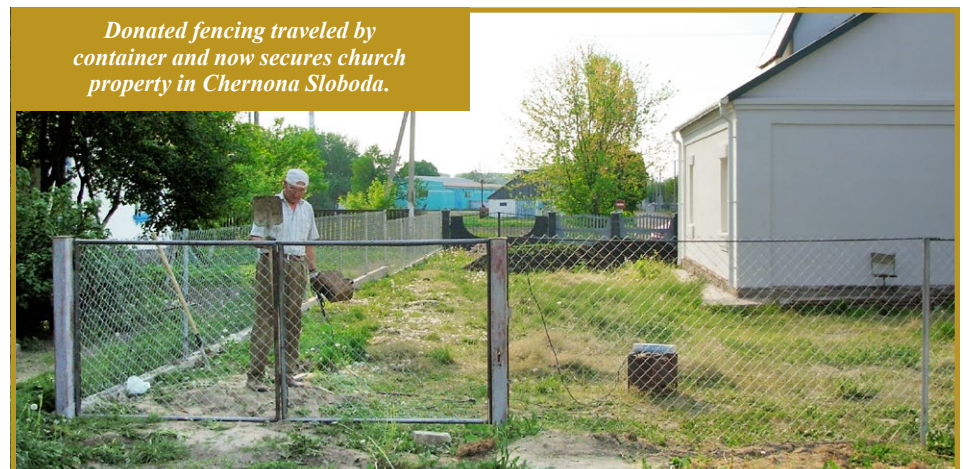
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Men from the Rehabilitation Center lend muscles to help distribute aid.



A mother praises God for clothing for her household.



Donated fencing traveled by container and now secures church property in Chernona Sloboda.

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accordion and piano. She gave Vadim a copy. A week later, Vadim said he was ready, but that lugging the accordion to church on public transportation would be hard.

We had received an accordion and other musical instruments on the recent container. We showed Vadim the excellent-condition accordion and offered to let him play it. On Sunday, great was Galya's joy as her grandson glorified God in music. This was a terrific testimony for his unsaved relatives. Thank you, American friends, for musical instruments, and for all of the aid you send to us in Ukraine!

— Eugene Buyko



Vadim, glorifying God with a donated accordion.

Love in action

Dear brothers and sisters of BIEM. We're sincerely grateful for your care, your love, and your labor on our behalf. We're writing to tell you that [thanks to you] we've been able to assist 70+ people. These include large families, the elderly, families of ministers, orphans, children who came to church through summer camp, and men in our rehabilitation center. One of these men is Sergey S., a stage-4 cancer patient. Thanks to you, he received needed clothes, linens, and shoes.

Our church expends many finances for the people in the rehabilitation center: feeding, providing warmth, and giving spiritual nourishment to effect a spiritual change. We try to manage ourselves. We work diligently with our own hands and tithe our income to God, but sometimes our efforts aren't enough.

We're glad to inform you that our church consists almost entirely of first-generation believers who got saved out of

this sinful world, which also was possible through your help. Thank you very much!

— Philadelphia Church, Fastiv

When poverty is normal

Praise God that the church of Jesus Christ, and each Christian, perform ministry that praises Christ and brings joy to others. The clothing you sent has been received by brothers and sisters as

Opening Hearts, Opening Doors

BIEM's Director for Ukraine, Eugene Buyko, delivered some humanitarian aid from BIEM to the orphanage in Velike Polivetskoie. Besides clothing, the load included boxes of toys. The director suggested they invite the youngest kids to help open the toys.

At first the kids were shy. Then they realized these toys were truly for them!

One girl couldn't believe she owned her own beautiful doll. A boy so loved his ball he wouldn't set it down. In addition to making these kids' day, the visit resulted in an agreement for a missionary to teach Bible lessons each Thursday. Thank you for your donations to BIEM, which once again have warmed hearts and opened doors for the Gospel!



These orphans couldn't believe these toys were gifts.



"For me?"



Humanitarian aid can be a ball!

a blessing from the Lord. Many believers today live poorly. Due to sanctions against Russia, life has become difficult here as well. Many people have no work. Those who do receive small wages of \$100–\$200 per month. So this clothing is a huge blessing. May the Lord reward those who donated the clothes and those fulfilling the ministry. Our sincere gratitude to you!

— Nikolai Ryzhuk, Belarus ■