



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL *Challenger*

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Twenty Years of Truth!

The 20th anniversary of the first church building constructed with aid from BIEM was a full day of praise to God.



In the 1990s, Pavel Rumachik of Dyedovsk, Russia, approached BIEM with a question: “If we Russians do the work of construction ourselves, do you think our American brothers and sisters in Christ might help with funds to build a church?”

It was an excellent question. Up to that point, BIEM had requested donations for evangelism, Bibles, Christian literature, and other projects, but back then we’d never attempted to raise funds for a church building. We put the matter before our supporters, and God’s people responded enthusiastically!

Now twenty years have passed since Truth Baptist Church opened its doors in Nahabino, Russia. Through this church, God has worked mightily to save sinners from all walks of life. However, because many of the church’s very first converts were drug addicts, early on this congregation emphasized ministry among people with substance dependencies. As a result, they have led the way in opening multiple Christian rehabilitation centers for alcoholics and drug addicts, which in turn have freed many more souls from the shackles of sin and guided them to new life in Christ.

Concerning the church’s 20th anniversary celebration, Pastor Pavel gives full credit to the Lord: “First of all, we thank God that twenty years ago He founded a church in Nahabino. We held a special service of praise to the Lord. Our theme came from the central portion of Psalm 136. We used it to help us recall the mercies, which the Lord bestowed on us twenty years ago. As pastor, I read the first part of each verse describing God’s blessings, for example, ‘O, give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good.’ Then the entire congregation continued in unison, ‘For his mercy endureth forever.’ In this way,

continued on page 3



The son of a preacher who spent over eighteen years in prison for his faith, Pavel Rumachik decided to serve God from a young age.



Vadim and Dinara met through Truth Baptist Church. They and their daughters took a turn praising God for His blessings.

Continuing Fruit from Summer Camps

Unbeknownst to each other, BIEM church-planters in two different regions of Ukraine sent testimonies of continuing spiritual fruit from summer camps.

A young hitchhiker

While driving to Kyiv, I noticed a woman and a young man by the roadside. She was waving her arms, attempting to flag down any car. When I stopped, she asked whether I could drive the young man, Sergei, to Kyiv?

"Please show him the stop for bus #6."

Actually, I needed to take a different road for my destination. But for some reason I agreed, so the boy climbed in the passenger side.

Along the way, Sergei told me various things: He's fifteen. He attends school at the Kyiv Military Lyseum. The Lyseum is hard, because discipline is strict. For his good grades and discipline, they gave him a leave. There was no point in going home to his parents, who live far away. So,

he'd come to Dymier to visit his aunt, the woman who waved me down.

I was interested in a different matter: "Sergei, do you believe in God?"

"Yes, I believe."

"Do you know who Jesus Christ is?"

He replied, "Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

"But for you personally, who is He?"

"Jesus is my Savior!"

What a pleasant surprise to hear such an answer! It turns out that Sergei had attended Sunday school and a Christian children's camp. As we traveled, I reminded him of Scripture verses to keep in mind to fulfill God's will.

When Sergei got out, I wished him God's blessings. To myself I thought, "How important it is to introduce people to the Truth at a young age, and to explain the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I recalled Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

—Mikhail Titarenko, Fedorivka



Whether in church, in camp, or in his car, Pastor Titorenko's main concern is the spiritual welfare of others.

"Yes, thank you. Can I have twenty griven?" [That's enough Ukrainian money for two ice creams.]

"Isn't that too much?" she asked with a smile.

"It's not all for me. I have a little sister."

As it turned out, this woman had come to the area on assignment as a nanny. She's a believer, and she intended to use the treat as an opening to witness to Bogdan. So she asked, "Do you know that God loves you?"

He surprised her. "Yes, and Jesus

continued on page 3

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"Reaching the world for Christ since 1981"

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An offer of ice cream

A neighborhood boy named Bogdan was out walking when a woman with a child stopped him. Seeing how poorly Bogdan was dressed, the woman asked if he would let her treat him to an ice cream.



Church-planter Anatoly Kosyanchuk praises God for this young mom, who came to Christ after her kids attended children's camp in Bilogorodka. She and her children attend church regularly. Now they pray for their Papa!

...Summer Camps *continued from page 2*

died for me on the Cross.” Then he launched into a recitation of everything he knew about God—no small amount of information!

This lady stood there, amazed. “Where did you learn all of this?”

“In a children’s camp held at a church near here.”

Intrigued, the woman said, “Show me this church.”

So Bogdan guided her to our church building. That woman attended our services every week until her assignment ended.

—Eugene Buyko, Bilogorodka

Thank you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for helping BIEM to hold Christian

camps. They touch far more lives than just kids who normally attend church with parents. The first camps for 2018 begin in June. To accept the same number of youth as last year will require \$40,000. Friends have already sent us \$10,000. Can you give toward the \$30,000 still needed? If so, please designate your gift “Summer Camps.” Thank you! ■



This is the camp in Bilogorodka where Bogdan learned about God. Most of these kids come from the surrounding community.



An all-male choir offered just one of many songs of praise for God’s goodness.

...Twenty Years of Truth *continued from page 1*

I pronounced twenty-two mercies aloud to the church, and twenty-two times the church responded about the eternal mercy of God. It was such a triumphant service!”

The whole congregation sang the Russian hymn “Let Everyone Exalt Christ.” A Christian orchestra led the congregation and visiting friends in much praising. This orchestra included trumpets, violins, a guitar, a piano, synthesizer, flute, and triangle. The musicians were adults, but also children who study in music school.

With obvious enthusiasm, Pavel continued his description. “Two choirs—one all males, and one of mixed men and women—sang majestically. Of course, our children, youth, families, and guests also praised the Lord. The hymn ‘All Earth Is Full of Your Grace’ accompanied by an orchestra was a wonderful adornment. We had two sermons. The Lord has blessed us, and we rejoiced.”

After the service, everyone stayed for a delicious dinner. Women of the church provided a wide variety of flavorful

dishes, which contributed to the fellowship and festive atmosphere.

Later that evening, the anniversary continued at a second service, which included participation by more guests, some of whom had traveled far distances to join in the celebration. In that service, church members shared many recollections of God’s blessings in the spiritual founding of the church, and in the construction of their building.

Pastor Pavel’s father, Peter Rumachik (86) spent eighteen and a half years in Soviet prisons and labor camps for being an active Christian. During Soviet days, he never expected to see such blessings in his lifetime, and he, too, shared a short message from God’s Word. In conclusion, everyone watched a slide presentation about the history of the church.

Pastor Pavel offered these final words to BIEM concerning their day of remembering and rejoicing: “Praise God for everything! May the Lord bless all of us to praise Him, and to be faithful to Him, as we await the soon-coming return of the Savior for us!” ■



Ruben Villar Terrell began his ministry in Lima, Peru, as a single man. God has blessed his home and his ministry with the addition of Laura.

Update from Peru: A Wife Joins the Ministry!

Reuben Villar Terrell is one of those Latin American preachers who received support from BIEM to get started in church planting. We praise God for continuing blessings on his ministry.

Dear friends in prayer,

For two months, God has allowed us to enjoy His faithful blessings within our home. God, in His infinite kindness, has provided an apartment for us. From the moment we knew we had a place to live, we decided to dedicate it to the Lord. It gives us great joy to open our house to our friends from Grace, our brothers in Christ, and family. Glory to God for His great and small provisions!

God has shown us His wonderful grace as He goes before us in the affairs of the church. Every Sunday, attendance is growing in Grace Baptist Church. Many people are visiting by invitation or recommendation from others. Tim and I are preaching about the big questions of life, taking into account the need for clear understanding of the Gospel in

every area of human life. As a church mission, we are considering a plan to help the Venezuelans who are coming to our country, and in particular to our church. Support us in prayer for this project.

After our first membership session, by the grace of God we received forty people as church members. This month we are considering a group of deacons to serve in the church.

Prayer

- Pray for our marriage, that God would fill our lives every day with His glory.
- Pray for the future deacons of the church, that God would give them a constant desire to serve others.
- Pray for Grace's future evangelization plans.
- Thank you for your support. We greatly appreciate you!

Ruben Villar Terrell

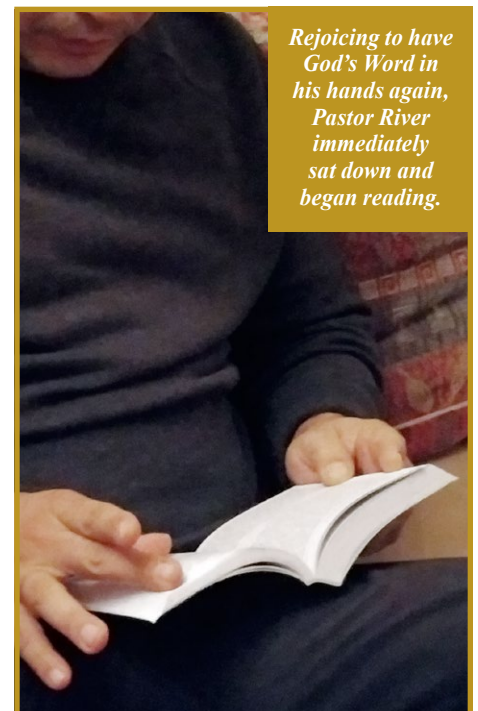
"It's Been So Long!"

In April, BIEM's Field Director for Central Asia met up with some of our national church planters for two days of teaching, fellowship, and planning. He shares the following experience.

Id forgotten that five years ago I'd shipped a box of Bibles to the location we were using for our meetings. As we prepared to start our teaching time, brother Micah pulled out that box of Bibles. River saw it and dove into the box. He grabbed one; then hugged it to his chest with tears welling in his eyes.

"He said, 'It has been so long since I have been able to hold one of these.' He sat down and began reading. His church had been raided, and they lost their Bibles. His house had also been searched, and he lost his personal Bible and study material. This is one of those moments I'm sure never to forget.

"These times of getting out of their country and away from the stress of the ministry is vital. Their persecution is intense. Thank you for your participation in supporting these getaways, as well as the ministry, both through your prayers and giving." ■



Rejoicing to have God's Word in his hands again, Pastor River immediately sat down and began reading.