



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Isaiah 26:3

Dear Pastors and Friends,

Praise God for His presence and enablement as we continue to serve Him in these difficult times which, are darkened by the blight of the wars taking place in Ukraine, Israel, and other places. What a blessing to draw near to our Savior, who gives us that wonderful peace that passes all understanding and enables us to share the Gospel with war-weary multitudes so they also can find peace in Christ. Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry.

From December through February, we had a major focus on our project of providing warm clothing and Christian literature for soldiers connected with our partnering churches, which resulted in great blessings. We received nearly 100 applications from partnering churches all over Ukraine. Starting in March we have been collecting pictures, notes of thanks, and videos from the happy recipients. We plan to share these in the next issue of our *Challenger* newsletter. The *Challenger* comes out quarterly and is the only publication in paper form that is sent out by bulk mail. Therefore, you can access it in two ways: 1) a paper copy through the mail 2) through our website (BaptistInternational.org). Click on the “Publications” tab and then click “The Challenger Newsletter” tab. Please contact us if you would like to be added to the paper mailing list.

In March we had Igor Fomichov and Pavel Usach from Ukraine with us. They were a blessing to many as they spoke in supporting churches giving firsthand reports concerning their part in BIEM’s War Relief efforts, which are ongoing. One of the highlights of these meetings was Pavel sharing how God used war relief and two senior sisters—both in their 70’s—to open their doors for church services during the war. They began with just themselves, but God multiplied the number of people coming for worship to 70. Many have come to Christ. Truly, where 2 or 3 are gathered in the Lord’s name, there is He in their midst. Here is a link to the video that was shared in these churches about this amazing event:

<https://vimeo.com/user37287229/oneplusone>

During this time Vitaly Bilyak made his 17th evangelistic-aid trip to Ukraine’s war-torn Kherson region. Shortly after he drove away from a packed church where he had preached to hundreds of people, Vitaly’s car came under attack by a drone. Evidently, the drone operator attempted to drop a grenade on Vitaly’s clearly marked civilian car. The blast shattered the rear and right-side glass windows, punctured Vitaly’s tires, and punched shrapnel holes in the car’s body. Despite all the damage to his vehicle, praise the Lord, Vitaly himself was unhurt! Vitaly understands that many of you pray regularly for his safety as he makes these hazardous trips, so he thanks everyone who upholds him this way. Your prayers are valuable!

Igor and Pasha also played an active role in loading a 40-foot-high cube container we shipped to Ukraine. It has now cleared Ukrainian Customs and arrived at its destination in Zdolbuniv. Its cargo includes secondhand clothing & shoes; medical items such as disposable masks, disposable diapers, wheelchairs, canes, crutches, and walkers; household items such as blankets, sheets, pillows, and basic tools; children’s toys, food items such as rice, macaroni, canned soups, and baby formula; mixed sports equipment for children’s camp; office equipment, plus, various miscellaneous useful items. After the cargo has been unloaded, the metal container itself will be transported to the church’s nearby campground, where it will become a solid storage unit for the camp. May God bless you all!

The Slobodians