

WINTER, 2008

NEWSLETTER

evangelical mission to ukraine
emtu



Under the auspices of Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Convention of Canada www.uebcc.org

WOMEN TO WOMEN



Ministry to women is an important part of the EMTU. Our advantage is that the Mission is acquainted with a good number of Bible-believing and dedicated women whose motivation in life is to come to the aid of women in distress. This ministry is carried out in many ways. It is directed primarily to women who are widows, who grew up as orphans, who are caring for handicapped children and those who are themselves sick or handicapped. Many live in extreme poverty conditions.

We are thankful for Olya, in Rivno Oblast who simply uses a fund the EMTU has directed to her to dispense amounts as little as \$20. US to buy fruit for a widow with young children, \$50. to buy drugs for a wife with a chronically ill husband, and \$100. to pay for household heating. We are thankful for Orissa in Chernitsiv who plans and organizes Summer Bible Camps for widows and women living

on the fringes of society. Most of these women are not believers, but in these Camps they are exposed to the Word of God in an intense way. While presenting the Gospel is the key objective of these Camps, the secondary purpose is to give these women an opportunity to live one week without the stresses of everyday existence, and instead of constantly serving others, to be served by others. Beyond these two examples of ministry, of outreach and support for those on the “fringe”, each church group has a direct ministry to the women in their community. There are Bible studies, distribution of clothing and household needs, and most importantly, encouragement through personal friendship and prayer. We greatly appreciate the ministry to women in Ukraine and encourage you to pray for each of the women on the front lines. We thank those who support this ministry.



Photo (Left): Nettie, Canadian EMTU supporter and widow, shares with Ukrainian women at a gathering to encourage widows.

Photos (collage below): Olya, extreme left and Orissa, extreme right. All other photos from 2008 Summer Bible Camp. Theme Scripture on right:

“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good . . .” Psalm 107:1



Ternopil—Dmitro Harasimov

Missionary Pastor Dmitro ministers to a church primarily comprised of young people. Weddings in the church are commonplace. The church has rented a hall in the centre of the city for outreach and fellowship and to use this as a gathering place to invite others to join them at the church worship services. Pastor Dmitro reports that he visits and invites many people and challenges them with the Gospel. Although most have yet to take this step, Pastor Dmitro believes the day will come when some of them will accept Christ as their personal Saviour.



Kirovohrad **Oleksandr Chirillo**

Oleksandr pastors two churches in the City of Kirovohrad.

The churches are spiritually strong and minister to surrounding towns and villages. There is a prospect to organize a third church. The entire family assists in ministry, amongst children, in choirs, teaching Sunday School and in worship music. Oleksandr's wife is not well, but she continues in ministry alongside her husband. (photo) Oleksandr prays for a young family who responded to the preaching of the Gospel.



Itinerant Preaching

Oleksandr Zjdanow is new to the Mission. While his prime responsibility is the curriculum of the Seminary, Oleksandr serves as an itinerant preacher for churches without a pastor. He currently preaches in the large University Town of Dyblanye. The congregation is very small, but this town has a large Prayer House and there is good prospect of growth, especially amongst young people as up to 20,000 students attend the National Agricultural University located in this town.



Volynia **Mykola Drychik**

(in his own words)

"It may be, at first glance, that the work I carry out is insignificant, but it is absolutely something that I can do and it requires a lot of time, strength and cost. Being a pastor is neither simple or easy. I not only offer spiritual food, but many times, help physically, as many members of our Church cannot do certain things for themselves, due to their age or handicap. My life and my ministry, many times, are very closely tied together."



Zakarattia Oblast Petro Murha

Petro ministers in the church at Rachiv. He preaches in his local Church on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday evenings. Every Sunday afternoon his church



ministers to the Gypsy community. So far 5 people of this community have been baptized and become members in the church; 3 more have professed faith in Christ. Pastor Petro also holds a worship service in a home in the neighbouring city on Thursday evenings. The Rachiv Church has a full program of ministry, a ladies prayer group, visitation of the sick and elderly and programs for children and youth. They also support a family, where the father is suffering from bone cancer. The Church members assist in the purchase of drugs; the cost being significant. Petro makes his living as an employee of the municipal electric power utility.



One of the EMTU goals is to provide enough resources to all of our supported Pastors and Churches to carry out Summer Bible Camps for youth and children. All of the EMTU Missionary Pastors and Churches are always very active and aggressive to provide this ministry as an outreach and growth for children and youth. Scenes are from the 2008 Summer Camp program.



Seminary Update

Despite worldwide difficulties, the teaching at the Lviv Seminary and preaching of the Gospel continues to thrive. Principal Wasyl Scherbiuk writes, “not only do we have the economic crisis, as in the rest of the world, but we also have political instability. This has created both positive and negative conditions for our ministry. In the positive, because of the extreme circumstances, our churches have a great opportunity to preach the gospel and we have the complete freedom to evangelize the masses. In the negative, because of the economic crisis, we do not have the resources to exploit the re-emerging interest within the freedoms that we have.”

The Seminary Leadership and Professors, some of which are shown (right) are advancing with standards of education, to compare with competing Seminaries and educational institutions. There are investigations of partnerships and potential agreements with foreign universities and educational institutions for international recognition of degrees.

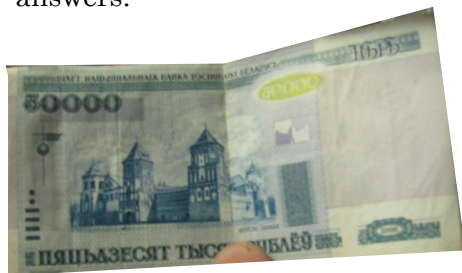
The Seminary is currently jam-packed with students. There is an expansion into a new “Bachelor of Christian Education” field, which will graduate students qualified to teach Adult Sunday School classes. This is a new potential yet untapped in



Ukraine. During the Communist repression it was illegal to teach Christianity to children. This matter was quickly rectified after independence in 1991, and all churches today have very active Sunday School teaching for all children. But thus far there have been no structured Sunday School programs for adults. Thanks be to God for this new initiative—Adult Sunday School.

Deepening Instability

The 50,000 denomination bill from Belarus gives evidence of the inflationary pressure being experienced in the Post-Soviet countries. While inflation in Belarus has decreased in the last two years, the same is not true in Ukraine. Add the additional factor of political instability, Ukraine and the post-Soviet countries will have a very hard time to weather the current economic storm. One of our workers writes, “For all practical purposes, our city administration is not functioning, so we don’t know when we can get any answers.”



Belarus

M.B., our Missionary Pastor in Belarus reports that the church is struggling. Belarus is the country most aligned with Russia with a centrally controlled economy. Life of the citizens continues to worsen. Spiritual concerns are being squeezed out by material needs. Despite much pessimism, M.B. reports a blessing to their church body resulting from a young girl who attends their church. “Violet is a very gifted and talented girl attending our Sunday School. She is a good student—always borrowing books from the library. She studies music and always takes part in the worship services of the church. She became sick in January 2008 and suffers from extreme body temperature fluctuations—from 41° to 35° (normal is 37°). Medical staff



found a tumor on her brain. She is now at home. There is no treatment at this time. Teachers come from her public school to teach her at home, but she herself continues to attend Sunday School faithfully.” On December 1, 2008 Pastor M.B. reported that young Violet’s health has improved, but now she is suffering from severe headaches. Pray for the health of this young girl—not only for her own personal healing, but that her life continue to encourage a body of believers.

Prayer for

- Wives of Missionary Pastors who are ill—Chirillo, Babenko.
- Seminary operations during unstable times.
- for new initiatives and resources for evangelism and outreach to people who need to hear the Gospel.
- God's protection of His people during threatening and unstable times, both politically and economically.
- our workers on the front lines in the Humanitarian Centre preparing to meet greater needs.
- for the ladies who work to support and encourage their "sisters" who live on the fringes of society.

Praise for

- the generosity of sponsors and donors to the work of the Mission.
- wide open freedoms and many opportunities for ministry and preaching of the Gospel.
- improvement in the lives of orphans and families who benefitted from EMTU support.
- the many children and youth who have heard and responded to the Gospel in this summer's Bible Camps.
- the witness of the National church members in Ukraine through their care for the sick, handicapped and underprivileged.
- the encouragement individual members give to the body of believers.

Christmas Greetings

In many Christian homes, the reading of the Christmas story in Luke Chapter 2, reconfirms the purpose of our celebrations at this time of year. It is good to include this at the top of our list as we celebrate Christmas 2008, but then to reflect on who Jesus Christ is and His message to the world. He is the Saviour, but also the coming Judge.

It is for this reason that the EMTU was founded and continues to flourish. Many lives have been touched. Orphans have new shoes or running water for their baths. Widows are encouraged. Students are taught the Word of God. The hungry are fed. Kids experience summer Bible camp for the first time in their lives. Most important, people have heard the Gospel, understood it and become believers and some, themselves, have joined the ministry to improve the lives of those around them.

We have also experienced change in Canada as well. Having founded the EMTU more than 30 years ago, and still active, Alex and Mary started a new phase of their life in 2008. This fall they sold their home in Edmonton and have moved to Medicine Hat.

We thank all the donors and partners for your financial generosity and for your prayers, for physical and spiritual strength and for God's leading in this Mission. We continue to covet your prayers, especially as the Mission enters a new period of uncertainty, economically and politically, both in Ukraine and Canada.

May God encourage you this Christmas and add His every blessing as you celebrate His birth and the meaning of this for the world.

Dan & Nellie Alex & Mary



Alex and Mary Piatocha
Fall 2008, Farewell to Edmonton

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"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11