

FALL, 2008

NEWSLETTER

evangelical mission to ukraine
emtu



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

RESPONDING TO THE CALL

Thanks to the generosity of EMTU supporters, construction of the Prayer House in Tryskovetz took a major step forward this summer. In the Summer 2008 Newsletter we wrote about the great challenge this congregation had to meet before the end of 2008. They had received notice that if construction was not completed by the end of the year, the project would have to be processed a second time. This would be very costly and jeopardize the completion of this Prayer House. Several generous donors stepped forward to assist the Tryskovetz congregation, and significant progress has been made in the construction. Currently the Tryskovetz congregation meets in the completed basement of the prayer house. Most



of the sanctuary required significant work. This summer all of the exterior roofing was completed and all of the fencing materials prepared for installation. This installation has been delayed because of the incessant rains. It is important to complete the fencing because this was one of the immediate requirements for which the Authorities require compliance. The congregation is now busy working on finishing the interior. The baptismal area and ceiling have been fully completed. Other areas to be finished are the flooring, the walls and the choir loft. The congregation is considering a heating system that will allow them to continue construction throughout the winter. While neither the funds nor time are sufficient to fully complete the construction by the end of 2008, the significant progress will put the church into a favourable position to negotiate the outcome. Thank you for your support and your prayers for God's blessing upon this construction.



One generous donor has issued a challenge to other supporters of the EMTU. He has offered to match funds for any substantial donation to complete the Tryskovetz Prayer House, to a maximum of \$2,000. For those interested just return the enclosed insert with your donation and mark it "Tryskovetz Challenge".



James 1:27—Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble

Thank you for visiting these particular orphans in the Oblast of Rivno.

The Fall, 2007 Newsletter reported the story of the family, with 4 children, who adopted an additional 3 orphaned siblings.

The family lived in a small two room house without indoor plumbing. Bathing the children in winter was a particular problem.

Many of you responded and we are thankful to God to report that their living conditions continue to improve.

With funding of EMTU supporters, and the labour of men from the local church, a small outbuilding adjacent to their house has been refinished into a bedroom and a bathroom with running water.

May God's Name be praised!



JULY/AUGUST, 2008 FLOODING AFFECTS MANY

EMTU Missionary Wasyl Makar, Pastor of the Church in the City of Pobersjia and his surrounding community experienced significant destruction in the summer 2008 flood in Western Ukraine.

The Makar's lost their entire vegetable garden, which is the staple provision for the winter. This was a similar story in most of the flooded areas. Many of our brothers and sisters lost their homes.

Local churches throughout Ukraine are assisting the flood victims and the government has responded with initiatives to assist.

Authorities have begun to rebuild the very many bridges that were destroyed.

The greatest destruction was in the Oblast of Chernitsiv, Ivan-Frankivsk and Zacarpattia.



The Prayer House in Pobersjia accommodates 160 people. It is filled to capacity and cannot hold the many additional people who attend the special services (Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas).

Wasyl's last report noted that God continues to bless the church, with people repenting and professing faith in Jesus Christ. 9 people were preparing for baptism. Wasyl reports that the earlier "yearning for spiritual

enlightenment has diminished, and society seems to be preoccupied with the Western style of life". But he states, "whatever the times, I have a calling to preach the Bible of the Son of God and this is the desire of my heart."

The Summer flooding of 2008 caused much destruction and devastation, but this was not the end of the natural calamities that Ukrainians continue to face.

Parts of the country suffered extreme heat in August with persistent temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius.

In late summer the weather changed to unrelenting rain and low temperatures. It is now a challenge to harvest the potato and root crops, that survived the flood and/or the heat, before they deteriorate further.

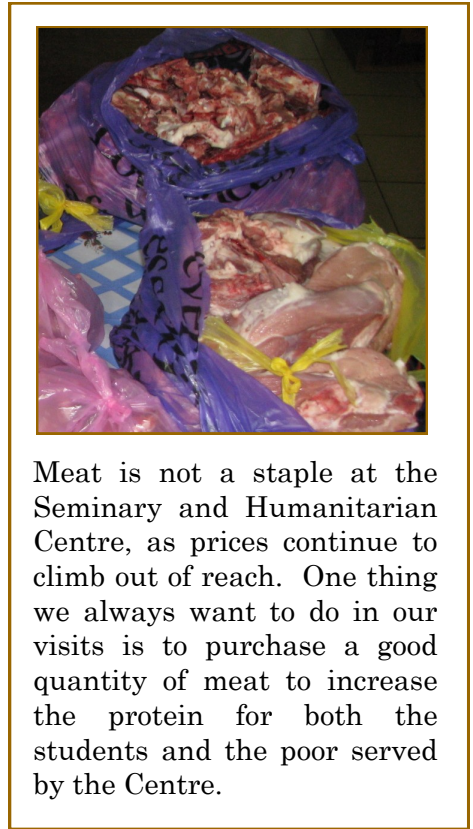


Two new professors have been added to the faculty of the Theological Seminary in Lviv.

Sergij Jacobchuk (above left) is a graduate of the Rivno Bible College and the Lviv Music Academy with a Masters Degree. Sergij reports “The purpose of the Music Faculty is to open the world of academic spiritual music for church choirs that love and use such music for His service.” Pavlo Sidko graduated from the

Kiev Theological Seminary Music Faculty. He is a gifted composer and poet and has written many songs for children, and music for choirs and soloists. His music compositions, along with his wife’s poetry have recently been published by the state.

This fall, our Seminary registered 54 students; 39 of which are in the three Music Departments.



Meat is not a staple at the Seminary and Humanitarian Centre, as prices continue to climb out of reach. One thing we always want to do in our visits is to purchase a good quantity of meat to increase the protein for both the students and the poor served by the Centre.

Honourary Doctorate

Stephen Nemesh (right), received an Honourary Doctorate Degree this year. Having recently retired from the position of Senior Oblast Pastor of Zacarpattia, Dr. Nemesh now ministers to troubled churches, and serves as a member of the Consultation Council for the Union of Christian-Baptist Churches in Ukraine.



Elections Again



The Ukrainian Government collapsed again on September 16, 2008.

This government resulted from a coalition established last November, following the September 30, 2007 election.

The Verhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) has 30 days to agree on a new coalition or face an election.

Battles continue over membership in the EU and NATO, changes to the Constitution, prices of natural gas imported from Russia and a drastic increase in consumer prices.

The relations with Russia are worrisome considering the recent Russian incursion into

Georgia and that the base for the Russian Black Sea Naval Fleet remains on Ukrainian Soil (in Sevastopol and Odessa). The Russian rental of these bases expires in 2017, which is a cause for tension.

There is much disputing over the country’s pro-western stance of the past two governments. The Ukrainian Parliament has recently passed a bill making it easier to impeach the Pro-Western President.

It is comforting that the words of Psalms 33:10-11 tell us that “The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.”

Prayer for

- God's intervention amongst the church and in the construction of the Prayer House in Zhohkva (the construction having been stopped because the site is a former Jewish cemetery).
- that the renovations to the second building on the Seminary grounds, for female living quarters, proceed with minimum complexity.
- that the Seminary be able to carry out a successful seminar for Sunday School Teachers and Directors of Sunday School this November.
- that the authorities give favourable consideration to the division and divestment of the lands surrounding the Humanitarian Centre and Seminary into the ownership of the National Mission.

Praise for

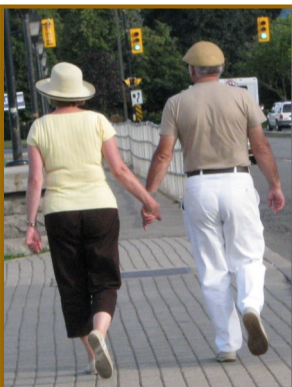
- the generous response of EMTU partners to support landmark projects in Ukraine—in the construction of Prayer Houses and the support of orphans..
- the recovery, from ill health, of our National Director, Dr. Ivan Romanyk.
- Missionary Workers and Pastors who report that it's their desire to preach the Gospel.
- the many students who have chosen to further their education of the Bible and to be used in the Ministry.
- God's continued hand of protection and provision for a people and a nation in the midst of great unrest and potential danger.
- the generous response of the churches to come to the aid of those in affliction because of extreme weather.

IN MEMORIAM

Recently the EMTU has been receiving donations "In Memoriam" of family or friends who have been promoted to glory. Within the last two years, the following people were honoured in this way:

John Suk,
Brian Piatocha,
Nadia Melnyk,
George Ciona,
Ruby Fertuck.

We thank all of those who contributed and especially those family and friends who decided to honour their loved one with donations to the Mission, for the furtherance of the Gospel and the Glory of God.



Evangelical Mission To Ukraine

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Donations can be made to EMTU:

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14011-83 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5E 2X6

Miss Caroline Suk,
Secretary to the Mission Board
#802, 9916-113 St. NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2N3

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:7