



Go Forth Missions

*Saying to those who are bound, 'Go forth,'
To those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' Isa 49:9*

Fall 2005
Ukraine

Kharkov,

◆ God's Good News Letter ◆

Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Our Lord Jesus Christ,

"And the King shall answer and say to them, truly I say to you, Inasmuch as you have done *it* to one of **the least of these my brethren, you have done *it* unto me.**" Mat 25:40

This is what it's all about!

As I was going into the new building we are constructing for homeless, I noticed a new man cleaning; then I noticed that he only had a few fingers on his hand, and then I noticed that he only had a purple stump where the other hand belonged. So I inquired about how he came to Jesus. He said it is quite a story, I said go ahead and tell me.

It all started with an argument with his wife when he was drinking and his mother-in-law and wife threw him out on the street. His family; parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles had all died, so he had nowhere to turn, so he took a job on a farm. During the coldest part of the winter he was sent on an errand to another town. He had to walk which is common here due to the poverty. Because of the bitter cold and inadequate clothing he drank some vodka to stay warm. But it was some of the bad stuff and it poisoned him. He lost consciousness and lay on the frozen ground for six hours. His hands and feet froze. He said it was only God who kept him alive... When he regained consciousness his feet and hands would not function so he walked on his knees to the hospital. It was several kilometers, so by the time he got there he had worn the skin on his knees down to the bone, literally. He showed me the place on his knees, where, to this day, it has not healed. The doctors amputated; he lost one hand above the wrist and some fingers on the other hand.

When he got out of the hospital he no longer had a job; he had nowhere to go; and he had no money; and he had lost the documents that one needs here to get a job or a place to live, so he came to Kharkov, but there was no place for him here. The hospital would not take him. He tried to get into prison but the police would not take him. He tried to return home but his mother-in-law owned the house and would not allow him in. Starving and freezing and realizing he could no longer work and no one wanted him, he took a butcher knife and went into the forest to end it all. Again, he said God would not let him die. I saw the huge gash on his arm; it is a miracle that he is alive. Someone found him and took him to the hospital. There they patched the wound and cleaned the running infection on the place of his amputation and turned him out on the street again. At this point his wife started to bring him food, but he could not eat. For two weeks he did not eat, till he fainted in a field where he had been sleeping at night he lay for many days unable to move. Someone found him and took him to the hospital. Again, God spared his life even though he wanted to die. This time the hospital kept him for a time and the director of the Christian Orphanage in town witnessed to him on a visit there. This man referred him to us. He has already regained his health, but more importantly he has gained eternal life in Jesus Christ. When I met him he was working at the homeless shelter in spite of his handicap, and most of all, he says he wants to live.

As he told me his story I wept. **This is what Jesus died for, and this is worth giving our lives for.** Thank God he led him to us, and we were able then to lead him to Jesus. Our petty struggles are

nothing compared to the glory of seeing people who have been this oppressed, being rescued and delivered. I will thank God forever and ever for this privilege.

Although his family has not yet been totally restored, his young son, who used to run and hide from him now runs to him and loves him and spends time with him. God is good. We have seen so many families restored that I have no doubts about the future of this one, Praise God.

Rehab Center - Rescuing them from the lowest places.

Our rehab center is the place where this man came. The Lord has so answered our prayers concerning both alcoholics and the homeless through this ministry. It was upon hearing about so many people freezing to death that we first came up with the idea of the homeless shelter. The biggest problem in this and all the Slavic nations is alcoholism. Close behind that are poverty and drug addiction. The recent statistics for these things are staggering. We heard recently that in many cities the adult male population is 70-90% alcoholic. There are similar numbers in some places for drug addiction among the youth. Poverty is everywhere, and it is the reason for so many homeless. Kharkov has about 70% male alcoholism.

Our rehab center is rescuing people in all three categories. Plus many of the wives and mothers of these men are coming to Christ as a result as well. We are very slowly, as funds come in, building a big home for the homeless that will also serve as a center for the rehab center. So far we have finished the walls, roof, a big meeting room and one bedroom. We need about \$35,000 more to finish the whole thing.

Right now we are using that tiny little old house you might have seen in our video. We already have many alumni from that little old house who are living changed lives. When the larger structure is completed we will be able to help many more people and reopen for women as well, as we are building a separate section for housing women.

One of the men who was rescued not too long ago is already overseeing the shelter. This man grew up in orphanages, and then spent 35 years in prison. Ironically he was in prison all the same time I have been with the Lord. He recently shared that he was just getting ready to hang himself when God rescued him. He says he is living to serve and save others now. He even got a good job.

Meanwhile some brothers who were struggling against poverty themselves asked if they could use the empty unfinished part of the structure for building cabinets. We let them use the space in order to help them get on their feet, and their business picked up. Now they are hiring the guys from the Homeless Shelter.

“So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD,
that He may be glorified.
Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins,
They will raise up the former devastations; and
They will repair the ruined cities,
The desolations of many generations.” (Isa 61:3b,4 NNAS)

Years ago as we prepared to come over here to Russia and Ukraine, someone shared this verse and said that they felt that the Lord had indicated that the fruit of our ministry would be these “Oaks of Righteousness” that would repair the ruined cities and raise up the former devastations. They added that they had seen in a dream, that I was walking through great fields of good black soil and wherever I walked these “Oaks of Righteousness” would grow up. Well, we are seeing it fulfilled. As a matter of fact we live in the richest deposit of black soil in the world, and we are seeing the spiritual fulfillment. Many of these people we have poured our lives into “till Christ be formed in them” are becoming true “Oaks of Righteousness. Although the soil is good, there is also a lot of physical and spiritual devastation and ruin on top of it, so the devastation must be healed for the trees to grow and bring forth fruit.

The trees are becoming mature and we are seeing who they are. Although this past year has been one of trial and testing for the people here (from what I hear, everywhere else too), what is in the

hearts has been exposed, and I am happy to say some good things have been exposed. We have found good fruit.

Although I have talked about the supernatural fruit alot, there is also the fruit of righteousness and the fruit of love. This has really blessed my heart. An example was last summer when the church had a severe financial crisis. Although they had prayed their way out of previous crises, this one was severe. By this I, mean that the finances to support ministry dwindled down to a trickle, and at the very same time prices were going up on everything, Church building rent went way up, accidents, equipment breakdowns and other such things that drain finances proliferated, while at the same time there was a decrease in income. Nearly everyone was experiencing real hardship, and ministries and projects were being stalled. Everyone was struggling, while at the same time everyone was going through severe testing of their faith.

In response the pastors of the church all decided to forfeit all but about twenty dollars of their monthly salaries so the other staff and rents and expenses could be paid. Some of the pastors decided to work or do business while continuing to work full time in the ministry. One brother is working about six days a week in the church and one day a week on his job, he takes no salary at all, even though he is entitled to it, and is still making ends meet even though he struggles at times. Another pastor started a business and it has become quite successful and he is employing others so they can work and do ministry as well. Although the business is a success, he still works full time in the ministry and part time on the business. Not only that, he is starting a new church.

New Church Starting...” they will raise up the former devastations”

The new church we are starting is also fulfillment of the verse from Isaiah. We are expecting God to use it to “raise up the former devastations” in families. If you recall the ministry that was affecting the local Social Services Directors from the various parts of this city, you might recall how broken the family structure is here. You might remember also the brother who I said was starting it. He is the church administrator. His wife came up with an idea of how to minister to the desperate needs of families here, while at the same time using it as a means to evangelize the lost. Her idea was to start a ministry that focuses on the needs of families but make it accessible to unbelievers. The result of all this is that we are starting a new church in the city with an emphasis on family ministry, which will be pastored by this man and his wife. They are off to a good start with a number of people on the team that have had their marriages restored.

“They will rise up the former devastations”

Recently we have been observing a wonderful impact that the Gospel is having on families. When we started there were very few children, and families were all in a devastated condition. Now, every one of our leaders and many, many others have strong testimonies of the Lord gloriously restoring their families. Recently we noticed that just about every couple that was married when they came to us has had a major restoration in their family life, both between husbands and wives and parents and children. Nearly all the men were adulterous and abusive, or drunk and abusive. All were seriously neglectful of their families. Many of the women were adulterous too, but universally they hated their husbands, and were bitter, cruel and unhappy. They are becoming gentle, loving, wives and mothers. This is important because mothers here are often mean and cruel, and often neglectful and inept as mothers. Joanie did a lot of ministry just teaching mothers how to love and care for their children. This is something at which she excels. There was an awful lot of pain and heartache. There was also a lot of abuse and neglect of children. Fortunately so many of our couples were younger when they first came and began to have children after they came into the Kingdom of God. The changed attitudes toward children are another sign of the work of the Kingdom God in our midst.

This month we are dedicating babies every Sunday, and the church is full of couples with children. Most people did not want to have children. They were afraid to for many reasons, besides the fact that they had been indoctrinated with the idea that it was bad to have more than one or two children. Many of the families we minister to have already had three or more children in spite of the fact that they are derided and criticized for it, especially by their parents. During these baby

dedications I noticed there was a high percentage of parents who came to Jesus in our church or home groups as young people and now are grown and starting families of their own full of faith and love.

These are happy days for me, seeing the kind of change that has been accomplished by the Holy Spirit working here. God is truly a God of restoration and redemption. When Joanie and I and the kids came here, we just hoped we could get a lot of people saved. We really had no idea how much God was going to restore and rebuild in the lives of these people. Often someone will approach me and just say "thank you for coming to us." I love this process of God whereby, "without him we can do nothing," but he waits for someone to be willing and go before he works. He has chosen to work through us in this place, and it is wonderful. It inspires us to press on at all costs, so that we can "gather the fruit that endures to eternal life." It is a little hard on Joanie, being in the States and away from the action, and it is hard on both of us being separated so much, but we are willing and happy to do it for the fruit that will bring glory to the Father.

Which is the best part of this Gospel?

It is hard to say sometimes which is the best part of this Gospel: Salvation? Healing? Deliverance? Miracles? Changed Lives? All are glorious and it is nice to see all the facets. Lately everywhere I look now, whether in our offices, or the Rehab Center, or the village ministry, or the ministry to the poor, or the businessmen's fellowship, or the ex-criminals fellowship, or family or leadership seminars, and especially in the church, what I see is changed lives. We are seeing new people saved, but lately it is looking at all the people we have served all these years living such beautiful new lives that is causing our hearts to swell with joy. Praise Our Lord Jesus forever and ever. Amen.

In case you are interested?

Our financial situation has been terrible for months. Maybe everyone thought we quit or something when Joanie had to move to the States for Sarah. I did spend more time in the States year due to that, and trying to improve our financial situation. But I and our two oldest children are still working away here. They are working with youth and administration and practical work, and I am generally overseeing, preaching and working primarily with leaders. I also commute back and forth quite a bit now, which raises expenses some. But all the ministries are going on and increasing whether we are here or not.

We really need all the financial help we can get. In every area of ministry we are increasing, not decreasing, and it all costs money. So please pray and do what you can, putting your treasures in heaven.

For those who pray for us, the plan right now is for me to be in Bosnia in February and Afghanistan in March, and to see how God wants us to proceed in those new areas.

Blessings, Grace and Love to you in Our Lord Jesus Christ,
Bill Lynch

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