

TAKING THE SAVING GOSPEL TO A LOST WORLD

RONALD COLEMAN
8813 WOOD GLEN DRIVE
ROWLETT, TEXAS 75088
(972) 412-4273

"...GO INTO ALL THE
WORLD AND PREACH THE
GOSPEL TO EVERY
CREATURE..."

CENTERVILLE ROAD
CHURCH OF CHRIST

1102 E. CENTERVILLE ROAD
GARLAND, TEXAS 75041
(972) 278-3179

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KREMENCHUK, UKRAINE

Rose and I had a very productive trip to Ukraine with **Kerry** and **Tommie Cain**. As usual, we were involved in distributing much benevolent help in addition to our main work of teaching. The congregation in **Kremenchuk** has hosted a Bible school for many years. I go twice a year and Kerry has gone with me many times on the spring trip. This time he taught a course on **The Church** and my topic was **Jesus the Master Teacher**. In my lessons we studied what made Jesus such a wonderful teacher and then looked at what He taught on a few very important subjects. We also preached on the three Sundays we were there and participated in the two-hour discussion class the church conducts each Saturday afternoon.

I have been going to Kremenchuk since 1996 and feel that my relationship with the Christians there has strengthened over the years. We love being with them and they seem to very much appreciate our efforts to help the church mature. Ukraine, of course, was part of the Soviet Union until 1991. Kremenchuk is close enough to Russia that the people there all grew up speaking Russian as well as Ukrainian. Believe me, one is just as difficult as the other! Our preaching and teaching is done with the assistance of two very good translators who are members of the congregation.

THE WAR ON UKRAINE'S EASTERN BORDER

The Russian supported war in the eastern regions of Ukraine continues to be a great tragedy. Destruction has been great and thousands have died. This includes members of the Lord's church. Russia still sends soldiers, equipment and supplies across the border. The Ukrainians we talk to expect President **Vladimir Putin** to continue his

efforts to take over more of their nation. The economy of Ukraine is in a shambles. There is tremendous unemployment. Inflation is high, affecting even basic food items the poor depend on. Bread, for example, has doubled in price since we were there in October. Their currency has lost much of its value and many banks have failed. Thousands have left the war zone and are now refugees in other parts of the country. Some members of the church have come to Kremenchuk. One of these is **Sergei**, age 38, an unmarried preacher. During our stay he left to go back to the war zone. He *volunteered* to go teach and council Ukrainian soldiers in one of the worst areas. He is not a soldier but placed himself under the control of the army and has a one year commitment to that work. Please pray for Sergei and others in that dangerous area. The Ukrainian Christians ask for our prayers for the church and their nation.

BENEVOLENT HELP

The needs in Ukraine are greater than ever—and the response from Christians here was exceptionally generous. Please excuse my abbreviated account on this matter due to lack of space. Four congregations sent substantial contributions: **Wylie**, Texas; **Cottonwood** (near Wylie); **Colorado City**, Texas; and the **Southside** church in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Several individuals also gave liberally and the grand total was **\$25,750**. Assistance was given to numerous good works. The largest contribution went to the Rehabilitation Center (a shelter for abandoned and abused children). We always help the prison for juvenile boys where more than 400 are confined. Our brother, Gregory, regularly teaches the gospel there. He takes needed items to them, including clothing and food. We continue to buy supplies for the hospital in Kremenchuk which cares for deformed and severely afflicted babies and small children. Money was also given to purchase supplies for the Krukuf Orphanage. Remember, these places are **poorly funded** by the government and sometimes the conditions are very depressing. Money you send provides even basics like clothes, shoes, medical help, better living conditions and supplies to teach children the Bible. The present situation brings worries about having heat, electricity and even food. As usual we traveled to a nearby town to assist the Svetlovodsk orphan home/school for blind and visually impaired children. They care for more than 200 children. The Christians in Kremenchuk work hard helping those in these institutions and most of what we do we do through them. Aid was given to a few individual Christians in need and the remainder of the money was left to be distributed when required by the Central church. It is difficult for us to appreciate how much good is accomplished in a country like Ukraine by the loving gifts of so many here. The Ukrainian Christians always want us to stress their gratitude to those who help!

*Let's remember to pray for Ukraine, for our own nation
and for our troubled world.*

Your coworker,

Ronald Coleman