

# TAKING THE SAVING GOSPEL TO A LOST WORLD

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

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## **KREMENCHUK, UKRAINE**

**Don Oelze, Rose** and I are back from our work in the troubled nation of Ukraine. Don's wife, **Elnora**, could not go with us this time because of a broken arm. You are aware of the continuing war situation in the eastern provinces bordering Russia. This has taken a back seat in the news lately due to the ISIS terrorism horrors and the dreadful Ebola outbreak. But in spite of a so-called cease fire, the Ukrainian Christians assure us that the fighting, destruction and killing continue. Russian soldiers and Russian supported rebels persist in blowing up public buildings and apartment dwellings. Many deaths are reported among the poorly supplied Ukrainian soldiers and the civilian population. Members of the Lord's church are among the victims!

The **Kyiv Post** is the English language newspaper in the capital city. In the September 26 edition, staff writer Oksana Grytsenko gave these estimates from Eleva Vasilieva, a human rights activist. This lady reported that the total number of deaths of Russian soldiers and mercenaries in the Ukraine warfare could be about 4,000. Vasilieva said concerning the number of Ukrainian fighters killed in this war: "We estimate the losses of Ukrainian side at up to 8,000." She added that civilian losses are "impossible to count." It's also true that hundreds of thousands have left the area as refugees. This includes many Christians. We met one refugee couple, Christians from Donetsk, who are now in Kremenchuk and worshiping with the Central church. Congregations in the war area have had their buildings confiscated and the Lord's people now meet in secret. Christians there ask that we continue to pray for the church and the nation!

Our main purpose in going is, as always, to teach in the Bible school. Don taught the

book of Philippians. My topic was Jesus' Last Night With The Apostles Before His Death. This study concerned the amazing events and the remarkable teachings of the Lord to the apostles that night. Attendance was really good and enthusiasm high...in spite of the background gloom that exists because of their concern about the war and the future of their country. As usual, Don and I preached at Central on the three Sundays we were there. The congregation also has a two-hour Saturday afternoon class each week. This is always a question and answer session.

## BENEVOLENT HELP

The needs in Ukraine are greater than ever—and the response from Christians here was exceptionally generous. The **Lakewood Village** church in Ft. Worth sent \$10,000 and **Wylie** gave a record special contribution of \$17,674. Other money sent to me and what Don supplied brought the grand total to \$30,019—by far the most ever!

Assistance was given to numerous good works. The largest contribution went to the Rehabilitation center (a shelter for abandoned and abused children). Next was the orphan home/school for blind and visually impaired children in Svetlovodsk, about 25 miles away. Most of their 225 children also have other physical, emotional or mental problems. We always help the prison for juvenile boys where more than 400 are confined. Our brother, Gregory, takes needed items to them, including food. He also preaches there regularly and has converted a good number of inmates. We continue to buy supplies for the hospital for deformed and severely afflicted babies and small children. Money was given to purchase some toys and supplies to help teach the Bible in the Krukuf Orphanage. The Christians in Kremenchuk work hard helping those in these institutions and most of what we do we do through them. Remember, these places are **poorly funded** by the government and sometimes the conditions are very depressing. Money you send provides even basics like food, clothes, shoes, medical help, better living conditions and supplies to teach children the Bible. The present situation brings worries about having even heat and electricity this coming winter. There is some talk of keeping the public schools closed. Aid was given to four needy families and the remainder of the money was left to be used in Central's benevolent program. 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!

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I plan to leave on December 4<sup>th</sup> for **Ghana** in West Africa. I will teach a course on Christian Ethics at the preachers' training school in Tamso. I am also to speak at the graduation ceremony for the first ever class to complete the three-year program.

Your coworker,

*Ronald Coleman*