

CALEB & CHRISTINA — SUKO —

Preaching Jesus in Ukraine and training
others to do the same!



SukoFamily.org

Suko Family 2017 Ministry Report

To God be the glory for the great things he has done in and through our lives in 2017. We stand in awe of his grace, his kindness, and his leading. With joy we share with you how we have seen God work and with humility we admit that it is all God, every bit of it is his doing. For our part we often felt inadequate, there were times of discouragement, sometimes it seemed as if



we were just spinning our wheels, yet in God's providence he saw fit to use us in ways that we never could have imagined just a few years ago.

Gospel opportunities have been given to us to share hope with the hopeless, to uplift the discouraged, to bring truth where there are lies and to provide comfort where there is pain. We do this not on our own but through the power of the Holy Spirit and with the generous support of God's people.

This report shares some numbers and figures, but the work of the Gospel is much bigger than that and can never be simply relegated to statistics. There is much we have seen God do that we can not properly share in a report like this. There are many parts of the ministry that are not particularly glamorous or easy to share. We do, however, want to give a report that will help you gain a better understanding of how the ministry is functioning and what we have been doing over the past year. Our prayer is that it will enable you to pray for us better and that it will highlight the goodness of our glorious God!

2017 marks our first full decade of serving Jesus in Ukraine. This is a special privilege and great joy for us. The work of the ministry is filled with many difficulties, unknowns, and sometimes painful situations, yet all of this is nothing compared to the joy of knowing that we are serving a living and powerful God who loves us and with whom we will enjoy eternity. We take hope in that fact that all those who hear the Gospel and turn their hearts in faith towards Jesus will one day join us in glory as we fall before the throne in worship.

Serving Jesus together in Ukraine,
Caleb and Christina Suko

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. Rev 22:17 ESV

Evangelism training



We are grateful to God that 2017 was our most active year yet in training church members to accurately communicate the Gospel message through Good Soil training seminars and resources. This past year we held 24 evangelism training seminars with around 650 participants total. We also presented our resources at four pastors' conferences.

Our team of five seminar facilitators worked hard to help local churches train their members in understanding the worldview issues in evangelism and how to communicate the Gospel using the chronological approach and resources like "The Story of Hope" and "The Way to Joy". Not only did we see a wide age range attending our seminars, but we also saw everyone from a girl who had just put her faith in Christ a couple of months earlier to seasoned pastors and church leaders.

During 2017 we also took on the project of translating "The Story of Hope" into the Ukrainian language, because currently all our resources are in Russian. In November we made a small print run of 50 copies and are now testing them before doing a larger printing.

As we look into 2018 we are planning on rewriting some of our seminar training content to update it with contemporary design and make it fit into seven hour increments that most churches give us on a Saturday. We will plan to produce training material in both Russian and Ukrainian.

We hope to start working on translating “The Way to Joy” into Ukrainian but will have to first raise funds for this project. In May we are planning a training for the trainers event in Bela Tserkov where we will introduce some of the newly designed training content. We are hoping to find some trainers in Western Ukraine who could help expand the ministry there in Ukrainian.



Below is the list of towns/churches where we held training seminars in 2017.

January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kodra • Fastov 	February <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fastov • Kanev 	March <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yagotin • Lebedin
April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sgurovka • Odessa (Campus ministries) 	May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyiv “Friends of Christ” • Bela Tserkov • Lvov 	June <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boyaka • Berdyansk • Pereyaslev • Kyiv
July <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granov • Kyiv • Kyiv 	August <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyiv festival • Ploskoe • Nosovka 	September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Odessa, Taerovo • Kharkiv
October <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Odessa, Women’s center • Dnepr • Bela Tserkov pastor’s conference • Ivano-Frankovsk 	November <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyiv “New Generation Church” • Pastor’s conference presentation • Presentation for Central Ukraine pastors 	December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No seminars because of holidays

Teaching



Our mission ABWE asked me to help co-teach their new chronological Bible teaching course for the New Testament called “Roots of Faith.” In February I traveled to Budapest, Hungary where I co-taught the course for a group of missionaries and a few national church leaders.



This spring I was asked to help one of our sister churches in Nikolaev develop their preachers. I wrote a new seminar on preaching and led it. I’m planning on using this material in future seminars.

Church Leaders' Conferences

By God's grace we helped organize and lead three conferences in 2017. These events are unique opportunities to help churches and church leaders in Ukraine and beyond. Through video and online streaming we are able to reach thousands of Russian speakers from countries all over the world.

For many pastors who attend these conferences this is the only theological/ministry training they will receive. Thus, we strive to provide excellent examples and teaching in Biblical exposition, fundamental Bible theology, and practical ministry advice. All of our conference speakers are seasoned pastors with years of experience and sound Biblical theology.



[Family Evangelism Conference](#)

This conference focused on how to share the gospel with family members. We held this conference in the town of Vorzel, just west of Kyiv. The main speakers included myself and three other pastors. We had around 100 people attend the conference.



[Man of God Conference](#)

This conference was held in Bela Tserkov at Grace Church. Our main speaker was Pastor Alexey Kolomytsev from Grace Bible Church in Battle Ground, WA. We also had two other Ukrainian pastors speak. About 800 church leaders attended this conference, which was the most we have ever had.



[Purity War Conference](#)

Our fall conference was also held at Grace Church in Bela Tserkov. The main speaker was Pastor Jim Cecy who brought the Bible to bear on why pastors and leaders fall into sexual temptation. This was a much needed topic and well received by those who attended. About 300 attended the conference.

Local Church Ministry



As one of five pastors I help lead our local church, Hope for People. My main responsibility is to oversee preaching and teaching ministries. Before coming to the US in June I handed these responsibilities over to others.

This year our church grew, we baptized nine people and also received a few other members who transferred from other churches. Currently we have about 165 members. On Sunday mornings around 200 attend the worship service.

This year I led our brothers through a detailed study of every Scripture in Old and New Testament on Demons. This was in response to some false doctrine that was brought in from false teachers in the US who claim that Christians can be demon possessed and that most Christians require an exorcism in order to gain freedom from demonic activity. In connection with this issue I also helped our church formulate clear doctrinal statements on both demonology and on healing.



Our Church organized a city-wide youth conference in February where I along with other a couple of other pastors spoke. We had about 150 youth attend from about a dozen different churches. The theme of the conference was “moral purity”

I also organized a seminar on Animism for our church that was led by an ABWE missionary who spent time in West Africa. His teaching on Animism was helpful in bringing clarity to the role of demonic spirits.



Finally, Christina and I both spend many hours counseling individuals from our church. One especially difficult case involved a family that we have known ever since we arrived in Ukraine. It was an abusive situation that brought along with it much emotional and spiritual pain. This “informal” ministry was quite draining on us.

Soldier's Outreach



Our ministry to refugees ended in October of 2016 when the refugees were all moved to different areas of Ukraine. As a result we prayed and asked God for other opportunities outside the four walls of our church to share the Gospel. In December of 2016 our Church, Hope for People, began an outreach to the 27th mechanized brigade on their base a few miles north of the city.

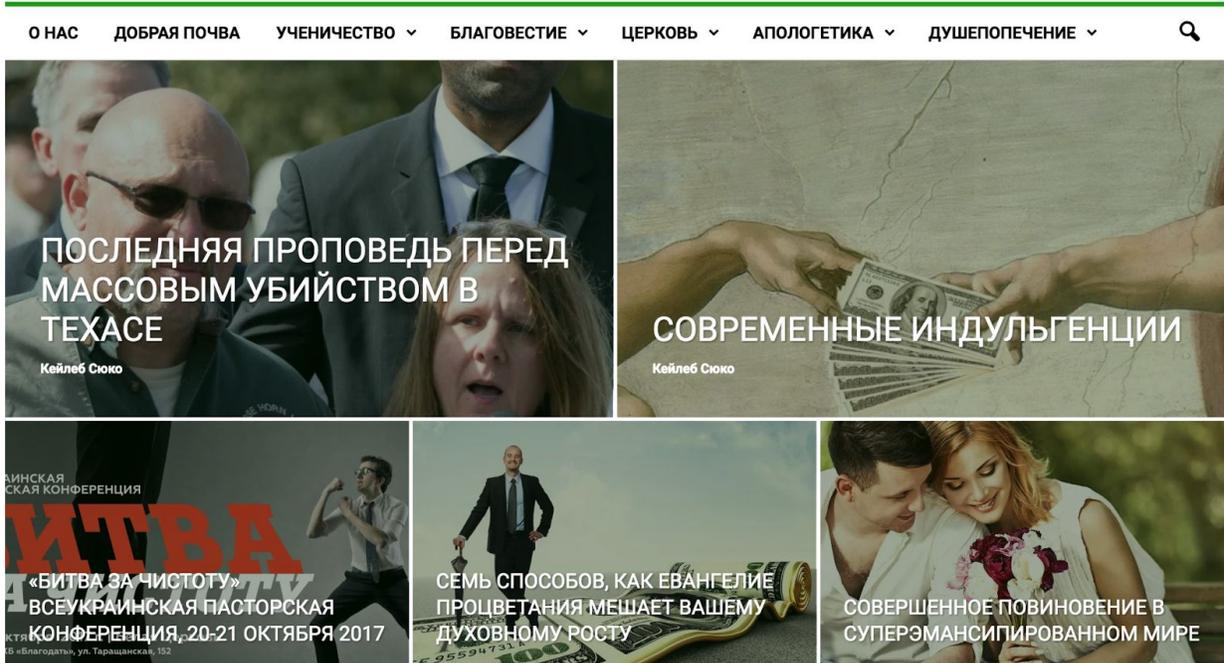
This is an amazing opportunity for gospel preaching since 95% of the soldiers who come have never been to an Evangelical Church before and most have never read the Bible. Our evangelistic team has been able to freely conduct services with the soldiers once a week for most of 2017. As a result many soldiers are reading Bibles for the first time and hearing what it means to have faith in Jesus.

Writing

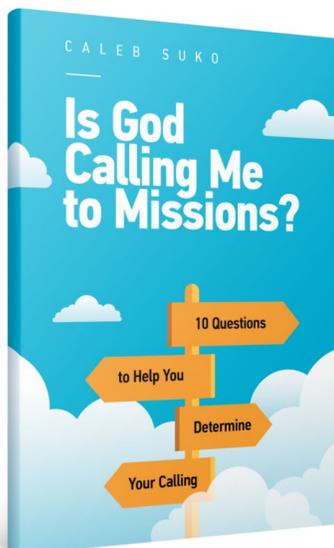
The longer I'm in ministry the more I realize the importance of writing. Not only does writing help me think through theological issues, dig deeper into the Scriptures, and provide clarity for my faith but it is also one of the primary ways that we can minister to others.

BLAGOVESTIE.today

— ЦЕНТР БЛАГОВЕСТИЯ И УЧЕНИЧЕСТВА —



This year we continued to develop our online platform <http://blagovestie.today> as a means to reach, aid, and influence churches and individual believers all over the Russian speaking world. We created and published 49 new posts in Russian in 2017. Many of them I wrote personally but we also translated several posts from other authors and published a few posts by other Ukrainian pastors.



I also published another 69 posts on our family ministry website Sukofamily.org. These posts were a combination of writing on Biblical topics, podcasts, and a few news articles about Ukraine. 2017 proved to be another year of growth with record views of nearly 150,000 for the year.

My second book [“Is God Calling me to Missions? 10 Questions to Help Determine Your Calling”](#) was a project that I worked on little by little throughout the year. Thankfully, I completed and published it just before the end of 2017. My prayer is that this book will be used by God to help people have a Biblical understanding of missions and that it will encourage some to respond to the missions’ call.

Ministry to Churches in the US



We spent nearly six months of 2017 in the US. Our goal during this time was to visit supporting churches, share what God is doing in Ukraine, encourage and exhort believers to Biblical evangelism and missions.

We view this not as time wasted but rather as more opportunities to advance the Kingdom of God through clear Bible teaching and exhortation from God's Word. We also believe that by sharing what God is doing in Ukraine we can help spark the evangelistic fervor of churches and individual believers in the US.

Since late June we have visited 27 churches and two camps, most in Washington State but also in Oregon, California, Idaho, and Minnesota. We have spoken a total of about 54 times. About half of the speaking was sharing the ministry and the other half was preaching.

I challenged myself to preach a new sermon in each church that we visited this time and so far I have been able to accomplish that except for two occasions because of travel and other events going on. We have also recorded each sermon on video and uploaded to [Facebook](#), [Youtube](#), and the audio podcast and in that way reached thousands more with the same content.

Family



The biggest change for our family in 2017 was the marriage of our daughter Naomi to Jorge Whitaker. At the beginning of the year we never would have guessed that our daughter could be married this year and living in Chile! We are grateful to God that he brought along a godly young man who loves our daughter and loves God. They were married on October 21st and moved to Chile on October 30th. Christina and I visited them for two weeks at the end of November.

Also this October our daughter Noelle was baptized in obedience to the command of Christ. This is a great joy for Christina and me to see that she has a real faith in Jesus and wants to follow him.

As always time in the States is the most challenging time for our family. It uproots us from daily routines and the stability of home. It means traveling nearly every weekend and often living out of a suitcase. It has been difficult to keep up with homeschool this fall. We look forward to our return to Ukraine in February and, hopefully, to a somewhat less chaotic rhythm of life.

We are grateful to God for our family and for our new son-in-law. We look forward to what God has in store for us in 2018.