



SukoFamily
SERVING JESUS IN UKRAINE

DECEMBER 2018

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Christina and I bring you warm Christmas greetings from Odessa Ukraine, where we have the privilege of serving Jesus, sharing the gospel, and teaching God's people! We pray that this Christmas season will strengthen your faith and hope in Jesus Christ and remind you of the great joy and peace that waits for us in the presence of our Heavenly Father.

As we close this year I want to share briefly with you how God has blessed and allowed us to serve Him over the past year. If you would like a more detailed year-end report please visit our website where you can download the pdf version.

2018 brought with it both incredible gospel opportunities as well as some difficulties. However, we are confident that God will use every difficulty for his good purposes!

I hope that as you review some of the things God has done in and through us you will give God thanks and glory for it. Certainly we are weak and flawed as missionaries, we often feel inadequate, sometimes we don't know what to do, and at times wonder how God could even use us. Yet, God does use us and that says nothing about us and everything about Him.

In this letter we want to share what God has done. Our response to these blessings is nothing less than to praise and glorify Him! We hope that this Christmas season you too will be able to praise God with us for His mighty deeds!

All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.
For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God
Psa 86:9-10

MINISTRY IN A NEW CHURCH

This summer we began to transition our main church ministry to our smaller church downtown called Tabernacle as there was a greater need for leadership there. This church of about 60 members is located right in the middle of downtown and just a couple of blocks from the main train station.

Not far from the church are several universities that have many foreign students. We believe this is a gospel opportunity and recently some of the brothers of the church and I have been making contacts with students from the Middle East and Africa.

Although some of the students are Muslim, they are open to talk with us and to even come to our church for "Russian Club" which helps them improve their Russian. We especially appreciate your prayers as this is a new type of ministry for us and we are a little unsure of how to approach it but we are trusting that God will work as we already see that His hand is providing the way for great things to happen!



I don't know if there's anything more in the world I enjoy than baptizing new believers. Praise God I had the opportunity to baptize 3 people this past summer.

In September our church gathered on the shore of the Black Sea on a rather windy day. The waves were larger than I expected and the weather had cooled off, however that didn't keep Yulia from entering the waters of baptism! She has become an active part of our church and is growing in the Lord.

CHURCHES IN THE CONFLICT ZONE

Although the war is not much in the news any more, there are still real struggles for those in the occupied zone. I met with a group of these church leaders earlier this year and they shared their stories of increased pressure and



persecution from the authorities. Unfortunately, many churches have had their facilities confiscated by the rebel government and churches are not able to do any kind of public evangelism.

Still the church is marching on, a small group of faithful pastors are doing what they can in very tough circumstances to continue the ministry. One pastor told me:

"We are learning to live in new circumstances, now our church meets every Sunday in 4 different homes."

I am now overseeing our Ukraine Crisis Fund that is helping churches in the war-torn area of Eastern Ukraine.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Our May church leadership conference was the largest we have ever had with over 1,000 church leaders attending. What an amazing opportunity to impact churches all over Ukraine and outside of Ukraine with solid Biblical teaching on Church leadership and Christian family!

I had the privilege of leading about 600 men in an early morning hour long prayer time. It's hard to convey the impact of hundreds of church leaders gathered together to do nothing but pray for their families and families in their churches.



The main thrust of our conference is to offer Biblical instruction, encouragement, and practical examples to church leaders. This is primarily done through expository Bible preaching on topics that are vitally important to pastors. For many who attend our conference this is the closest they get to any kind of formal theological training. We are well aware of that and set the bar high for our speakers so that they would always communicate solid Bible doctrine from the texts of Scripture.

We live stream all the teaching sessions and then make them available on Youtube and Facebook. This makes the material accessible for many more people and increases the impact of the teaching. This year especially we saw a significant increase in those watching online with over 3.5 million minutes viewed of our teaching videos.

I think the biggest impact of this conference is in small churches in many villages all over Ukraine.

UKRAINIAN SOLDIERS OUTREACH

For the past two years we have been weekly doing outreaches to the soldiers of the 28th and 38th brigade on the base just outside of Odessa. Generally about 98% of those who attend are



unbelievers. It's been encouraging to see them ask questions and come back for more. Some have asked us to help them find a church in their hometown when they finish their military service.

Because we are now working more in our downtown church location I have not been able to attend the outreach this fall, however, our outreach team has continued the effort faithfully.

Unfortunately, we lost access to the base when the president called for martial law on November 28th. This is only supposed to last for 30 days so we are praying that soon our team will be able to go back again.

EVANGELISM SEMINARS



Every month in 2018 we led one or more seminars on evangelism in local churches throughout Ukraine. With nearly 30 seminars led, praise God for a good team of teachers/pastors who are helping us lead these vital training events for local churches.

This year we added a seminar on missions for local churches. This seminar helps believers

see God's plan for missions from the Bible and how they can take part in this amazing plan to reach the nations for God's glory.

We are now working to update our seminars and to add seminars that will help churches to do the core tasks of evangelism, discipleship, and missions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

If you'd like to make a year-end gift we would be ever so grateful. These special donations help us to make sure we have the funding needed to cover the costs of the ministry.

We are thankful that God continues to open doors of the gospel here in Ukraine. Please pray for us as we do our best to take advantage of the time and opportunities God gives us.

And pray for us, too, that God
may open a door for our
message, so that we may
proclaim the mystery of Christ
Col. 4:3



YEAR-END GIVING

* All gifts must be postmarked 2018 to receive a 2018 tax deduction.

* Online giving is available until midnight December 31, 2018.

To give online please visit:
<http://sukofamily.org/give2018>

All gifts are tax-deductible.

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