

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dear Friend,

Christina and I and our whole family greet you with the hope of Jesus and the love of our Almighty Father this Christmas season! We are compelled by gratefulness to the LORD and to you to write this letter. We hope that as you read how God is working in Ukraine you will catch a glimpse of God's sovereign and gracious plan, a plan that includes you and me and millions of people all over the world!

Why are we here?

But before I share with you some of the details of this past year I want to reaffirm why we are here, in Ukraine. By God's mercy our family has served in Ukraine since 2007. In these short 12+ years our ministry tasks have changed in certain areas but our goals and our mission remain the same.

As we have said from day one, we are here to serve Jesus! That means we're not into making a name for ourselves or building temporary kingdoms but rather serving our Master and pleasing Him.

"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." 1 Cor 4:1

To serve Jesus means that we need to faithfully complete the tasks of proclaiming the gospel to unbelievers and training believers in gospel truths (Mat 28:19-20).

Jesus gave us two tasks; evangelism and discipleship and this must always remain the focus of all we do, whether in Ukraine or anywhere else.

To this end 3 years ago we started our "Center for Evangelism and Discipleship." Over the past 3 years we have aided over 100 churches in these two tasks. It's humbling to know that God is using us in His plan but we're not alone. We have the privilege of working alongside many faithful Ukrainians who are also serving Jesus.

As you read our report please remember that neither Christina nor I accomplished these things alone, rather God through the faithful working of many servants is perfecting His plan!



TRAINING OTHERS FOR THE TASK

One of our major focuses is teaching others biblical and effective evangelism. This year we taught in seminaries, at missions conferences, in our women's center and in many local churches. Below is a summary of some of teaching that we did along with our team of teachers.

Training opportunities in 2019

- January evangelism training at "Hope for People's" missions conference in Rivne
- **February** evangelism seminar for pastors from Eastern Ukraine
- March evangelism training at Temple of Salvation Church in Kyiv
- April evangelism training at Transformation Church in Kyiv

- **May** evangelism training for volunteers at the "Choose Life" in Odessa
- June evangelism training for Kyiv region ministers in Vorzel, also a training in the village of Deimer
- July evangelism training in the village of Vorzel for VBS workers
- September evangelism training for the evangelism team at Revival Church in Kyiv,
 evangelism training for seminary students
- October practical seminar on evangelism at the women's center
- November evangelism seminar at Cherkassy Central Church
- December evangelism seminar at Odesa theological seminary, - evangelism training in Boryspil



THE CHURCH



Our church, Tabernacle, is located right in the heart of Odesa. We began to serve at Tabernacle in the summer of 2018 and we have seen this small church grow so that now we often don't fit in our facility. With around 60-70 people each Sunday we are running out of space fast. For special holidays like Easter and Harvest celebration our church now rents the hotel conference room which is just about 100 feet down the street from it. This gives us room to move around and to invite guests.

This summer we baptized three people including a 90 year old grandmother who in the later years of her life has come to know and believe in Jesus as her Lord and Savior!

Christina teaches and helps lead the women's ministries. Once a month they gather for a meal and to study God's Word.

I, Caleb regularly preach and am working with men to develop strong disciples who can serve in the church and share the gospel outside of the church.

In the Spring I finished teaching through the Philippians and this fall I started a topical study with the men on Wednesday nights through the book of Proverbs. Men are growing in their faith through these studies and some who had never attended before are now showing up.

While our church has a great location for outreach we are limited by our space. Please pray that God would lead us in finding more space for the church. Also pray for strong leadership and unity amongst the brothers and sisters of the church.

Many of you read in our emails about the young girl Anastasia who wanted to get baptized but her parents prevented her from it. She has had limited contact with some people in our church recently. She is going to university and her parents keep a close watch on her at all times. Please continue to pray for Anastasia and her family.

CHURCH PLANTING IN BORYSPIL

Last year we began to support a young church planter, Dima Ukhanev and his family who had recently moved to Boryspil, about 20 mins outside of Kyiv.



Boryspil is one of the fastest growing cities in Ukraine and although it is not far from Kyiv there are very few churches there. Currently, the Ukhanevs are working with a small church replant, which has quickly grown from about 8 to around 30 people. Their plan is to help build up this church and once the church has grown enough and has stable leadership they will form a team to plant another church across town.

This December we conducted evangelism training in their church to help their members effectively share the gospel. We were encouraged by their eagerness to learn and to apply the principles to their own gospel efforts.

WOMEN'S CENTER



Christina enjoys serving at our women's center, "Choose Life." The main goal of the center is to help mothers choose physical life for their unborn children and spiritual life for themselves. Many expecting mothers come to the center looking for support. They come from all backgrounds including Isalm, and other religions.

Christina's experience as a mother of 5 and a grandmother comes in handy as she is working with two clients on a regular basis, both are unbelievers.

Additionally, Christina also helps organize and lead the mothers club which meets once a month at the center and provides another opportunity to connect with the women.

UKRAINE CRISIS FUND

One of my responsibilities this year has been to help oversee a fund that our mission established to help churches and believers in Ukraine's war zone in the East.



Although the Ukraine war wasn't in the news so much in 2019, the fighting continues along the front lines between Russian separatist controlled areas and Ukrainian government controlled areas. Those who found themselves in the separatist areas experience many difficulties in everyday life. Prices are higher, jobs are harder to find, and medical care is lacking.

The political situation for churches in these areas is difficult. New government regulations require all churches to register with the government and to have their statement of faith approved by the government. One pastor wrote us:

"Currently we have a lot of difficulties connected with the new registration requirements. The church hasn't yet been registered and the future is very unclear. Without registration the church can't carry on its regular activities."

Several churches that we work with have had their doors shut by the government and are now meeting in private homes or apartments despite the fact that this may not be legal. One way some churches are able to reach out and share the gospel is simply by aiding families in need. This may include helping purchase basic food products or medications. Concerning this humanitarian aid another pastor wrote to us the following:

"Thanks to you and to many caring brothers and sisters this ministry is successful and effective in carrying out the preaching of the gospel and the saving of souls."



Another method that many churches have found useful is camps. This allows them to get out of town and out from under the watchful eye of authorities. Many of the churches that we work with held evangelistic camps this past summer for children, youth, and adults.

Praise God that last year we we aided about 30 churches through donations from the Ukraine Crisis Fund. I had the privilege of speaking personally with many of the church leaders who have taken on the risk to continue ministry in these areas.

Their struggle is real but so is their God! It never ceases to amaze me how God gives his children courage and strength.

To give to the Ukraine Crisis Fund visit: sukofamily.org/ukrainecrisis

ABOUT THE FAMILY



Mishael will graduate this year and hopes to enter the Coast Guard. He is active in our youth group and does video and sound for our church.

Noelle will finish her first year of high school this year. She also takes part in our youth group and at home enjoys baking and art.

Anastasia is in seventh grade this year. She is our animal lover and always makes sure our cat is well taken care of.

Nickolas is in fourth grade. He is very social and loves spending time with his friends and attending martial arts class.



Our eldest daughter Naomi and her husband Jorge and daughter Philippa live in Futrono, Chile. I had a chance to visit them in March.

They attend a new church plant where my dad and I led a seminar on Biblical church leadership and a seminar on the topic of "family" while we were there.

Naomi and Jorge are expecting their second baby so it looks like we will be grandparents again next year!

Also they are thinking of future ministry possibilities in South America so please pray that God would give them wisdom in this!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Again Christina and I thank you for your spiritual and financial support. We count it a privilege to serve our Savior in Ukraine and are glad you can partner with us in this task!

Below you'll find information concerning year-end gifts. These donations help make sure we can cover ministry expenses and continue with the task of preaching the gospel and training others to do the same!

And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.

Mar 13:10



YEAR-END GIVING

To give online please visit: http://sukofamily.org/give2019

Or scan the QR code with your phone.



By Mail

Note account #0133543 and send to:

ABWE PO Box 8585 Harrisburg, PA 17105

By Phone

ABWE USA (800) 901-2293
Please request funds be sent to Caleb and Christina Suko account #0135433

* All gifts must be postmarked 2019 or made online by Dec 31, 2019 to receive a 2019 tax deduction.

If you have questions please contact us: caleb@sukofamily.org 253-203-6749