

# HeartCry

Missionary Society

*That His name be great  
among the nations...*

*Going North  
with the Gospel...*

*From the Ukraine  
to Siberia*

*Volume 33  
April - May 2003*



# HeartCry *Missionary Society*

*That His Name be Great  
Among the Nations...*

## *Our Purpose & Passion*

*“For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My Name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My Name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My Name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord of hosts.” - Malachi 1:11*

The chief end of all mission work is the Glory of God. Our greatest concern is that His Name be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun (Malachi 1:11). We find our great purpose and constant motivation, not in man or his needs, but in God, His commitment to His own glory and our God-given desire to see Him glorified in every nation, tribe, people and language.

Although HeartCry recognizes the great importance of sending missionaries from the West to the un-evangelized peoples throughout the world, we believe that we are led of the Lord to support native or national missionaries so that they may evangelize their own peoples. Therefore, we seek to work with godly men and women of integrity and vision in the unreached world to help them evangelize and plant Churches among their own peoples.

## *Our Principles*

\* While we recognize that the needs of mankind are many and his sufferings are diverse, we believe that they all spring from a common origin - the fall of man and the corruption of his own heart. Therefore, we believe that the greatest benefit to mankind can be accomplished through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the establishment of

churches that preach the Word of God and minister according to its commands, precepts, and wisdom.

- \* Every need of this ministry will be obtained through prayer. We may share our missionary vision with others and even make known to them the specific tasks which the Lord has laid on our heart to do, but we may not raise support through prodding or manipulating our brothers and sisters in Christ. If this ministry is of the Lord, then He will be our Patron. If He is with us, He will direct His people to give and we will prosper. If He is not with us, we will not and should not succeed.
- \* We intend to never enlarge our field of labor by contracting debts. This is contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the New Testament. In secret prayer, God helping us, we will carry the needs of this ministry to the Lord and act according to the direction that He gives.
- \* We will not compete with other biblical mission agencies, but use the resources that God has given to us to work in partnership with them. If the Lord directs, we will sacrifice our own goals and resources that other mission works may be helped and the Kingdom of God increased.
- \* In meeting any need, those of us who are supported financially by this ministry will be the first to sacrifice all things necessary for the advancement of His Kingdom.
- \* We will not measure the success of this ministry by the amount of money given, Bibles distributed or national missionaries supported, but by the Lord's blessing on the work.
- \* Our Goal is not to enlarge ourselves, or to become a key figure in the Great Commission, but to be faithful and obedient stewards by the grace that is given to us. That men may see our weakness and glorify God for His strength; that they may see our inability and glorify God for His faithfulness.



# HeartCry *Missionary Society*

*That His Name be Great  
Among the Nations...*



**Front Cover:** HeartCry missionary to the Ukraine - Illie Glusceac.

*Editor: Paul David Washer*

*Art and Graphics: Jonathan Green*

*Text Editor: Rita Irene Douglas*

*Web: [www.heartcrymissionary.com](http://www.heartcrymissionary.com)*

## *Going North with the Gospel*

- 4-5 *From our Desk:* The reality of spiritual war: taking the Gospel to the nations. Are you following our Captain?
- 6-7 *A Sound Word:* Excerpt by Charles Spurgeon on the love of Christ for His people.
- 8-9 *The Missionary Work of Ion Gireada:* Ion is a HeartCry missionary among the Romanian speaking villages of the Ukraine.
- 10-15 *The Testimonies and Missionary Work of Sandu and Marta Deac:* This young couple works with Ion Gireada as missionaries to the Romanian villages of the Ukraine.
- 16-19 *Just an Old Canvas:* Persecution and Revival in Tereblecea. See how God continues to use the most ignoble things to get glory for Himself.
- 18-19 *The Testimony of Rustam Scripcenko:* Heartcry Missionary to the Gypsies of the Ukraine.
- 20-21 *The Testimony of Wally Vasylovych:* Wally is supported part-time by HeartCry as a translator of Russian and Ukrainian.
- 22-23 *From Siberia to the Ukraine:* HeartCry missionary Ilie Glusceac gives a testimony of his previous work in Siberia. It is an exciting testimony to the glory and power of our God.
- 24-26 *Our New Missionary in Siberia:* The testimony and work of Vladimir Radzihovski - missionary to the city of Nizhnevartovsk.
- 27 *HeartCry Schedule:* The first annual HeartCry conference: May 16th & 17th, 2003.

*Hallowed be Your Name!  
Your Kingdom Come!  
Your Will be Done!*

## From our Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is our hope that this edition of HeartCry finds you growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is our prayer that you are resting in the absolute sovereignty of God during these troubled times. It is our great confidence that He who began a good work in you will continue until it is perfected on that Final Day!

I write this page while our nation is at war. As a people, we have sent our best and bravest to fight in a foreign land. Even as you read these lines, some of *our* people are laying down their lives for a just cause - the liberation of an oppressed and persecuted people. They have gone into a strange land and they have willingly put themselves in harm's way. They have traded pleasant housing for the most rudimentary dwellings, the best of foods for canned rations, comfort for hardship, and security for the frontlines of war. Some have been imprisoned, some have suffered inhumane torture, and some have made the ultimate sacrifice of giving away their very lives.

Such uncommon valor is worthy of recognition and the greatest respect, and yet such recognition and respect are rarely given. The liberators who lay down their lives are often maligned by the very people they seek to save. To lay down your life for an appreciative people has its own reward, but to fight and even die for those who see you as their greatest enemy is quite another thing. How difficult it is to be misunderstood and maligned - to lay down your life for the liberation of a people who do not understand your intentions and who consider your coming as a most unwelcomed intrusion.

Among those things which most overwhelm the soldier may be added the disinterest of those who sent him. Often, with the exception of the families that have sent their loved one's into battle, things remain pretty much the same for those who have stayed behind. The *civilians* are at ease when the war is being fought in a far away land. They continue on with their daily lives and daily aspirations - working and playing, buying and

selling, living for the American dream.

In the initial stages of war, the troops are commissioned with the greatest of fanfare. In the early days of battle, news from the field is eagerly awaited, prayers are offered, and the slightest hint that the soldier has a need will move the *civilians* to action. In time, however, the reality of war begins to fade and the soldier is pushed from his place of prominence in the *civilian's* heart. Attention is turned towards things closer to home - there are bills to pay, children to raise, saving up for retirement, and budgeting for that much needed vacation. All the while, the soldier is out there on the front lines. He is wounded and bruised, bloody and sore. He aches from fatigue, and is driven forward only because there is no other choice. His comrades have fallen, there is little hope of reinforcements, and the battle still rages as fierce as ever. Where are the multitudes who cheered him on when he left to fight this war? Where are their promises to keep him in their hearts and prayers and to support him in his every need? The *civilians* have all gone on to find a life for themselves and left the soldier to fight the battle alone.

From the very outset of this article you probably thought that I was writing with regard to America's war in Iraq, but I am not. I am writing with regard to the Church and her missionary endeavors in the world. The Scriptures teach that we are a holy nation that God has called out of the darkness so that we might proclaim His excellencies (*I Peter 2:9*). The Scriptures teach that we are at war, not with flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places



(*Ephesians 6:12*). The Scriptures teach that God has called us all to enter into this war. All authority has been given to Christ our Commander and He has commissioned us to go into all the nations and make disciples, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (*Matthew 28:18-20*).

Even now as I write these words, Christ's kingdom is at war. He has called and we have sent our best and bravest to be missionaries, to fight a terrible war in many foreign lands. At this very moment, some of *our* people are laying down their lives for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the liberation of an oppressed and persecuted people. They have gone to strange lands and they have willingly put themselves in harm's way. They have traded pleasant housing for the most rudimentary dwellings, the best of foods for canned rations, comfort for hardship, and security for the frontlines of war. Some have been imprisoned, some have suffered inhumane torture, and some have made the ultimate sacrifice of giving away their very lives.

Such uncommon valor is worthy of recognition and the greatest respect, and yet such recognition and respect are rarely given. The missionaries who lay down their lives are often maligned by the very people they seek to save. To lay down your life for an appreciative people has its own reward, but to fight and even die for those who see you as their greatest enemy is quite another thing. How difficult it is to be misunderstood and maligned - to lay down your life for the eternal salvation of a people who do not understand your intentions and who consider your coming as a most unwelcomed intrusion.

Among the things which most overwhelm the missionary may be added the disinterest of those who sent him. Often, with the exception of the families that have sent their loved one's into the foreign field, things remain pretty much the same for those who have stayed behind. The Christians who do not "feel" called to go are at ease when the war is being fought in a far away land. They continue on with their daily lives and daily aspirations - working and playing, buying and selling, living for the American dream.

The missionaries are commissioned with the greatest of fanfare. In the early days of labor, news from the field is eagerly awaited, prayers are offered, and the slightest hint that the missionary has a need will move the Church to action. In time, however, the reality of the Great Commission begins to fade and the missionary is pushed from his place of prominence in the home-bound Christian's heart. Attention is turned towards things closer to home - there are bills to pay, children to raise, saving up for retirement, and budgeting for that much needed vacation. All the while, the missionary is out there on the front lines. He is wounded and bruised, bloody and sore. He aches from fatigue,

and is driven forward only because there is no other choice. Many of his co-workers have fallen or returned home, there is little hope of reinforcements, and the battle still rages as fierce as before. Where are the multitudes who cheered him on when he left for the foreign field? Where are their promises to keep him in their hearts and prayers, and to support him in his every need? They have all gone on to find a life for themselves, and left him to fight the battle alone.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we are all called to participate with equal dedication in the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The question is not whether or not you are called to serve in the Great Commission, but to what service in the Great Commission you are called. The missionary work of the Church can be divided into two distinct tasks: You are either called to go down into the well as a missionary or you are called to hold the rope for those who go down.

To which of these two tasks have you been called? Has God called you to be a missionary and take the Gospel where it has yet to be preached? Has God called you to support those whom He has called? Whichever the calling, you can be assured that you will be held accountable on that Great Day when God judges all men. As the Scriptures declare, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10).

Dear brother and sister in Christ. Let us serve the Lord with gladness and thanksgiving. Let us put our hand to the plow and not look back. Let us labor faithfully in the fields until that Final Day.

your brother,

*Paul David Washer*



# -A Sound Word



*"... be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of sound doctrine which you have been following." (1 Timothy 4:6)*



## *The Greatness of Christ's Love Demonstrated*

by Charles Spurgeon (The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol.52, p.224-226).

*"The greatness of his love is demonstrated in him laying down his life for his enemies.* 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.' It is indeed surprising that he should have laid down his life for those who were his enemies, and who are only his friends because he has made them so. You scorned him, you despised him, you crucified him, your sins were the nails and the spear that pierced his hands, and feet, and side; yet he died for you! He was the sandalwood tree, and yours was the hand that held the axe that wounded him, yet he perfumed the axe, and also the hand that wielded it, and healed that hand of all its leprosy; yea, healed your whole being of whatsoever disease it had. Thank God for love like that.

*"The greatness of his love is demonstrated in him laying down his life for such insignificant people as we are.* I have heard the argument used by unbelievers that it is not feasible — considering the immense size of the universe, and the inconceivable number of starry worlds in it, that this little inconsiderable speck of a globe, which, in proportion to the rest of the universe, is as a single atom of dust to the entire chain of the Alps, — to think that Christ should come to redeem the inhabitants of such a poor little world as this is, and that, if he came to the earth at all, many of the poorest and meanest of the people should be the peculiar objects of his choice. Well, it is marvellous! It is a marvellous instance of the condescension of Christ; and while it may stagger the faith of some, it, certainly inflames the love of others. We feel that, if he condescends to choose us, our love shall rise to the utmost heights that it can reach, and we will bless and magnify the name of the Lord in that, while he took not up angels, he took up the seed of Abraham; while he left the fallen angels to perish without hope, he has come to save us, the fallen sons of Adam, and has laid down His life for us.

*"The greatness of his love is demonstrated in that he should lay down His life for such unworthy friends as we are.* There are some professing Christians who can speak of themselves in terms of admiration; but, from my inmost heart, I loathe such speeches more and more every day that I live. Those who talk in such boastful fashion must be constituted very differently from me. While they are congratulating themselves all upon the good things that they find within themselves, I have to lie humbly at the foot of Christ's cross and marvel that I am saved at all, for I know that I am saved. I have to wonder that I do not believe Christ more, and equally wonder that I am privileged to believe in him at all; to wonder that I do not love him more, and equally to wonder that I love him at all; — to wonder that I am not holier, and equally to wonder that I have any desire to be holy at all considering what a polluted, debased, depraved nature I find still within my soul notwithstanding all that divine grace has done in me. If God were ever to allow the fountains of the great deeps of depravity to break up in the best man that lives, he would make as bad a devil as the devil himself is. I care nothing for what these boasters say concerning their own perfections; I feel sure that they do not know themselves, or they could not talk as they often do. There is tinder enough in the saint who is nearest to heaven to kindle another hell if God should but permit a spark to fall upon it. In the very best of men, there is an infernal and well-nigh infinite depth of depravity. Some Christians never seem to find this out. I almost wish that they might not do so, for it is a painful discovery for anyone to make; but it has the beneficial effect of making us cease from trusting in ourselves and causing us to glory only in the Lord.

*"Why should Christ ever have loved us?* When at his table, we often have wandering thoughts; even in our faith, we often find a mixture of unbelief; even when we love him, we grieve that we do not love him more; even when we are closest to him in communion, we have to smite upon our breast, and mourn that we do not enjoy the nearness we might have, and ought to have; for, after being so greatly loved by Christ, we ought to be sinless; under such obligations to Christ as we are, we ought to be wholly sanctified, spirit, soul, and body, and never have a wandering thought, or one unholy desire. But that we are not what we ought to be is very clear; and the wonder is that Jesus Christ, should ever have laid down his life for such miserable 'friends' as we have proved ourselves to be. Beauty you know, will often win affection against a man's better judgment, for there is something about it which is so attractive that it overcomes him; but Christ's love to us was not won by any beauty that he saw in us. When he says to us as the Bridegroom in the Song of Solomon says to his bride, 'Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have overcome me,' and when he says, 'Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in there.' I think he must see himself mirrored in us, and that this is why he loves us; for, certainly, there is nothing lovable in us but, what he has bestowed upon us by his grace. I do not know what you, beloved, say concerning this theme upon which I have been speaking, but I think you will agree with me when I say that, to me, the superlative point of the love of Christ is that he laid down his life for me, unworthy as I have been, even since I have been his friend."



## *Christ's Love is Most Free*

by *Charles Spurgeon* (The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol.33, p.510-511).

“Remember also in your meditation, that his love to you has been most free. It was unbought, and even unsought. In Hosea it is written, ‘I will love them freely,’ and surely, if ever there was a case in which that verse was transparently true, it is in my case. Was it not so in yours? What was there in you that could have won his love? If he could see any beauty in me, it must have been first in his own eyes. They say that love is blind; and certainly, though our heavenly bridegroom is not blind, yet he was somewhat kinder still; for he saw our deformities of sin and folly, and yet he loved us notwithstanding, all. He saw our iniquities, and then he cast them into the depths of the sea. Jesus, lover of my soul, thou lovest me, and that love is free indeed! How couldst thou be enamoured of such an one as I am? It could only be because thou lovest those who most need thy love, and can least repay it. Inasmuch as it is even so, what shall I do but admire and adore? Brethren, let us muse and meditate, and pray, and praise, and wonder, and worship him whom, having not seen, we love. Let us love him because he first loved us. Beholding the generous upbringing of a love which we could not deserve and would not seek, let us freely love in return.

“This love of our Lord’s, so free, so full, so forceful, was and is most amazing. We shall never bear better or more surprising news than this, that Jesus loves us. Nothing more surprising ever came to me than to learn ‘he loved me, and gave himself for me.’ Others may, perhaps, see what is wrought by the Lord’s grace in us, and this may make them the less astonished at the Lord’s love towards us; but we know ourselves, and see our blemishes as well as our beauties, and hence we know that there is nothing lovable in us by nature. When we see our Lord’s beauty we see nothing but deformity in ourselves. The more we perceive his love the more do we abhor ourselves because of our own want of love to him, and because of the defilements into which we have fallen. We are amazed at our sin, and more amazed at his love. We shall go on reading in the golden Book of Christ’s love throughout all eternity, and the longer we study it the more we shall be astonished that ever the Holy and the Glorious and the Ever-blessed should have espoused in love such insignificant, polluted, and fickle-hearted creatures as we are.”



## *Our Love as Nothing when Compared to Christ's*

by *Charles Spurgeon* (The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol43, p.35-36).

“But now, think of the truly earnest missionary; think of such men as Carey, or Moffat, or John Williams, — men who give up all the comforts of life, all the hopes of emolument [*i.e.* profit, gain], and go forth amongst a barbarous people, to suffer insult, perhaps to meet with death for Christ’s sake. They brave the terrors of fever and pestilence; they pass through jungles; they dare tempestuous seas; no mountains are too high, no weathers are too stern to deter them. They force their way into the center of Africa, or high up amongst the Esquimaux, if they may but tell of the love of Jesus to dying men. It may seem very wonderful to us, but if you come to think of it, compared with what Christ has done for them, they may, and they usually do, sit down and confess that they have done nothing whereof to glory. They have done only what it was their duty to have done, and they all confess that they fall short of the service which Christ deserves. Though we might say, in a modified sense, ‘Herein is love,’ yet, after all, it is but faintly spoken, for it is but comparatively true.

“As we have read Foxe’s *Book of Martyrs*, or some other history of the saints, and considered the story of their confessing Christ before the Inquisitors, singing joyful hymns when their bones were out of joint upon the rack, or standing boldly up upon the blazing faggots while their flesh was being consumed, still testifying to the preciousness of Christ, have we not said, ‘Herein is love’? Well might we say so as we contrasted our love with theirs; but after all, if you will but think a minute, it is a little thing for a man to be willing to burn to death for one who saved him from everlasting burning. Tis sharp work, but it is soon over, and the reward makes up for it all, while grace sustains the sufferer under the fiery trial. There is nothing, even in the love of martyrs, worthy of praise when compared with the exceeding love of Christ. These are stars; let them hide their heads in the presence of the Sun. These are all sweet flowers; yet compare them not with the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley,

*“The greatness of his love is demonstrated in him laying down his life for such insignificant people as we are...”*

whose fragrance fills both earth and heaven. Those whose spiritual senses are qualified to judge forget all else while they stand entranced before this one gathering up of everything, that is lovely, and cry, ‘Herein is love!’ Oh! this love of Christ; it is beyond all degree, standard, or compass. In comparison with it, other love, high and noble as that other love may be, dwindles into insignificance.”



*The Ukraine*



# Ion Gireada



Ion and his family are HeartCry missionaries among the Romanian Villages of the Ukraine.

## Ion's Testimony

I was born into a family of believers, the fifth of six children. My father was a deacon in a church in Stanesti, but until I was eighteen years old, I literally hated the Christian faith and led an immoral life hidden from my father. When I was eighteen years old I was required to join the army. Because of this, I became very afraid. I began to think about life, death, and hell. One evening, during a church service, God spoke to me and I knew that I must repent and believe in Christ. I returned to our home and told my parents that I would give my life entirely to Christ. After my baptism, I began to serve the Lord.

I suffered much persecution as a believer in the Soviet army, but I knew God had called me to share my faith even if it cost me my life. When I was released from military duty in 1988, it was my desire to attend Bible school in Moscow, but the Lord opened the doors for me to study at home through an extension program. I studied the extension courses for three years and then attended a six month missions course in Vatra Dornei, Romania. After I returned to my home in the Ukraine, I began to evangelize in the areas of Tereblecea and Cernauti. One year later, I went to Bucharest to study theology. After graduation, I was ordained as a pastor in Tereblecea. Ever since then I have been sharing the Gospel whenever and wherever God has opened a door.

## The Work Tereblecea

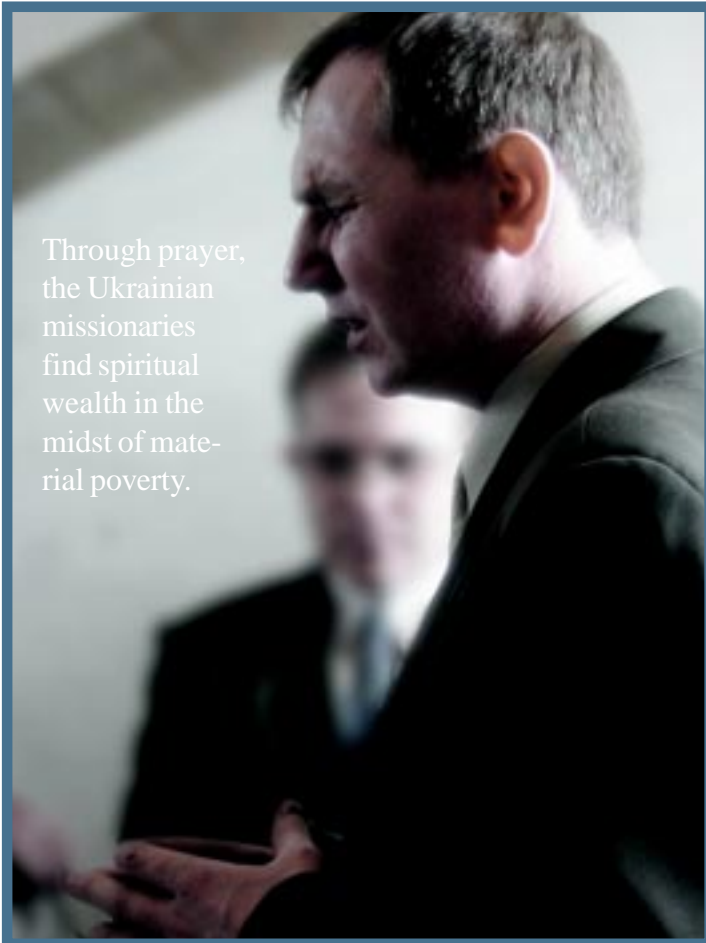
I praise God for the grace and blessing we have in Tereblecea. We continue our study in the book of Acts and we are praying for two villages where the Gospel has not been preached. We are also holding meetings in the homes of different families. Sometimes the meetings last for two or three hours. The people have so many questions. Please pray that these people will be brought to repentance. We have had serious conversations with nearly 100 people, but none of them have made a profession of faith. Even though they listen, they do not understand, and they do not repent. By the grace of God, we held 85 evangelistic meetings in the year 2002. From these meetings, eleven people repented and nine were baptized. We have 42 members and most of them came from the world. We also have two young men who are now attending Bible College. I praise God for giving me the strength to do what I do.

## The Work in Cernauti

By the grace of God we finished another month of spiritual warfare in God's field! I was able to hold five evangelistic meetings - three in the church and two in the houses of family members. I rejoice because twelve unbelievers came to the house meetings. After I preached the Word, we had time for discussion. Each meeting lasted for nearly three hours. None of the visitors made a profession of faith in Christ but we continue to pray for them. We had only six unbelievers in the meetings held in our church. It is difficult for the unbelievers to attend our church meetings because the Orthodox priest and his wife threaten the people with terrible things if they come to our meetings. We will continue to pray for both of them.

The church is doing well and we are trying to study the Word of God. My vision is to have missionary churches in every village with the members that are willing to sacrifice for the work. I am happy with the little church in Cernauti because even now the members bring food for the students in the Bible College. I am also happy with the believers because they remain faithful even though they are persecuted by their unbelieving family members. I make many pastoral visits to encourage them. The Word of the Lord is true: "I did not come to bring peace but the sword, to separate one from the others..."

In spite of all the hardships and difficulties, it is wonderful to do what the Lord has called us to do and to serve others with His Gospel. By the grace and the blessing of God we are studying, praying, and praising our Savior. We have nearly finished our expositional study of the book of Acts. We are glad about the wonderful things God has revealed to us from this book. Besides the work in church, I was able to preach the



Through prayer, the Ukrainian missionaries find spiritual wealth in the midst of material poverty.

Word in ten other villages around Cernauti. I thank the Lord for the strength He gives me to serve Him.

## The Work in Bahrinesti

Because we have had so much snow, our meetings were severely limited. We are still continuing our expositional study in the book of Acts. As in the other villages, we are meeting in the homes of families and sharing Christ with the unbelievers who attend. Our average attendance in these meetings is between ten and fifteen people. Sometimes the meetings last for over four hours. The people have so many questions and so many problems. In one of our meetings, we were able to share the Gospel with three entire families and ten individuals who came by themselves. One woman made a profession of faith. Please pray for this work and for me because these meetings take so much strength out of me.

In 2002, we were able to hold thirty evangelistic meetings and twelve people made professions of faith in Christ. They are now demonstrating evidence of true conversion. We hope to have a baptism as soon as the water warms up. This time of year, the rivers are covered with ice and baptisms are difficult. I believe that the church is growing after a long "dry" spell. There were six members when we started our work here and now there are eighty people in attendance on Sunday morning and fifty people on Wednesday evening. We have the blessing and the grace of God, and we praise Him for this. We will start our catechism class very soon.

I am happy that our members are starting to get involved in evangelism. They have memorized twenty-five evangelistic Scriptures in order to be more effective witnesses. We are also learning how to refute and win the Jehovah Witnesses because they are a fast growing cult. We now have more problems with them than the Orthodox Church. They have started to visit our members and to trouble them with their magazines. They even watch for those who visit our church so that they might persuade them to join their organization. Pray for them that they might come to know the truth. God is able to do all things. We have a faithful brother in the Rovno area who is working as a missionary to the Witnesses. The Lord has used him to bring sixty of them to Christ.

## Puieni

We praise the Lord because a young family came to Christ this past month! We have already held four evangelistic meetings in their home! We also held several evangelistic meetings in the village's cultural center. We handed out invitations and placed large posters around the village. We thank God for moving the hearts of the people because the room was full the first night. There were over 70 people in attendance and we gave out 150 tracts and 60 New Testaments to our visitors! I am amazed by the attitude of the people of Puieni. They even asked me to have more meetings. Please continue to pray! During the second meeting, God blessed us with 160 people and half of them were not believers. We gave out 60 more New Testaments and 120 tracts. We thank God because we have had no problems with the Orthodox Church or obtaining the necessary approvals from the government. We plan to have two more meetings in the cultural house next month.

The church in Puieni now meets in a family's home, and every service we have between two and five unbelieving visitors. We praise the Lord for this! I am a little worried because I cannot visit Puieni as much as before. I am really busy with our other missions. Please pray. Thank you for helping the work in Ukraine!

With love in Christ,

*I on Gireada*



After years of meeting in an old tent, the church in Tereblecea has a meeting place.



## Sandu and Marta Deac

*Sandu and Marta Deac are HeartCry missionaries to the Romanian villages in the Ukraine. They work in close fellowship with brother Ion Gireada.*

### Sandu's Testimony

My name is Sandu Deac and I was born in Bistrita, Romania, on January 1, 1974. I am the oldest of six children: three boys and three girls. It was a privilege to be born in a Christian family and to be raised with good morals and a spiritual atmosphere. When I was twelve years old, an elderly, retired pastor began to visit our family and hold Bible studies with the children. It was at this time that I began to study the Scriptures. Until that time, I had only attended church because it was the custom of my family. I praise God for this elderly saint of God because he helped me to develop a special desire to study the Scriptures and encouraged me to seek Jesus.

Even though I was a child, I made a very serious decision to follow Jesus. Later in my Christian life, I began to understand that I chose to follow Him only because He chose me and called me to follow Him in order to prepare me for a special work. When I was thirteen years old, I no longer played with my friends so that I could use my free time to seek God. I began to pray and fast, and in

this way, I began to know Him and to understand the way in which He wanted me to serve Him. It was at this time that I understood that He had called me to serve the Gospel. I was having my usual prayer time when I felt something in my heart that I cannot explain, but I knew at that moment that God wanted me to preach the Gospel.

At the age of thirteen, I also began to learn to walk with God by faith. During my yearly exams, I did not study all the possible subjects about which we could be tested, but prayed and asked God to lead me to study the one subject that the teacher would choose. I prayed and God showed me the right subject (I know now that this was not very wise, but God blessed the zeal of a young boy). Another time, when I was traveling in the city with a friend, we ran out of money and became hungry. I remembered the promise from Matthew 18:19:

*“Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.”*

My friend and I prayed together and soon after I found a bill of 10 Lei (Romanian Currency) on the sidewalk. At that time one could buy a great deal of food with 10 lei. Although I was only trusting God in small things, I was learning to trust Him more and more. I began to understand that He was close to me and that He would meet all my needs and my godly desires if I seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.

When I was fourteen years old, I decided to form a group of young people to support the evangelistic work in Romania. We formed a Christian music group and also went from house to house to preach the Gospel. Sometimes we simply helped people clean their houses and yards. Other times, we walked through villages singing and preaching the Gospel. At that time, I did not even know what a missionary was, but when men came to our church to share about the work of the Gospel in the needy parts of the world, something happened in my soul and I felt a desire to do the same thing - to preach the Gospel and encourage the people to repent. I did not know it, but God was preparing me to be a missionary.

When I was sixteen years old, a group of missionaries from the United States came to our church. During the service, they made a call for those who were willing to serve the Lord as a missionary. I understood very well what God wanted from me. It was also at this time that I realized that I needed to spend special time with God. I found in the Bible that fasting was an important part of the life of Moses, Elijah, and even the Lord Jesus. I decided that I needed to fast every day for eighty days (I ate a small meal every night). This is how I started the fight and it was a great experience for me. It still has an impact on my life and work. I believe that it was my first step as a missionary.

After this experience, a group of us in the church decided to try to plant new churches in our area and to take care of the little missions that struggled in the surrounding villages. In two years, God planted three new churches and one of them is now a very large and important church. After this period in my life, I felt God's call to move to Timisoara, Romania and to work among the Gypsies. In time, I learned their language and gained their acceptance. I worked among the gypsies for two years between the years of 1991-1992. In June of 1993, I was baptized in Timisoara and returned to Bistrita. I began to work among the Gypsies of my home town and they were very amazed when they heard me using their



The tent that Brother Sandu now uses in one of his mission points.

language. During this time, God also allowed me to developed the work in other nearby villages and towns.

In 1994, I was required to serve in the army. I knew it would be difficult as a believer, but the Lord gave me favor in the eyes of my authorities and I was given a higher rank than I ever believed possible. This gave me the liberty to form a fellowship group with four other believers. We held fellowship meetings two or three times a day - singing, praying, and studying God's Word. After three months, I was relocated to another military unit. I was the only believer in the unit, but I continued to have fellowship with God. After eight months of serving in the army, I began to lose focus. I neglected my time with God and began to hang around with new friends. The satisfaction lasted for only a few moments. I always left them empty and without any desire to be alive.

I returned home when I finished my military service, but the deadness in my soul continued. The next period of my life was very difficult because I tried everything in my power to get back on my feet spiritually. It was pointless. I did not do anything to be ashamed of, on the contrary, I tried to live a very moral life. I went to church, but I could not regain my peace and joy. Finally, I went to the Lord and pleaded with Him to do something with my life. I felt that the Lord touched me when I fell helplessly into His arms. I now know that I needed this dreadful experience in order to understand that I can have victory only in His presence and only by His grace.

After returning to the Lord, I desired very much to go to a Bible school. I could not go because I had to work, but in time, God listened to my prayers and brought a Bible school to our city. In 1996, I began to attend the Bible school and to work with the

youth in a nearby church. That year, God taught me many things about being a servant.

The following year, I had the joy of marrying a dear girl named Marta. She greatly motivated me to serve the Lord. In August 2, 1999, God blessed us with a girl who we named Sara. At that same time, we formed a special youth group for missions. In the first year, we sponsored 78 different missionary activities. The following year, the Lord allowed us to open two new mission points and I began to once again preach the Gospel in the Bistrita jail. It was during this time that our pastor began to encourage us to go to a mission school in Sibiu. I realized that it was important, but it was financially impossible for my family and me. Together Marta and I sought the will of God. The answer came right away. One Sunday, a lady came to our house when we were not at home and she left a note for us to visit her. Because she was a poor widow we thought that she needed help. When we arrived at her home, she gave us an envelope and told us that the Lord had put it on her heart to give us an amount of money. She did not know about our needs, but we knew that it was the first answer from the Lord. In October, I went to school believing that God would take care of my family.

At school, I was trained for cross-cultural missions, but I had no clear vision about where I would serve. My wife and I decided to pray for God's will. The first answer came one year later. A brother wrote to us that he would like to support us in our missionary endeavors. He sent us a check for \$100. From this wonderful miracle, we understood that God wanted us to be missionaries, but we did not know where. Two years later, we received our answer from the Lord. The leaders in our school asked me to go on a ten day mission

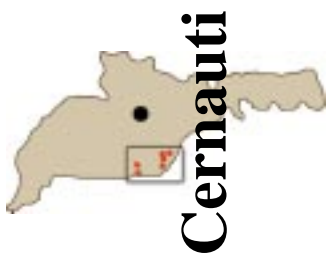
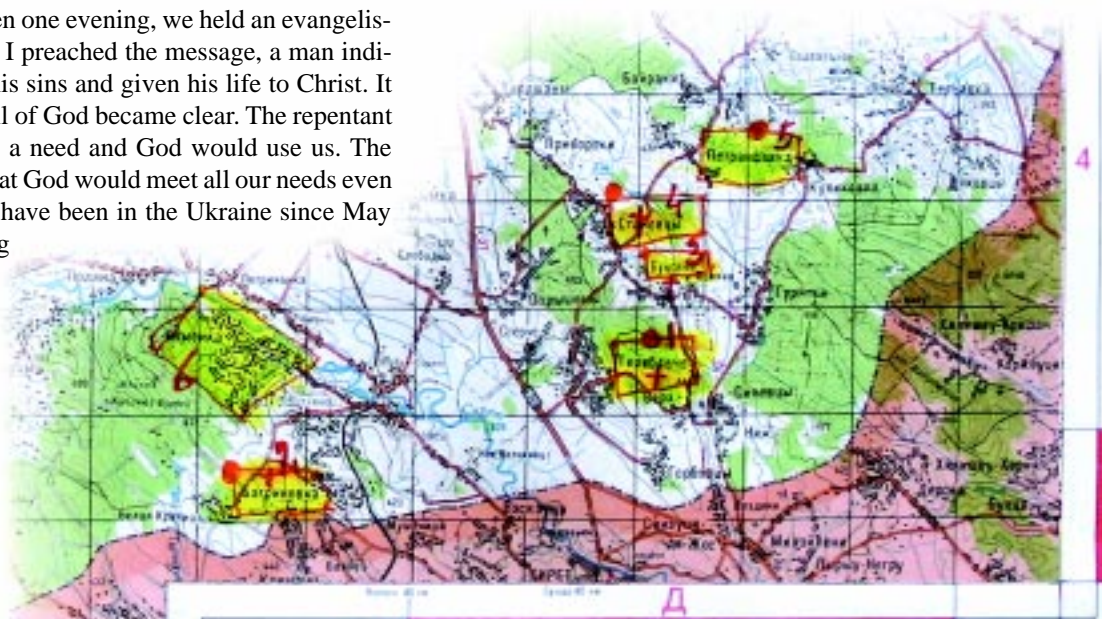


One of several churches in the Ukraine where brother Sandu ministers.

trip to the Ukraine. I had already planned to go to Bulgaria, but decided instead to go to the Ukraine. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of February (2001) we arrived at the Ukrainian city of Cernauti. We stayed at the house of pastor Ion Gireada. We held missionary meetings in different villages and homes. From the very beginning, God was working through the trip. One evening in a church in Voloca, a little girl came after the service and gave my wife some Ukrainian money and said that it was to support us as missionaries in the Ukraine. We fell in love with the people and became very sensitive to their needs, but we were not sure if God was leading us. Then one evening, we held an evangelistic service in Tereblecea. After I preached the message, a man indicated that he had repented of his sins and given his life to Christ. It was at that moment that the will of God became clear. The repentant man showed us that there was a need and God would use us. The gracious little girl showed us that God would meet all our needs even in the most unusual ways. We have been in the Ukraine since May 2001 and we have been serving the Lord ever since.

**Map of the work in Cernauti**

1. Tereblecea
2. Bahrnesti
3. Puieni
4. Staensti
5. Camenca
6. Petresivca





## Marta's Testimony

My name is Marta Deac and I was born on June 8, 1974 in Bistrita, Romania. I grew up in a large Christian family of seventeen children. There are fourteen children still alive today - nine boys and five girls. I grew up in church and this helped me to realize that I should not live according to the desires of the flesh. I was converted when I was nine years old, but of course, this did not keep me from all the adventures and "foolishness" of childhood.

My father is an evangelist and I saw how hard it was for my mother to always be by herself. I knew how hard it was to educate so many children, but I never heard my mother complain in our presence. Despite all the trials through which I saw my mother pass, I always wanted to be a wife and a mother like her.

After four boys, I was the very first girl in my family. My parents wanted very much to have a girl. They prayed to the Lord and promised Him that they would give the girl back to Him as His servant. I heard about this promise when I was fifteen years old. When I was a little girl, I believed that God was speaking to me, but no one would believe me. I was consoled in knowing that God wanted me for Him and for His work.

After reading many different books about missionaries, I told my parents that I wanted to be a missionary. They tried to convince me otherwise. They said that I was only full of emotion because of the books and sometimes they forbade me to read them. I worked in a grocery store and on Saturday and Sunday I taught the children in church. As time passed, God continued to strengthen my convictions about His calling.

In the summer of 1993, I was baptized. Immediately afterwards, someone came up to me with some information about the Romanian Bible Institute in Bucharest. I decided to go. My mother was very happy, but for some strange reason, my father did not even want to hear about it. He said that I did not need Bible school because I was a girl and I could not become a pastor. I went back to my room and began to pray. I asked God to help me fulfill the promise my parents had made to Him before I was born. I wrote down all the reasons why the Lord would want me to study in the Bible Institute. I showed them to my father, but he would not change his attitude. Finally, I told both my parents that it was my decision to obey the Lord and go to school. I left without their recommendation, even though such a recommendation was needed to enter the institute. I desired to have the blessing of my father, but he refused. I was hurt, but I realized that I had to go to the Lord with all my problems.

I began school, but the tuition was too high for me to pay. After two months, the principal of the school told all of us who were too poor to pay that we had to return home. I did not know what to do. I was ashamed to stand in front of my father. I knew that he would tell me that my ideas were crazy and that I was out of God's will. As I evaluated my life, I realized that God had been faithful and that He had never failed me. I decided to fast for three days and ask the Lord to answer me. During those three days, the Lord searched my heart and showed me the way He would help. In my dream I went to the airport to

*"..I was consoled in knowing that God wanted me for Him and for His work..."*



*On the far right is brother Sandu leading the worship with the guitar. In the foreground at far left is Dr. Nathan Berry who traveled to the Ukraine with the HeartCry team. He attended to the medical needs of the missionaries and other Ukrainians during our pastor's conference.*

wait for some Americans. One of them came to me and gave me all the money that I needed for all the years I would need to stay in school. He even said that if I needed more he would give it to me. I suddenly woke up and I said to myself that it was just a nice dream.

One day a brother came to me and told me that I needed to go with him to the airport. My eyes were closed to what God was doing, but when I arrived at the airport I saw the man from my dream. He came to me and said that he would pay my tuition for me. I did not know what to say and the only thing I could do was to thank the Lord for taking care of me. I did not know if I should tell my father, because I did not want to shame him by showing him how God had helped me. Before I could make a decision about what to do, I discovered that someone else had already told my parents.

The man who sponsored me, was touched by my experience and wanted to meet my family. This was not easy for me. I was afraid of how my father might react. When we arrived in Bistrita, we went straight to the church. My father was very excited to see us, and he prayed for me. He dedicated me to the Lord according to the custom of the Jews (my father is a Messianic Jew). I was very happy because of God's goodness to me.

While I was in the Bible Institute, I worked in different orphanages and with many children ministries, but God had another plan for me. In July of 1997, I was engaged to Sandu and we began

to seek the Lord's will together. Our parents could not help us financially, so we asked the Lord to show His power again. We prayed over Sandu's salary (\$60 a month), and we asked God to multiply it so that we would even have a little extra to eat a meal in a restaurant. The Lord was faithful to answer in every detail. All these things happened so that I would understand that I need to be in the Master's will and to look for His heart every day.

After I was married to Sandu, we began to work with teenagers, but our heart was always looking towards the mission field. Now God, by His grace, has answered our prayers so that everyone might see the glory of His name. We are missionaries in the Ukraine. I serve the church by working with the children, helping the youth, counseling young ladies, and I teaching English to the village children. We are depending upon God and seeking to do all things according to His will.

When I look back on my life, I thank God for the love that He has shown me every day. I thank you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ because you have taken time to read these little drops from my life.

In love,

*Marta Deac*

# Just an Old Canvas: Persecution and Revival in Tereblecea

by John Gireada

*We printed this article in our 2001 September-October issue. We decided to republish the story and share with you additional information of how God continues to use the most ignoble things to get glory for Himself. We hope that the following stories will gain even greater glory for God and be a blessing to His people.*

Ten years ago we began the mission work in the village of Tereblecea. It has a population of 3,000. For years, we worked with almost no apparent progress. It was very discouraging and there were times I would have given up if the grace of God had not sustained me. For nearly ten years I sowed the seed of the Gospel, but gathered no harvest. Now I have begun to see God's harvest. In the last year, nearly 40 people have repented of their sins and turned to Christ. At the moment, there are 37 baptized members in our church.

For years, we held our mission services in a large green tent. We met three to four times a week to pray and preach the Word. Hardly anyone attended and the Orthodox priest took little notice of us. When the revival began, so did the persecution from the Orthodox priest. He and many of the wicked men in the village were constantly trying to disrupt our worship services by making noise and throwing things at the tent while I was preaching. They also insulted me in public and slandered me to the people of the village.

Our greatest moment of persecution came after a village wide evangelistic activity that brought a great harvest. In order to reach our village for Christ, we decided to set up witnessing points at each of the four routes in and out of our village. Anyone who left or entered the village received a tract from us and was invited to the special evangelistic meetings we were holding. One night after the service, the Orthodox priest came to our tent with several of the drunks and immoral men of the village and tore our tent into pieces. They broke out all our windows and stole the kerosene lamps we used during the night services. Although Satan used them to do great damage to us, God used them to display His power, salvation, and glory. While cutting a hole in our tent, the priest cut his own arm so severely that his blood ran down the tent wall and onto the snow. The most amazing thing is that the priest made sixteen large holes in our tent with his knife and afterwards sixteen people were converted. God sovereignly converted one person for every hole that Satan made in our tent. Now we wish that the priest would come back and make more holes in our tent so that God might convert more people!

A few of the sixteen holes the priest tore in the believer's tent.



The blood of the priest who persecuted God's work.



The beautiful harvest of our sovereign God.



The newly constructed meeting place in Tereblecea





# An Old Canvas and the Glory of God

by Paul David Washer

Brother Ion Gireada's "old tent" has now been handed down to younger missionary Sandu Deac. As you can see from the photograph on the right, its wounds have been mended (though the scars remain) and it has been sent back to the front lines to get glory for God. In the photograph below is the new mission begun by Sandu and Marta. The glowing faces of the newly born Christians are a testimony to the power of God and to His desire to use the smallest and weakest of things to do His greatest and most enduring works. There is a principle that runs throughout all the Scripture and we would do well to understand it - the smaller and the weaker the instrument, the greater the glory that is gained by God!

By God's grace the old tent will be used again and again until finally its supports have all been broken, its walls have worn too thin, and its seams have all been torn. One day it will be thrown away. Just an old piece of canvas no longer worth the mending, and yet it has seen more of the glory of God than most temples, cathedrals, and mega-church auditoriums could ever contain.

There is a precious Scripture that comes to mind when I think of how God is still using this old piece of worn out canvas. In the light of all my smallness and weakness, in the light of all my ignorance and dullness of heart, in the light of all my faithlessness and pitiful attempts at devotion, this Scripture and this old piece of canvas give me great encouragement.

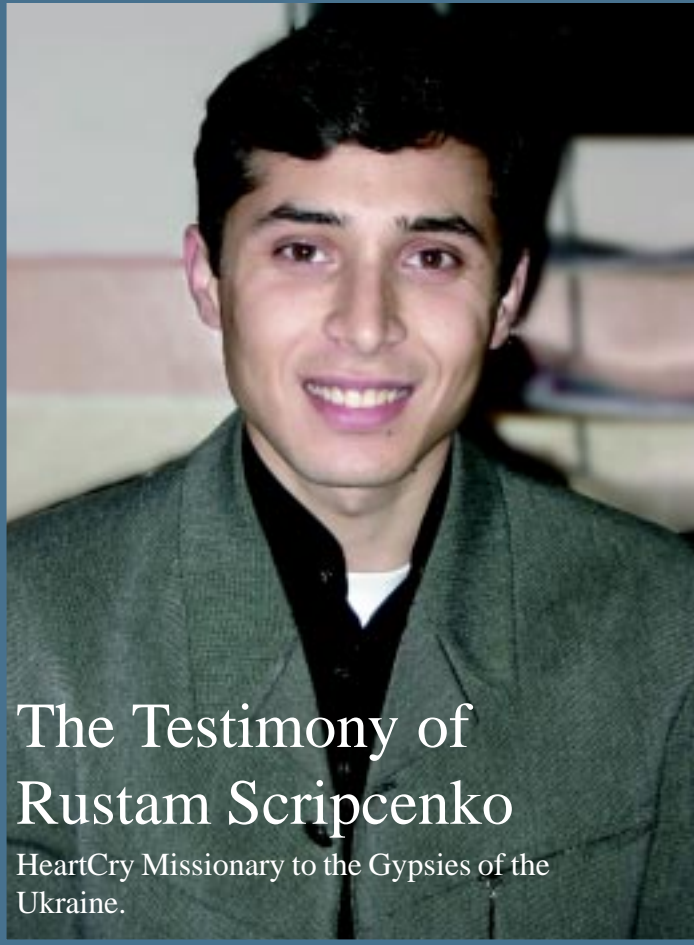


The old tent has been mended and sent back to the front lines to get glory for God.

*"... but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God... so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD." (1 Corinthians 1:27-31)*

Another field and another harvest. Let us wear ourselves out like this old tent for the Glory of God!





## The Testimony of Rustam Scripcenko

HeartCry Missionary to the Gypsies of the  
Ukraine.

I was born in 1979, in a Gypsy family in the town of Conotop, Ukraine. After graduating from high school, I attended the College of Theology and Missions in the city of Sumi.

When I was a child, my father who was not a Christian, became involved in the trafficking of drugs and in a short time he became a very rich man. He bought a large house and three cars. Everything was good for him and he was on the top of the world, but one day the police arrested him during the sale of a large quantity of drugs. My mother was forced to sell everything we owned in order to bribe the Ukrainian authorities for my father's release. Because of the corruption and greed of our legal system, my father was set free.

Although my father narrowly escaped a life in prison and possible death, he was a miserable man. He had tasted the "high life" and could not live without money. Before his arrest, he was a very well-known man in the capital of Kiev and throughout the Ukraine, and was a respected member of the Ukrainian Mafia. After his arrest, he became a "nobody." He began to drink and his health deteriorated. The doctors diagnosed my father to have tuberculosis, but he refused the treatment because he wanted to die. A few months later, at 41 years of age, my father died and left my mother with five little children, many large debts, and no money. With no one to help us, my mother took my youngest sister and ran away to Russia. The four of us who were left were forced to live in the streets. Since I was the oldest, I worked wherever I could and rented a room. After a few years of trials, my sister was married and our uncle gave my brothers a place to live. I was left alone. I lived to work, and worked so that I might have a place to live and some food to eat.

A family of Christians lived near the room I was renting. One evening, while I was drinking and playing guitar outside of my apartment, a sister from the Christian family drew near and asked me about my life. I told her that my life was hell and she gave me a Billy Graham tape that had been translated into Russian. I took the cassette, but I did not listen to it for many days. For some reason I do not remember, one night I listened to the sermon while I smoked cigarette after cigarette. When I heard the voice of this man and his message I was overwhelmed. I did not believe in God, but I knew that the man was speaking with power. I said to myself, "If I believed in God, I would believe in the message, but I do not believe in God." I wanted to believe, but I realized that I could not change my heart and I could not make myself believe.

Not long after, the Christian lady who gave me the tape, also gave me a Bible. I began to read it, and I was amazed that I could understand it. I had always been taught in the Orthodox Church that the Bible was a book of prayers that could be understood by the priests alone and not by the common man. As I continued to read, I was overwhelmed that God loved people. Many of the prejudices that I had against God and the Bible began to fall away.

One day, a very wealthy man, who was a friend of the Christian family, invited me to their Baptist Church. As I entered the church, I could not believe my eyes when the rich man that invited me knelt down to pray. I was shocked because he was humbling himself so much even though he was considered to be a very important man. The second thing that amazed me was the sermon. It was the first time I had ever heard the preaching of the Gospel. I was very impressed because I felt that the man was speaking only to me. Now I know that it was God who was speaking directly to me. I remembered that I felt the same way the first time I read the Bible.

A few days later, the rich brother invited me to go with him to a resort in the mountains. We spent three days there resting and talking about God and eternal life. We spoke a great deal about the time when Jesus will come back. I began to feel a great fear in my soul and I asked the brother to take me home because I wanted to repent and be baptized. In that very same week, I confessed my sins before the church and was baptized in the river that crossed through the middle of town.

After my baptism, I became very attached to the church. I was involved in prayer groups, Bible studies, and the different classes for young people. I worked in the evangelistic campaigns and felt a joy that I could not describe every time someone was converted. I also began to visit the orphanages and share the Gospel with the children. One day, we were invited to sing in a high school and I was challenged to give my testimony. Afterwards many of the young people told me, "You must become a preacher." Step by step I began to preach from the Bible in the church. I was always very excited to prepare my messages, and I realized that preaching was the only ministry that filled my soul. I also realized that God was calling me to become a missionary.

Six months after I began to preach in the church, the local TV channel offered our church 50 minutes a week to do programs for children and for adults. At that time, there was no one in our church who was able to preach a message before the TV camera (There is a great lack of preachers in our country). The pastor of our church was a very good man, but he was not able to speak clear enough for the television. Therefore, he asked me to preach the Gospel in his place. I made two teams for the television: one for the children's



Rustam Scripcenko (at far right with guitar) and Sorin Prodan (at center) ministering among a gypsy house church in the Ukrainian village of Kuba, near the city of Konotop about ten hours north of Keiv.

program and one for the adult program.

Our church has become very well-known through this program. Everywhere in the city the people stop me and ask me different questions about the Bible and the Gospel. This is a great opportunity to share the Gospel and invite people to the church. Most of the people who now attend our church were converted through the program. Our city has 150,000 inhabitants and the station transmits in a 30 kilometer radius beyond the city. In all, our program is available to over 200,000 people.

A few years ago in the city of Sumi a new missions college was opened and I felt God's call to study there. One day, a great preacher came and preached in our college. He made a call for men and women to dedicate themselves to the Great Commission and the work of a missionary. That moment, I felt that God called me to dedicate my life to the mission field. I also knew that God had called me to work among the Gypsies because I am a Gypsy and I know the language.

After I graduated from college, I returned to Konotop and began to contact Gypsy families and preach the Gospel in places where they gave me the opportunity. Not long after I began my ministry, I met brother Moise Marin from Romania. He had come to the Ukraine to preach an evangelistic crusade and God opened the door for us to talk about the vision the Lord had given me.

One month after speaking with brother Moise, I received news from Bucharest that the HeartCry Missionary Society was going to support me in the ministry! It was an almost unbelievable blessing for me. It was a sign that God wanted me in this ministry. God worked everything together to provide for me the opportunity to work as a full-time missionary.

My work takes place in two communities of Gypsies from the town of Konotop. I am developing the greater part of my work in the community of Kuba where there are about 15 families. This area is called the "Black Zone" because it is the area where the drug traffickers and drug addicts live. We gather in a house where there is no electrical power. The house is about to fall down. The families have many children, but none of them have a permanent job. They survive day to day by looking for food in the local garbage dumps.

After one year of work, no one has been converted. There are three people that want to be baptized but their lives have not yet changed. It is a very difficult ministry. The second place where I am working is the village of Pasioloc. I have a cousin there and I am trying to gather a group of seekers in his house. Please pray for us that the Lord will strengthen us with His grace. Thank you for all that you have done for me by supporting me in the ministry that God has given me.



*Wally Vasylovych and his family in the Ukraine*

## The Testimony of Wally Vasylovych

*Wally Vasylovych is supported by the HeartCry Missionary Society on a part time basis as a translator. He is currently working on the Russian translation of a systematic theology written by our friend Roger Weil, the secretary of Slav Lands Christian Fellowship based in Bromley Kent, England.*

Our God is an amazing God so everything He does is amazing. My name is Wally Vasylovych and I am thirty-five years old. The first twenty-one years of my life I did not know God or His saving power. I lived as so many other people do - only existing. I was raised under the teaching and ever-watching eye of the Soviet Union. They taught us that there was no God and so I never thought about spiritual matters.

One day, my mother met a woman who was believer. She gave her a

copy of the New Testament (at that time it was very difficult to obtain any portion of the Bible). My mother began to read the Scriptures aloud to me. I did not pay much attention to what I heard. I remembered only two stories: Jesus walking on the water and the multiplication of the loaves and fishes.

After I graduated from college I went into the army. When I returned home my father told me that my mother had repented and was attending a Baptist church. The woman who gave us the New Testament had become very good friends with my mother. When I came home from the army she also invited me to attend her church. I did not have any job at the time and so I thought it should be interesting to see what "the believers" do.

The first time I attended the church, I only looked around the sanctuary while the people sang and the preacher spoke. Some time later, I began to notice that the preacher's words were very interesting to me and that they began to touch my heart. Every time I attended the service, I felt like I was sitting all alone in the church and that the preacher was speaking directly to me.

I began to realize that my heart was a place of battle. I heard two voices that were speaking to me. One voice told me that I should repent and receive Jesus as my Savior. Another voice said that I should not hurry or do anything rash. For one month this battle raged in my heart. Every time I was in the church, one voice would tell me that if I repented all my friends would laugh at me and reject me. It even told me that I would die the moment after I repented. I was very afraid, but I was even more afraid when the pastor gave the invitation and I could not publicly profess Christ. I realized that if I did not repent I would spend eternity in hell without God.

Finally, on October, 7, 1989, by the grace of God, I responded to the quiet, loving voice of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and repented. It is impossible to express the feelings that I had at that moment. It was like a great stone fell from my shoulders. Joy was overflowing from my heart. I had a peace and a love that I had never experienced before.

After my conversion, I had a strong desire to study the Word of God. I envied the young preachers who were able to preach from the Bible. I wanted to know the Bible like they did. I attended every church service and every event in the church. I especially liked the studies of the Word of God that were held in the church every Monday. Two months after my conversion, I was baptized in the Baptist Church in Chernivtsi. Before I could be baptized, the elders of the church told me that I had to resign from the young communist party. The Lord gave me strength to obey. One year later, I met a wonderful Christian girl and we were married.

Very soon God began to test my faith. The director in the institute where I worked was a communist. He called me into his office and told me that I had a choice. I could continue to work in the Institute or I could continue to attend church. I chose God and the next day I was unemployed. It was a difficult time, my wife was pregnant, and I was without work. I asked my brothers and sisters in our small Bible



*In their own world* - Wally and HeartCry technical director Jonathan Green, working out some computer problems while on our recent trip to the Ukraine. Besides being an excellent translator, Wally also possesses an extensive knowledge of computer programming.

study group to pray for my family and me. Almost immediately, God answered in His mighty way. After only one month, a man in our group asked if we knew anyone who could do a certain job. I told the man that I needed a job and I could do the work he was requesting. I began to earn 3-5 times more money in my new job than I earned in the institute. After one year, the institute that fired me suffered financial collapse. Through this, God showed me that He takes good care of His people. God is really good! He is a great God! It's not very difficult to see His miracles around us. We only need to "open" our eyes and look.

Three years after coming to know Jesus as my Savior, I had a great desire to study the Word of God in the Bible institute that was in our city. It was in the institute that I began to study English. There were different levels of lessons and a group for beginners. After the third or fourth lesson, my teacher told me to go to a higher level. I felt that God had given me His grace to study English. It became so easy to learn English that I did not want to stop. I found an English/Russian New Testament and continued studying. At that time I did

not fully understand that God had given me this gift for a special purpose, but now I know. In 1995, we had "International Crusades" in our region. I asked the pastor if I could be an interpreter for the preachers. He agreed and it seemed that my English improved overnight.

At that time I did not have a job and I prayed to God to help me. One day, I was riding in a bus when I met some teachers from the "School of Tomorrow". We had an enjoyable discussion, but I did not say anything about my unemployment. By the Lord's grace they told me that the principal of school was looking for some teachers and asked if I would be interested in the job. That was the second time that God answered my prayers about a job. Since that time, I have been working at the school and have been the translator for many Bible conferences and evangelistic crusades in both the Ukraine and Russia. Now I know that God has given me this gift to serve Him and praise Him.

God is a great God and His goodness endures forever!

# Siberia



Ilie Glusceac



*Brother Ilie Glusceac is a HeartCry missionary currently working in the Ukraine. The following is a testimony of his previous work in Siberia. It is an exciting testimony to the glory and power of God.*

In May of 1989, I went to Chita, Siberia and found a small group of sincere believers who met together on the outskirts of the city in a tiny wooden shack that was used by only the poorest of people. In their meetings they would read the Word and worship the Lord together. It was the only truly evangelical church in a city of more than 350,000 people.

Because of our evangelistic efforts, new people began to show interest in the Gospel, but they would not come to our services because we were located on the outside of town in a building that should have been condemned. As we searched for a new place to meet, we discovered three buildings that had been used by Baptists in the past, but in 1930, they had been taken over by the communist government and given to other people. We also found a Muslim temple which belonged to the state, but was no longer used for anything. We spoke to the mayor of the city, but he said that he would not give us any of the buildings to use.

We began to pray and God worked a miracle. The government official who was responsible for overseeing all

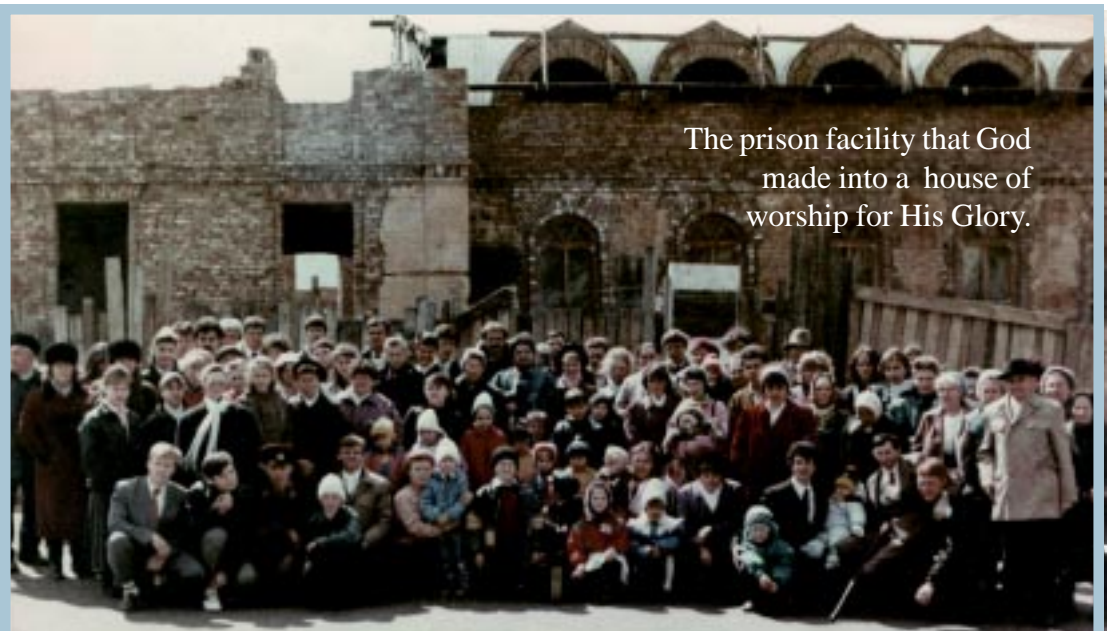
the religion activity in the area of Chita offered us a building that was 47 by 17 meters square and was located in the very center of the city. It was built during the Russian Empire and used as a women's prison. From 1920 until 1940 it was used by the KGB as a prison and many of our brothers were detained there. After World War Two, the building was given to the army and was used as a military prison for soldiers.

I was astonished when I first saw the building. It was surrounded by high fences and watchtowers. It had no roof and was inhabited by drunks, drug addicts, thieves and other dangerous people. We were very afraid to even approach the place, but we prayed and asked God for courage. At that time the church had only twenty members - fifteen women, an 82 year old brother, and four men who were able to work. We did not know what to do because we had no money, but God helped us. The entire summer of 1990 we tore down the walls of the cells and removed the garbage that had piled up over the many years. We did this type of work, because it does not require any materials or money. We worked with bare hands, but the Lord helped us.

When the winter came, we received some money to do the work, but we could not find any construction materials. In spite of the many setbacks and discouragements, we began to build as the Lord prospered us and by the end of 1991 we began to hold meetings in our new building. The number of our members doubled almost immediately. God added many young people to the church and they were very happy to work. Every year, new members were added by the Lord and the work advanced. When I finally left Chita to return to the Ukraine, the church had 170 members and the auditorium was almost finished. Two months later they had the dedication of the church. In November 2001, I visited Chita and the church had grown to 210 members and there were 310 people attending the services.

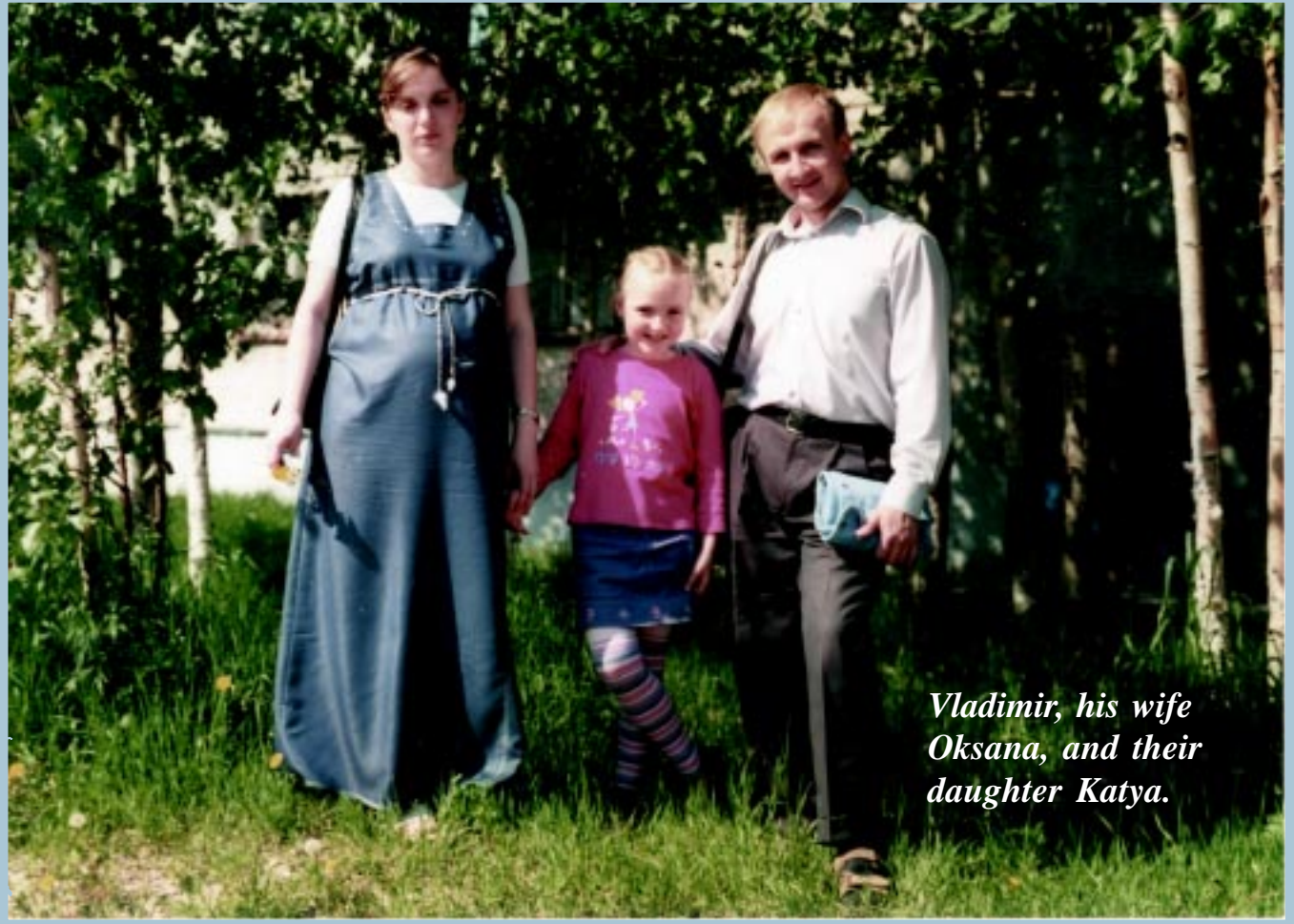
There is an interesting thing about the man who is now pastoring the church - Mihail Medianic. In 1987, while he was serving in the army, he was thrown in jail for 24 hours as a punishment for his faith in Christ. The prison building where he was held is the same building where he now pastors the church. We praise God!

The future plan for the church is to use half the space for the worship services, a fourth of the space for dormitories and a cafeteria, and the remainder of the space for the Bible school. There is still much work to be done.



The prison facility that God made into a house of worship for His Glory.

Vladimir Radzihovski



*Vladimir, his wife Oksana, and their daughter Katya.*

## Vladimir Radzihovski - Missionary to the city of Nizhnivartovsk

*God has led HeartCry to support a missionary in Nizhnivartovsk, Siberia. The missionary comes highly recommended from a fellow missionary society - the Slav Lands Christian Fellowship directed by secretary Roger Weil of Bromley Kent, England. He and the Slav Lands Fellowship have graciously allowed us to join in the work that they have been faithfully doing for many years. The following is a letter of recommendation which brother Weil sent to HeartCry on behalf of Vladimir Radzihovski. It will give you some insight into the challenges and blessing of God that are evident in this man's ministry.*

### A Letter of Recommendation

The city of Nizhnivartovsk (pop. 300,000) was founded only thirty years ago to service the huge oil field that was discovered here in 1960. In 1993, Vladimir (31) and his wife Oksana (29) were invited here from their home in southern Ukraine by Joseph Bondarenko. Joseph had led the original river-boat missions to western Siberia in 1991, 1992 and 1993. He was now inviting young missionary couples to settle in the region in the eighteen towns where people had been converted to establish them in the faith and to found churches.

When Vladimir came here there were about a half a dozen who had responded to the Gospel. He was supported by a German mis-

sion, but this only lasted six years. Initially he held evangelistic meetings in the public library and the number of converts began to grow. They met in a variety of different locations, renting school halls and classrooms, but this came to an end in 1999 when all 'sectarians' were barred from meeting in state-owned property. Since then, about forty believers have had to meet in each others' apartments in very cramped and uncomfortable conditions. Through the media, Russians have been warned not to attend religious meetings in private apartments because of alleged occult and satanic practices that take place there. This has made it almost impossible to invite outsiders to the meetings. In the last two months they have been able to rent a school hall on a temporary basis. Plots of land for building purposes are extremely expensive.

Vladimir also visits a small group of believers in the neighboring town of Izluchinsk twelve miles east of Nizhnivartovsk. When his support failed three years ago he took a job on a construction site but injured his back earlier this year and had to leave it. Since then he has only found temporary work and has survived with intermittent gifts from ourselves. He has two daughters aged seven and two months. Since his support ceased three years ago he has received no outside help or encouragement from anyone other than from ourselves. Having stayed in his home for three days and corresponded with him during the last eighteen months I can recommend him as a sincere and zealous Christian worker.

*Roger Weil*  
Hon. Secretary





*A few of the members from the congregation in Nizhnivartovsk, Siberia. They have gathered outside to take advantage of the short Siberian Summer.*

## A January Letter from Vladimir Radzihovski

*The following is a letter from Vladimir that was received in January of 2003, a short while before HeartCry begin to support this man of God.*

Peace be unto you from our Lord Jesus Christ! December was often extremely cold -40°C, but in January the temperatures have averaged only -10°C. We thank GOD for this warmer weather because otherwise we cannot always go outside.

We also thank GOD that He has allowed us to meet in a rented school hall. We still do not have official permission, but only the word of the deputy director of the school.

We are very thankful to the Lord for the opportunity He gave two brothers and myself to preach the gospel and witness in a hostel for homeless people. The brothers have been visiting the hostel for several months, but it was my first time. Of the forty people that were there, only six stayed to listen. Regardless of the response, we were glad that after the meeting we were able to give each person a New Testament. We saw in this the wonderful hand of the Lord. It was a supernatural event for us, because the Orthodox priest and the secular authorities did not discover that we were there and did not come to resist us. In His mercy, the Lord kept us! Glory to Him!

As always, we continue to ask you to pray for our two home-fellowships. Please pray that they will grow in number and spiritually. Also pray that out of them, the LORD will raise up new work-

ers formed in the image of Christ. May the LORD reveal, according to His wonderful way, new possibilities for fruitful service to Him. We also request prayer for the LORD to bring about a mighty awakening, firstly among those who consider themselves Christian, and then among those who still do not know Him. Lastly pray for our civic authorities, that God might reveal His Word to them.

My personal need is to find, with God's help, some part-time employment. I give you many thanks for all your help, and that of your little fellowship. Thank you for your prayers for us which are so needed. May the LORD abundantly bless you.

### *Vladimir and Oksana*

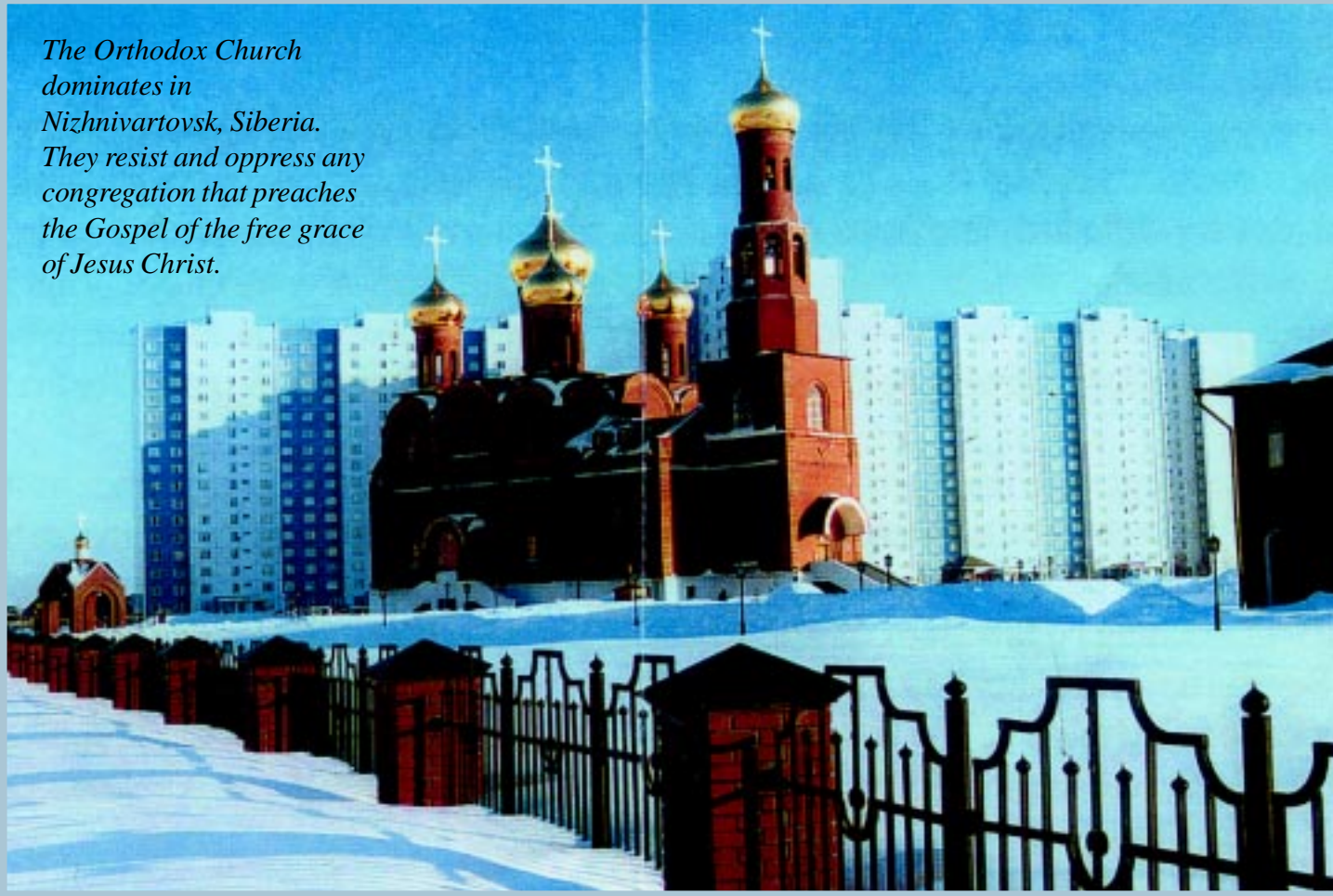
## The February Report

*The following is the February report from Vladimir. It speaks of the continuing conflict with those who oppose the Gospel, and the continuing faithfulness of God.*

We greet you in the Name of Jesus Christ. The family and I are all doing well. Praise the Lord!

There are problems with renting a place for meetings. On the 2nd of February, while we were meeting in the school hall, the Director told us that we could no longer meet there. An official from the town administration told her that she (the director) would be in a lot of trouble for allowing it. With God's help we found premises in a private school. This administrator prescribed a trial period of one month. After that she will see if we can continue or not. She also said that although it is a private school, they also

*The Orthodox Church dominates in Nizhnivartovsk, Siberia. They resist and oppress any congregation that preaches the Gospel of the free grace of Jesus Christ.*



have instructions from the town administration not to permit religious meetings.

We thank you for your fellowship and your continuing prayers. It is the best help and comfort for us. In many places in our country, the Orthodox Church has government support. They open government schools for teaching the fundamentals of Orthodoxy (Icons, traditions, festivals, but not the Bible). They open their churches but they are against everyone who preaches the Gospel. In School No.54, in the town of Samara, the Orthodox Church opened a Church, but they persecute us. We are comforted by Christ's words, "If they have persecuted me they will also persecute you."

We thank God for the opportunity He has given us for two months to preach His word (1) in the shelter for the homeless people; (2) in the center for rehabilitation of the elderly. The hearts of these people have been broken by sin, but praise God that He influences their hearts to hear the Gospel. We ask you to pray that the Lord will regenerate them to new life and bring them into fellowship. Also, please pray: (1) that the Lord will call new workers to serve in the church and in evangelism; (2) that the Lord will bless our home groups; (3) that the Lord will send His powerful grace for the conversion of those to whom we are witnessing. We thank God that it has not been an especially cold winter (average temperature between -20 and -25 celsius). Christmas was a happy time for Katya and Lisa. On the 7th of February, she was six month old and can now say "mama" and "papa".

Please pass our greetings to your house group. May the Lord bless you all.

## The March Report

*The following is the March report from Vladimir. It speaks of the continuing faithfulness of God.*

We wrote last month informing you that the school hall we were renting for a short time was closed to us on order from the civil authorities. The Orthodox Church persuaded the Russian Government that "Sectarians" should not be allowed to meet on State property.

We are very thankful to you for your prayers for us. We signed a contract to rent a hall in a private school and they also gave us a smaller room for the children's meetings. God gave us the ability to pay the price they were asking. Praise God!

We are also thankful to God that He opened the doors in two places in town, and possibly a third place, where we can truly preach the Gospel. Praise God! It is a miracle, especially in the present religious-political situation here.

As always, we beseech you to take us in your prayers to the throne of grace so that the Lord will abundantly bless our service to awaken and convert sinners.

With sincere gratitude & love in Jesus Christ,

*Vladimir Radzhovski*

# HeartCry Missionary Society

## April 2003

**21th-23rd** - Charter Baptist Church Festus, MO.  
Time: 07:00 PM Mon-Wednesday. For more information please contact the church, Bro. Steve Hodges at (636) 937-8174.

## May

**8th - 10th** Second Baptist Church Mt. Vernon, IL  
**International Church Planters Conference**  
Time: 07:00 PM Thursday and Friday evening and Saturday morning 10:00 AM.  
For more information phone ICP:(501) 362-3339

**16th - 17th** - The first annual HeartCry Missionary Society Conference. Friday evening 16th and Sunday morning 17th.

## June

8th - Waldo Baptist Church  
Sunday Morning 08:15AM and 10:30AM,  
Sunday Evening 06:00PM  
For more information phone contact: (618) 564-2180

# Schedule 2003 - 2004

## July

**18th** - Preaching in Longview, Texas Longview

## October

**18th** - Berean Baptist Church Missions Conference  
Grand Blanc, MI.  
More details to follow.

## March 2004

**9th** - Midwest Founder's Conference Kansas City, MO.  
More details to follow.

*Please check our website for regular updates*



## First Annual Conference 2003

### May 16th & 17th

#### **Theme- The Cross of Christ**

Friday Afternoon, May 16th  
Registration- 5:00PM  
Worship- 6:00PM  
Session #1- 6:15PM-7:30PM- The Sin of Man  
Session #2- 8:00PM-9:15PM- The Holiness and Justice of God

Saturday Morning, May 17th  
Fellowship- 8:30AM  
Worship- 9:00AM  
Session #3- 9:15AM-10:30AM- The Propitiation  
Session #4- 11:00AM-12:15PM- The Call to Repentance and Faith  
Lunch- 12:15PM-1:15PM

Suggested \$10 donation to cover expenses per person (but not required).  
Registration is required and can be accomplished via phone, internet, or mail.  
For more information contact us at 618-564-2770  
or email us at: heartcry@hcis.net

*Email:* heartcry@hcis.net

*Web:* www.heartcrymissionary.com

What part of “GO” do you not understand? Matthew 28:18-20



Visit Our New Web Site  
[www.heartcrymissionary.com](http://www.heartcrymissionary.com)

**HeartCry** Missionary Society  
c/o Waldo Baptist Church  
6970 Waldo Church Road  
Metropolis, IL. 62960

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Brookport, IL.  
Permit No. 10

Email: [heartcry@hcis.net](mailto:heartcry@hcis.net)