

Discipling Ministers International

Ukraine Update

July 30, 2015

Pastor Pat McCoy

It has been some time since I have given an update on DMI's ministry in Ukraine. Let me begin by letting you know we now have a new name. Because of the division in Ukraine and the negative aspects attached to Donetsk and the new Donetsk People's Republic, the board of DMI felt it necessary to change our name.

We are no longer Donetsk Ministry, Inc. We are officially registered in the State of Georgia as "Discipling Ministers International, Inc" (DMI). We felt the need to keep the initials "DMI" because that is how we are known in Ukraine. Our tax status is still the same.

This name describes our purpose and main ministry- "discipling ministers." The "international" was decided upon because we hope to be going to Haiti in the near future to work with pastors there. Also, this enables us to go wherever the Holy Spirit leads us to serve.

Update on March 2015 trip:

In March, Elder Kurt Bacon and I went to Kiev, Ukraine to meet with Light of Resurrection director, Sasha Malov, for a visit to refugees and pastors who have left Donetsk and Lugansk Regions of Ukraine. The first of the year, separatists' militias along with Russian troops occupied these two regions of Ukraine, establishing the "Donetsk Peoples Republic". All the fighting, bombing and shelling, which took place for three months, destroyed much of three major cities, including Donetsk, the regional capital.

This fighting has caused many people to flee the regions. In the town of Lugansk an entire church was forced to leave. Militant separatists came into their worship service and told them they had three options. 1. Convert to Russian Orthodox, 2. Leave, 3. Be killed. They chose to leave; therefore, an entire congregation of 49 fled for their lives.

In November of 2014, Dean Robbins and I met with this congregation and had extensive reports from the pastors of this church. This past March, Kurt Bacon and I met again with this group. The pastors were going back to their city. They had their car packed and were leaving after meeting with us. They were so burdened that they had fled for their lives and left people in Lugansk without any spiritual support at all. There are no churches in this town. This congregation was the only spiritual light, and they had taken it away.

This would be a hard dangerous trip for them. They have to enter Russia north of Lugansk and travel from Russia to their home. The separatists still occupy their region. Please pray for their safety. Last report shows that they are safe and ministering to those in need.

We met with two of many families and heard their stories. The main difficulty is finding a job to support themselves. The Emergency Relief Fund established by LOR is carrying on a wonderful ministry to help the people being displaced due to war.

Here is a recent report from our director, Sasha Malov:

Just a couple of words about the meeting of the Emergency Relief Fund held July 24 at my home nearby Kiev. The meeting went well and everyone was in very good spirits. We discussed and planned our strategy for the second half of the year 2015. Here are the main issues we've agreed on:

1. Starting from now through the end of the year, we'll try to assist people mainly with the funds to cover heating of their houses/ apartments. The price for coal, wood, natural gas, and electricity went up tremendously. The utility bills are the main expense for all the families and this is where we think we need assist first, since a lot of families will be not able to survive without outside help.

We will try to assist with this, not only to people in the East (occupied areas) and to the refugees from the East, but to all those who are in need and recommended to us by the local churches all around Ukraine.

We will assist with this project, not only to individual families, but also to Christian orphanages and rehabilitation centers; Christian day care centers; churches etc.

We plan to spend 75% of all the funds entrusted to us through the end of the year for this project, but of course if there will be any funds designated for other needs, we'll spend the funds accordingly. (The other 25% will be used for other projects such as literature, pastor support, rehabilitation houses, etc.)

We plan to continue ministering in emergency situations of Christians as long as we have the resources to do so.

2. We plan to continue the pastor's support, which is very important thing to our Committee, since they are caring for the spiritual well-being of people. Presently we support 21 pastors out of ERF, but we're going to revise our list and see if the people we support are receiving any other support besides ours. Since we are limited in resources we plan to our support of pastors who receive some support from their local congregations and receive no support from any other source.
3. We plan to continue the promotion of and assistance to good ministries we are aware of, such as: kid's ministries; rehabilitation centers and all the other ministries which were in our scope of projects before the war started.

In our promotion of these projects, we do not want to overemphasize the topic of war and refugees. We do not want to manipulate our donors to support these ministries based on their emotions because on the consequences of the war and the East being occupied. Life continues and when there are no hot phases of the war, we do not want to create impressions of war taking place there when there is no fighting now most of the time. Of course, if there will be a new development of the war, we will give our donors a report as objective as possible concerning changes taking place here.

We appreciate very much all you are doing to the people of Ukraine.
May the Lord be with you and give you much strength to continue on!

On Behalf of ERF Committee,
Sasha Malov

We are no longer able to go into Donetsk and Lugansk Regions where we ministered for 22 years. Though this saddens us greatly, we realize that by God's grace several thousand people heard the gospel of grace and were served in many ways through the support of so many here in our churches.

Plans are being made now for a Medical Mission Team and pastors to go to Kiev November 3-13, 2015. We will travel to western Ukraine for our ministry. We are excited to get the medical team back in the field. This team of doctors and nurses has not gone in over a year because of the fighting in Ukraine. We feel it is safe enough now for the team to go.

The med team will be establishing a clinic in the town of Ivano- Frankivsk. The population is around 205,000. The city's history goes back to the 1600's. It is a very fascinating ancient city in Ukraine.

We have two teenage girls going on this trip to work with the med team and share their testimonies with the teens in the area churches. One of these girls is my granddaughter, Michaela. I am so thankful for her love for the Lord and desire to serve Him any way she can. These two will also assist Monta Rae Purser in her ministry with the children who come to the clinics.

Brother Dean Robbins and I will be staying in the town of Truskavets and from there will be going to Morshin, Striy, Borislav and other smaller villages around. There is a ministry there associated with the Baptist churches called "The Message of Peace". Their main focus is on outreach and church planting. They are also involved in a lot of charity work. They are very much like LOR used to be in Makeyevka. Some of the pastors from Lugansk have moved there and joined that ministry.

Our plan is to visit all the projects "The Message of Peace" has in the area - church plantings, rehabilitation, poor families, refugees, etc. During this time we will be participating in two meetings a day for five days. We will be teaching and preaching in some cases.

Thank you for your prayers and support of this outreach ministry of Primitive Baptists. Your financial assistance has helped us minister to thousands since 1993. Your support is still needed. We are going to need help in purchasing medical supplies for the doctors. Our plan is to purchase medicines in Ukraine as well as carry some with us from the States. The last three medical missions purchased \$7,000 in meds. With the rise in prices we are expecting to need \$10,000 this time. If you are able to help us with this ministry, your contribution will be greatly appreciated. You may make checks payable to: Discipling Ministers International or DMI and mail them to P.O. Box 69, Culloden, GA 31016.

Thank you again for your love, prayers and financial support.
Pat McCoy, Chairman
Discipling Ministers International