

heartbeat

Humanitarian Aid
Response Teams



changing the world...one heart at a time

YOUR support is changing lives in prisons!



Misha & Halya Kenyo (Lviv, Ukraine)

“Don’t take my word for it, look up his name in Google,” said pastor Misha, with a smile on his face. Sure enough, I typed in the man’s name and the description that came up was not something to make a mother proud.

He had been on the top of Ukraine’s “most wanted” list of murderers. He was first place among the top ten most dangerous hired murderers in Ukraine, having been convicted of eighteen murders and six murder attempts.

The following story is told by a long time HART partner, Pastor Misha Kenyo, from the New Life Church in Lviv, Ukraine...

“Today, Lviv is the cultural capital of Ukraine and is considered one of the most

beautiful cities of Europe. Lviv is even listed as a world heritage site by UNESCO, having been built over the past century by some of the best architects in Europe.

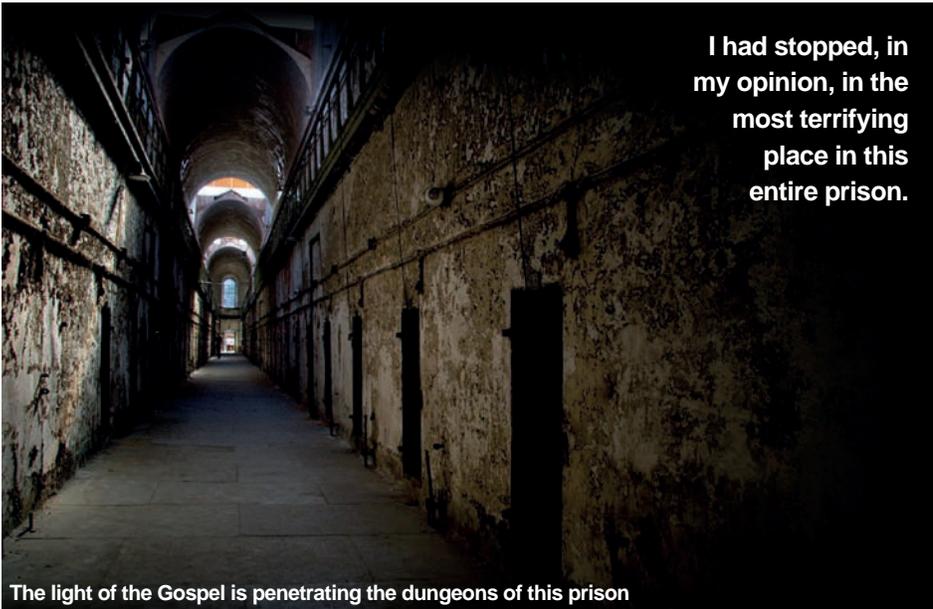
But not many people know that just meters from one of the most beautiful opera houses in Europe, you will find the oldest functioning prison in Lviv. The facade of the building fits in remarkably with the general landscape of the street, yet for the past 300 years it’s been a prison.

We’ve had a ministry among the prisoners of this institution for many years. **But today is a special day!** The purpose of our visit this time was to perform a baptism of faith for several criminals who are serving life sentences.

It’s easy to be in awe of the amazing National Christian leaders in Eastern Europe. Men and women like Misha and Halya Kenyo...dedicated, hardworking and committed to transforming lives. I’m somewhat embarrassed when I reflect on how different my background was in comparison to Misha’s (although we’re the same age). As a 16 year old boy growing up in Canada my thoughts were less focused on spiritual matters than they were on football and other sports...whereas at the very same time Misha spent his youth smuggling Christian literature into Western Ukraine—literally risking his life to distribute the Word of God, knowing that he could be caught by the KGB at anytime.

Lloyd Cenaiko-Pres.





I had stopped, in my opinion, in the most terrifying place in this entire prison.

The light of the Gospel is penetrating the dungeons of this prison

This baptism would take place in the highest maximum-level security sector in all of Ukraine.

Upon our arrival, we went through the checkpoint and stopped in the prison yard... but first, a little history.

Initially, in 1614 this structure was built to be a convent for nuns, but was closed down in 1782. The property was then transformed into a prison and has been used this way ever since. By the end of the 19th century, there was an average of 1500 prisoners held there.

So now we made our way through the labyrinth of incredibly long, dark, narrow corridors with countless ancient metal and wood doors.

Close to our final destination, the convoy leader decided to leave me to go back and assist our team who were carrying a makeshift baptismal pool through the winding prison hallways.

I was left alone, impressed by my surroundings, for I had stopped, in my opinion, in the most terrifying place in this entire prison.

On either side of me were the stone cells for those sentenced to life in prison. There was this deafening, depressing silence except for the occasional dull drone of prisoners chatting in the distance. The air was heavy with an unseen presence - fear and humiliation, which could be sensed with every dull thud of metal prison cell doors opening or closing. And somewhere in the distance, there in my subconscious,

simultaneously emerged other frightening events, which took place not so long ago in this very same place.

In L'viv the death penalty had been enforced close to the very spot I was now standing.

Execution procedures

These shootings were done during the day, without any forewarning to the prisoners. One of the executioners would lead a prisoner out of his cell. Among the prisoners, there was no suspicion that this was their hour of death, since they were called out of their cells from time to time for other reasons. Their shackles and chains clanked as they shuffled along.

They were blindfolded so the person performing the execution would not be able to look the prisoner in the eyes.

The executioner would specifically carry on a conversation, maybe even joking a bit with the prisoner, in order to distract him and not give him a reason to suspect what was to come. Along the way they would pass through more corridors

until they arrived at the spot I was standing, near the stairs to the basement, where a prison committee was waiting.

Here the members would inform him that his request for pardon was denied and now his death sentence would be carried out. The prisoner did not even really have time to come to his senses before two guards would grab him, bring him to a neighbouring room where, behind closed doors, the executioner was waiting. Within seconds a gunshot was fired, ending a life.

In the middle 1990s, with pressure from Europe, Ukraine would end capital punishment.

Today, in the former death row sector, over 50 men are sentenced to life imprisonment. For years now, our church has been running an active ministry there.

We visit the inmates in their cells, bring them various hygienic items, clothing, necessary personal items, food products, Christian literature and Bibles, which they willingly read over and over again.

With each visit, we recognize that the Lord is working in their hearts, changing their perspectives on life, even in their particular conditions. Our main

The former #1 killer in Ukraine, Georgriy, had been preparing for and waiting to be baptized for the past six years.



goal is to preach the Gospel message of hope and love by word and deed.

And here today... we have arrived at a great moment... a baptism... some fruit from our long-term investment in this prison ministry.

Prisoners are entering into a covenant relationship with the Lord. And these aren't ordinary prisoners, but the most dangerous criminals in all of Ukraine.

And now they are making their relationship with God official. Although the walls were a dirty grey color, and the water is as cold as ice, these conditions didn't matter to them. Their faces were shining with the joy of being in this new relationship with God.

Changing his profession.

Geogriy Suvorin... profession: hired killer. The press even named him the most dangerous person in all of Ukraine. Of course, this is a ranking granted by humans; however in the Lord, his classification changed to "a forgiven sinner." In this L'viv prison, Suvorin changed his profession and is now a servant of the Lord.

As evidence of his newfound faith Geogriy asked the prison officials if he could rotate into different cells each month in order to witness to his fellow inmates. Because of overcrowding often cells will house two "lifers."

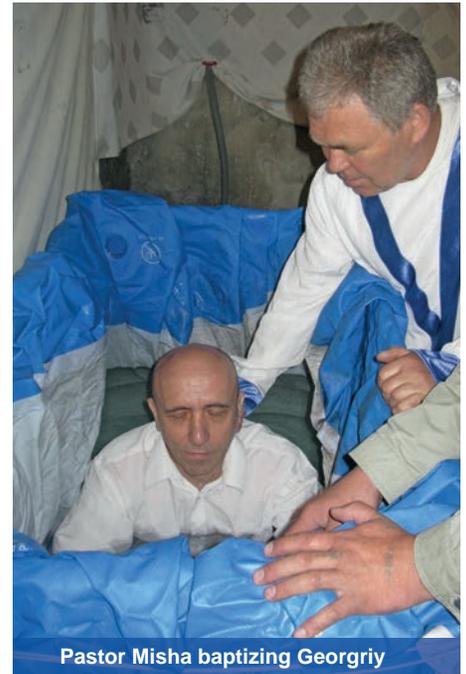
His fruit? The number seven and eight ranked murderers in Ukraine have made a profession of faith and are being prepared for baptism!

A prisoner is a reflection of Christ.

Recently, I received a note from a prisoner which said: "I am not asking for myself. Help your brother in need. I am not a Christian, but I share a cell with one. And to me he is a reflection of Christ."

"He has absolutely nothing, and my heart breaks for him – no clothes, no shoes, no writing supplies, no personal items. He is also suffering from TB. Do not ignore this man! His name is Alexander Olashin. And, if you can, please send me a Bible in the Russian language, in large print as I have poor eyesight." From Oleksander.

To be a reflection of Christ to others who are living in horrible conditions and serving life sentences is quite remarkable.



Pastor Misha baptizing Geogriy

Only God's truth can give someone a new life like this.

On behalf of our ministry team, we want to thank all of you who have prayed and been able to financially support our prison ministry, and particularly for those sentenced to life behind bars."

Misha Kenyo, New Life Church

Overview of New Life ministries

Ministries

- Child Sponsor Project (HART)
- Youth, children
- Street kids
- Prisons, summer camps
- Soup Kitchen
- Youth coffeehouse
- Sound recording studio

Vocational training

- Auto/mechanics
- Sewing
- Carpentry
- Locksmith
- Photography
- Kitchen/culinary

Activities for kids

- Foreign languages
- Embroidery
- Computers
- Woodworking
- Art
- Cooking
- Exercise/games hall

Assistance

- Medical clinic
- Humanitarian aid – clothing
- Legal department to assist orphans, released prisoners
- Library (books and videos)
- Barbershop, Laundry room
- Showers and clothes washing

Current Needs



Soup kitchen

New Life requires help to complete construction on a new Soup Kitchen at their church. It will be a place where street kids and children from desperately poor families will receive daily nourishing meals, assistance with their homework, clothes washed, skills training to help them get jobs in the future and fun activities and sports. All of this is done in a loving Christian environment.

Thank YOU..from Baba Julia!



Baba Julia (age 91)



New water tank



Julia's stove



New windows

What an honor and privilege it's been for us to serve 'Baba' Julia over this past year.

Thanks to all of you who support our "Family Assistance Fund" we've been able to provide her with regular delivery of food hampers, firewood

for the upcoming winter, new windows on her 100 year old house and a new water tank.

We wouldn't have the opportunity to bless her & share God's love with her without **your** support.

Thanks from all of us at HART and from Julia!



Winter supply of firewood



Sharing some stories with Lloyd

Partners needed!

The final pages of the Bible are filled with letters that tell God's story of hope.

The letters are about the church. And **God meant for the church to be the hope of the world.** His message of life and hope was meant to emanate from the church.

This is happening every day in developing countries like Ukraine and Moldova, where the National Church is providing hope and restoration to their own people.

We in the West have an extraordinary opportunity to co-labor with these Churches and their effective, fruitful ministries.

Please prayerfully consider your family or life-group partnering with a National Church or ministry in Eastern Europe for as little as **\$50** per month.

You will receive ministry updates, pictures and prayer requests from your partner.

prayer opportunities

Do you have a heart for prayer?

HART is seeking prayer warriors to partner with us in prayer. If you are interested, please email prayer@hart.ca to be placed on our list. You will receive important prayer requests from HART and our ministry partners in Eastern Europe on a fairly regular basis.



Humanitarian Aid Response Teams *International Relief*

CANADA

Suite 200, 317-37 Ave NE, Calgary, AB, T2E 6P6
Tel: 403.230.8263 Toll free: 1.888.788.3880
Web: www.hart.ca Email: office@hart.ca
CRA Registration: 89431-3998-RR0001

USA

Suite 100, 1644 W. Hatcher Rd, Phoenix, AZ, 85201
Tel: 602.686.0861 Toll free: 1.888.788.3880
Registration: 86-0908190

HART's mandate is to come along side the Indigenous church in Eastern Europe, empower and equip their ministries to transform lives through Medical-dental aid, Relief Aid and Missions projects in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Belarus.



Q3-2013

Learn to do right!
Seek justice,
encourage the oppressed.
Defend the cause
of the fatherless,
plead the case
of the widow.