



General report 2019

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Greetings!

It is a joy to know that there are people like you who are sincerely interested to be part of God's mission in various parts of the world. Thank you for your interest, for your partnership in ministry, for your faithful support of God's work in Ukraine and Central Asia. Let me share with you a littlebit about some of the highlights of my ministry in 2019.



WEBSITE

I continue to serve in my teaching ministry at Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary where I teach various theological and New Testament courses at several programs. This year, I also had a chance to teach at UETS regional schools in Ukraine and Central Asia making 10 different teaching trips. I also had a chance to preach in different churches both in Ukraine and Central Asia. For me it is always a blessing to see how God's Word touches and changes people's lives. I want to share just one testimony from my preaching ministry. One time after I preached a sermon about how we, as Christians, should deal with evil people, a Christian lady came to me and said: "You know, tomorrow I am returning back to my work after a period of vacation. I work in a very difficult environment. But after today's sermon I feel prepared. Thank you". I am grateful to God for the privilege to proclaim His Word that has power to impact and to change people's lives!



This year, I also had a chance to present a course on the New Testament in the context of my local church. We have a group of Bible school students together with church members

who want to go deeper into the Word of God. A friend of mine shared with me a story about one woman's impression of my classes. She wasn't a part of our class, but she happened to be in the corridor after one of the classes was over. She asked the students: "How was it?" Many students shared how they enjoyed the course.



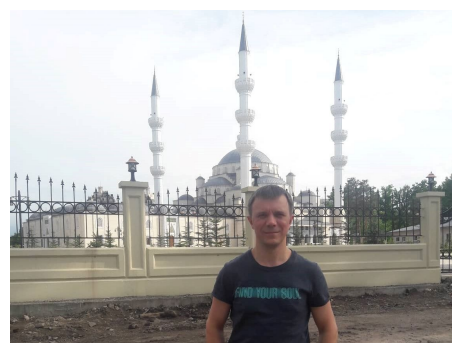
But I was especially touched by one comment. Somebody said: "I have been a part of the church for so many years, but I have never heard so many things we have learned in these classes!" This just showed me that it is important not only to preach God's Word in the church, but also to provide opportunities to go deep into the Word for those who long for more.

This year, I had another chance to make a ministry trip to Central Asia teaching and preaching there. I have taught a week-long course on salvation to a group of about 50 students from various Christian denominations. It was a very interesting experience, since I had to work with a large group of Christian ministers who have different views in this area of theology. I encouraged my students to continue



to work on forming a holistic biblical vision of salvation rather than creating simplistic pictures, which may be easy to understand, but which do not present the fullness and all the riches of God's work. It was great to hear students' responses and testimonies about how their perspectives were broadened and enriched through this study. At the same time such trips also broaden my perspective on ministry and even on Scripture.

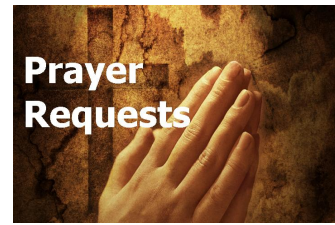
During this last trip, I was able to learn some new things about culture of Central Asia that helped me to understand better the culture of the Biblical world. You see, in their culture, like in culture of the time of Christ, being a part of the group is very important. One of the hardest obstacles for people to embrace the Gospel are the consequences they have to face when they become Christians: they are completely rejected



by their families and local community. But for those people relationships (being part of a family group) means everything. This is what many Jews experienced when they became Christians in the time of Christ and apostles. This reality forces local Christians to find ways of evangelism that would be relevant to their context. I have heard from many people that one of the best ways to bring people to Christ is not through direct preaching or giving them a Christian brochure, but through building relationships with the whole family: having meals together, talking about various issues we all are dealing with, and through this slowly step by step sharing your values, worldview, beliefs, etc. They learned this approach through experience, and this is exactly how Christianity would spread in early period of the Church. As I preached in some local national churches there, I tried to make sure that my sermons were very practical and relevant for them. I hope to share in future newsletters some more testimonies from Central Asia.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please, pray for the health of my three kids since in the last several months they would get sick very often. Such situations make it very difficult, especially for my wife, as I often have to travel and we have no relatives nearby to help us around with kids;
- Please, pray for wisdom to find good balance between responsibilities at UETS, teaching trips to various regions of Ukraine and Central Asia, peaching in local churches, family, work on a book-project on atonement, starting a PhD study, personal and ministry development, etc;
- Also pray for God's enablement to resolve financial challenges, housing issues and various other things;
- Thank you for your faithfulness and support of my ministry in Ukraine and Central Asia. Your care and prayers are very meaningful for us!



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