
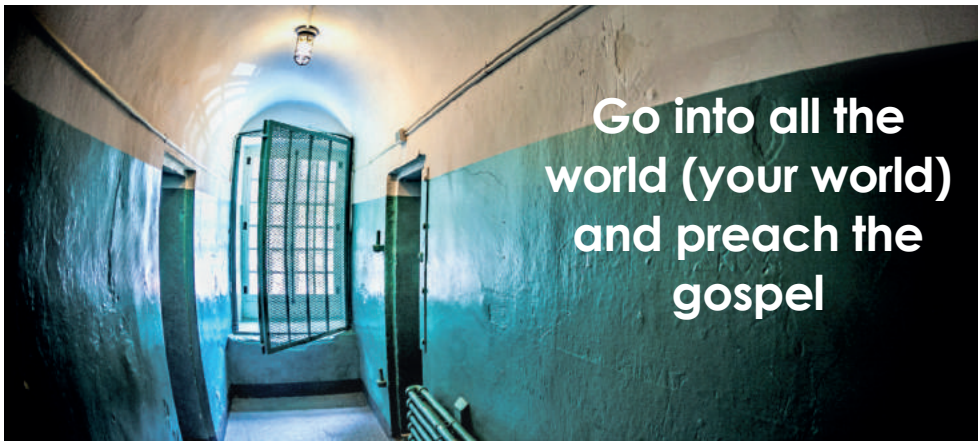


heartbeat

Humanitarian Aid Response Teams



Learn to do right!
Seek JUSTICE
encourage the OPPRESSED
DEFEND the cause
of the FATHERLESS
PLEAD the case
of the WIDOW



LIFE WITH A PURPOSE - IN PRISON

Gregory's world

Penitentiaries in Eastern Europe are chronically under-funded, repressive and corrupt. Prisoners suffer from brutal treatment by guards, terrible living conditions, and an inhumane criminal subculture.

In the nineteenth century Fyodor Dostoevsky, one of the greatest Russian authors, referred to his own imprisonment as an existence in "the house of the living dead."

It is into these harsh environments that HART and its dedicated Prison Ministry partners have been serving for the past twenty years.



Pastor Misha talking to an inmate

As a result, I've witnessed many prison baptisms, and had the privilege of seeing clearly, the resurrecting power of the gospel - bringing life to walking dead men.

But the baptism I was about to witness today was different. For these were not ordinary convicts. They were 'lifers' in a maximum security prison for Ukraine's most dangerous criminals. All of them have been convicted for multiple murders.

If not for Ukraine's abolition of capital punishment several ago, each of the 27 prisoners in the eleven cells that

comprised this deadly unit, would have been executed by now. Instead, they'll spend the rest of their lives in deplorable Soviet style prison conditions.

Life outside their minuscule 6' x 12' cells consists of a daily, solitary 30 minute walk at night in the prison courtyard, a weekly shower (dripping pipe) and a phone call (telephone booth in a locked cage). Due to the nature of their crimes, they're not allowed outside their cells without hand-cuffs and leg-irons.

Historically, the last room at the end of this 11-cell unit had a special deadly purpose. It had been the most terrifying place in this entire prison. Without any advance warning of their execution dates, prisoners were simply escorted into this room and summarily shot.

MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN UKRAINE

But this day was going to be a celebration of life, not death. And I wanted to be here because of Gregory - the most dangerous man in the most dangerous prison unit in Ukraine. It was his story that brought me to this prison.

I was intrigued when I first heard about a notorious killer, a mafia hit-man, convicted of murdering 18 people; ranked first place among the top ten most dangerous murderers in Ukraine - who had become a Christian while behind bars. His personal transformation was so dramatic, it had a tremendous impact on the prison's warden.

So, when Misha Kenyo, a long-time HART partner invited me to join his ministry team for a Baptismal service of two inmates in Gregory's unit, I readily agreed.

While prisoners from another unit were bringing buckets of water to fill the baptismal tub, we had time for three communion services at the cells of inmates who'd been previously baptized.

Pictures can't convey the amazing connection we experienced with these men, as we partook of the bread and wine with them and prayed together.



At the third cell, I shared communion with Gregory. As I looked into his eyes, I was struck by their gentleness. They weren't those of a vicious killer at all. I could see peace, even joy, and contentment despite the harsh conditions he would endure for the rest of his life.

I asked if I could take a picture with him. He was delighted. Despite objections from the guards, they eventually agreed to open the door. **I walked into the cell of the most dangerous man in Ukraine and had a picture taken with my brother in Christ.**



Gregory and Lloyd Cenaiko

The baptismal was now filled with water and we proceeded with the service. Years earlier, inmates had to wear hand-cuffs and leg-irons during the baptism.

However the warden has witnessed the changed lives of these men and on this day, two of them walked with us to the baptismal room unchained and free in more ways than one.

Taking turns, they eagerly climbed into the tiny makeshift baptismal, with

barely enough room for one person to kneel in the ice-cold water.

It was a blessed time of joy, tears and celebration as Jesus' resurrection brought these men back to life and hope and victory.



Pastor Misha baptizing inmate

Ironically, the baptismal service took place in the former 'execution' chamber. This infamous room was now witness to a different kind of death - death to an old life.

Tom Shrader, a great Bible teacher and friend of mine in Phoenix, would often say, the Biblical mandate of "Go into all the world and preach the gospel"

is not necessarily a missionary call that implies all Christians are required to get a passport, tetanus shots and buy a plane ticket to a foreign country.

Tom would explain that in the true context of the Greek language in which this gospel was written, "What it really means is that each of us needs to go into 'our world' and preach the gospel."

I can't think of a better illustration of this than Gregory. For the rest of his life, his "world" is a prison unit, with eleven cells.

The warden has given Gregory special favour and permission to rotate into a different cell each month. He uses this opportunity to share the good news of his new life and hope in Jesus Christ.

The two fellows we baptized this day were his spiritual children. One of the inmates we shared communion with earlier - was his spiritual child as well.

Gregory's ministry should be an inspiration for us to fulfil our calling - to impact those in "our world."

GREGORY GETS MARRIED

Gregory's story becomes even more extraordinary. He is known for being the most dangerous murderer in Ukraine. She is just known as Larissa, a quiet American from New York.

[If you want to hear the "rest" of this amazing story, please go to our website and find Gregory's Story on our HOME page.]

Please consider supporting our Prison Ministry partners working in prisons throughout Ukraine & Moldova.

How will YOUR support help these ministries? They need resources for clothing, toiletries, food, vitamins, medicines, Bibles for the inmates; and for providing critically important support and care for the wives and children of these incarcerated men.

May God richly bless you.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Cenaiko,
President
lloyd@hart.ca



THANKS to all of you who helped HART send thousands of underprivileged children in Eastern Europe to summer camps this year!

These included children from the war zones and refugees from the conflict in Eastern Ukraine - and thousands of kids from poor families, orphanages, street kids, children who are mentally and physically challenged, and more...

Thank YOU!

Quote from a camper:

It was an amazing summer! I will never forget it. Thank you very much dear sponsors, because without your help I could not go to camp. Many children would miss the joy they had in the camp like me. They would miss Bible knowledge. May God bless you and reward you a hundred times!

Diana

THANKS for giving these children a summer they will remember for the rest of their lives!!

PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

Gift box packing parties!

Back by popular demand - throughout the months of September & October, HART will be hosting **Gift Box packing parties**. If you live in Calgary & area, you and your whole family, your friends or small group are invited to participate in a fun event helping underprivileged kids in Eastern Europe.

WHO WILL RECEIVE THE GIFTS? Children of Ukrainian refugees from the war in Eastern Ukraine and those kids still living in the war zones; children from gypsy villages, orphans and children in our Child Sponsor Program.

DO I NEED TO BOOK A RESERVATION? YES!!

WHEN WILL THESE PARTIES BE HELD? WHERE ARE THEY HELD?

WHAT DO WE NEED TO BRING? WHAT TIME DO THEY BEGIN?

For all DETAILS - please go to our website - "EVENTS"

www.hart.ca

- BOOK A RESERVATION
- FOR MORE INFORMATION
- FOR THE GIFT-BOX CHECKLIST
- FOR DIRECTIONS



..to brighten a child's Christmas in Eastern Europe

For many children in HART'S world, yours will be the only gift they receive this Christmas.

URGENT REQUEST - HOW YOU CAN HELP

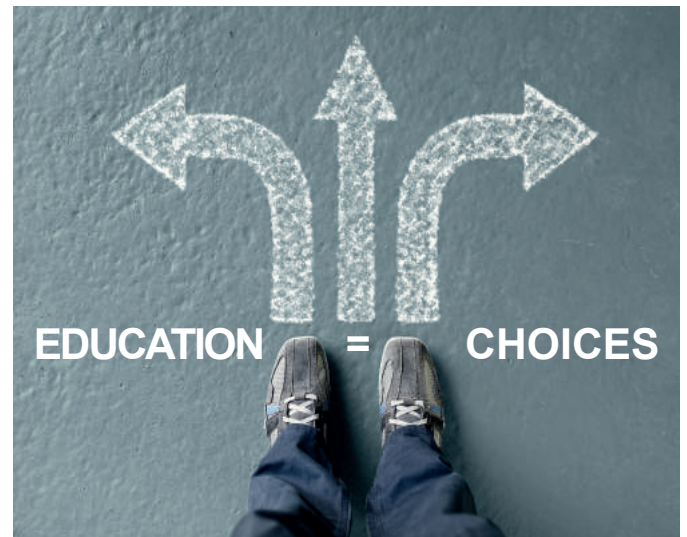
Families living in poverty cannot afford higher education for their children. To address this need, HART created a scholarship program designed to give underprivileged youth in Ukraine & Moldova the opportunity to receive an education and rescue their families from poverty and despair.

OUR URGENT NEED: For the upcoming 2017-2018 school season, we've had **191** young people apply for a vocational training or university scholarship. Our current budget allows us to provide only **70** scholarships. (Ave scholarship = US\$ 620)

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT: Thanks to a generous supporter we have an amazing "MATCHING" opportunity to help with this urgent Education Fund need:

ANY GIFT will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$40,000!

Note: If donating online: www.hart.ca > DONATE > Education > Education fund



Humanitarian Aid Response Team
International Relief

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HART is audited annually by an independent accounting firm and our financial statements are available upon request. Our Board of Directors has established the policy that all contributions designated for specific projects shall be applied to that project, with up to 5 per cent to be used if needed for administering the gifts. Occasionally we receive more contributions for a given project than can be wisely applied to that project. When that happens, we use these funds to meet a similar pressing need.

Our greatest FEAR
should not be of
FAILURE
but of **succeeding**
at things in life that
DON'T REALLY MATTER!