

Ministry stories 2019

Vasyl Basaraba, Prison ministry, Rivne, Ukraine (111)

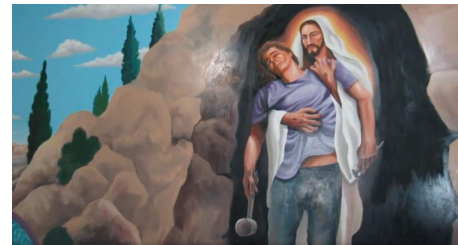
Greetings!

Thanks to your help and prayers, we continue our ministry, serving to hundreds of prisoners in different penitentiary institutions. This ministry requires lots of patience, faith and wisdom. We also want to extend special gratitude for your help in the restoration of one of the prayer rooms in the prisons we visit.



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In early 90s, it was a turning point in the life of Evangelical church in Ukraine. The iron curtain fell down and we gained freedom to preach the Gospel. The doors to the prisons opened, however unexpected it was. Starting from 1991, Ukrainian Baptist church has been carrying its ministry in maximum security prisons. In the beginning, we struggled a lot, for we didn't have any room for our services and gatherings. Later, we got a tiny room, but it was in a terrible condition - freezing cold in winter and extremely damp in summer. Nevertheless, the prisoners would come to hear the Word of God and repent. Even though, it wasn't easy to deal with the authorities, God was miraculously leading us through all the difficulties.



Over the period of our ministry, we used to have six different service rooms. In 2000, a prison number 96 opened a separate department for 150 murderers. God blessed our work there and in 2006 15 of them were baptized. Few years later, a prison for lifers was organized. We prayed to be able to serve there, too, and have a separate prayer room for our gatherings. Thanks God, He heard our prayers and we now have a nice cell for the services, however it is behind 14 doors.



But God's mercy is unlimited. He continued blessing our ministry and extended it, so that now we have several rooms where we can gather for the services and prayers. One of them is a big hall that can fit almost 500 prisoners and another one - is a small room for private conversations.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please, pray for us to be able to preach the Gospel to more and more people, especially to those imprisoned;
- Pray for the prisons' administrations to be open to our ministry.



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OUR MISSION

HART is dedicated to alleviating poverty and injustice in Eastern Europe. We work alongside local churches and ministries and give them the tools to build a better world for themselves, their communities, and their countries.

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