

BERICHT VAN DOPERSEN IN OEKRAÏNE

De afgelopen decennia heeft de Doopsgezinde Zending in verschillende projecten samengewerkt met doperse gemeenten en organisaties in Oekraïne. De laatste maanden ontvingen wij via dat netwerk met regelmaat berichten over hun huidige situatie aldaar. U treft een selectie daaruit hier aan. De schrijvers zijn ons goed bekend.

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: 2014-05-12

Subject: short encouraging story from Ukraine.

Greetings friends.

Last Sunday during our church service we got encouraging news.

One old lady shared that her grandson got baptized. It was a total surprise to me. And here is why. 13 years ago, when we began camps, Misha joined our camp. Several years he participated in our camps, and showed up in our follow-up activities. Misha entered University and moved away from our community. Unfortunately we lost all contacts with him; however the congregation continued to pray for Misha, since his grandmother insisted to do so. 10 years passed, Misha graduated from University and lived in Kiev, where he found work. Recently he joined local Baptist church, where he was baptized.

This is very encouraging, since we do not always know peoples destinies. Hundreds, if not thousands kids and youth participated in our programs. Very few stayed in our neighbourhood and in our church. But hopefully the good and healthy atmosphere of the camps remained in memories of young people.

This story definitely encouraged us to keep spreading Good News, as well as to keep praying for those who participated.

Many of you in different ways participated in our camping programs. Friendship, invested time, resources, all the other efforts and sometimes tears prove to be not worthless.

Despite of crazy times in our homeland, we are still hoping to do day camp for kids and tent camp for teenagers and youth. We are hoping to attract at least hundred of young people. This year we will have even more challenges, since economical situation is much more complicated. It was complicated 13 years ago too. But God is faithful.

In Christ,



----- Forwarded message -----

Date: 2014-04-24

Subject: situation in Ukraine.

Greetings friends,

Hopefully peace will last.

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Date: 2014-03-15

Subject: situation in Ukraine.

Kids came asking: Mum, we will not have war, right? I was confused for the moment. Couldn't expect such a question from an 11 years old boy. Trying to be optimistic, even though the situation is not optimistic.

Number of our friends are under stress, including me, some are close to panic.

Different questions come to our mind. Here is one of them: "What should we pray about at this situation?" Sometimes the Lord hardens heart of pharaoh. What do you think?

We are praying to reflect Gods peace in the midst of stressful situation. But to be honest, this is easy to say, and pray about, and not easy to be a source of encouragement to others in reality. This is good lessons, and test of faith. We definitely need something supernatural. Something what is beyond of our understanding.

Last two days friends and brothers worked in church.

They put last coat of plaster, so walls are ready for painting; the heating system also is almost completed. And they accomplished one really heavy thing - digging pit for the toilets. A lot has been accomplished, still there remains plenty more to do.

In Christ,



----- Forwarded message -----

Date: 2014-02-27

Subject: situation in Ukraine.

Five brothers committed themselves last two weeks to work in the new church building. Their regular daily income is 6 US dollars per day: 1,5 US \$ per family member. In Ukraine it's under survival point. They gave up even that to move church project on.

The last two weeks were one of the most difficult period in the history of Ukraine. We observed people around us, stressed, disappointed, no clear future. Actually we ourselves are sometimes quite the same, many things discourage us too. But in the midst of even darkest times, we rely on Gods faithfulness. Every one of us strongly believes that the new church will become a place of rest for many who are tired and discouraged in this life.

It were good weeks, we had a lot of fellowship, some fun, discussed our church life and ministries. We were able to support and encourage each other.

Again and again we would like to thank you, for standing with us.

We still need to accomplish a lot. We are short of many things for the new church; we are happy to build Gods Kingdom, and believe that God will provide.

Join us in prayers for our church and our country.

Your sister in Christ,

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: 2014-02-19

Subject: situation in Ukraine.

The word "sad" does not describe the situation in my country anymore.

Last evening when I watched evening news, I couldn't believe my ears, police forces renew their assault on the main protest camp in the capital. They called it "antiterrorist operation". Against peaceful people?

This is not part of Ukrainian character to be aggressive. Something went really wrong.

This morning we learned that 26 people killed. 10 of them police. This does not fit to my mind. It can happen anywhere, but not in my country. However when I tune TV on, I can see terrible pictures: wounded people, fire, my beautiful capital reminds me a battlefield.

All main roads to Kiev are blocked. To prevent new people coming to Kiev. And of course this is not barrier. People keep coming to the main square of Kiev, and other cities. Anti-government protests also began in other Ukrainian cities. And they are not peaceful anymore.

This is what touching me more. Main orthodox church in Kiev became a hospital for hundreds of wounded people. There is a line of people who want to donate blood for wounded people. Doctors who help to the people say that there is no lack of medications or food, regular people provide everything necessarily.

Nothing active is happening in our village. The weather is finally getting better. Today we worked in our new church building. We are installing heating system, put radiators, plastering walls. After the long winter it is good to work more actively. And we love it.

In Christ,

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: 2014-01-30

Subject: situation in Ukraine.

Greetings friends.

You may have some info about situation from our country. And u may wonder what is happening in Ukraine and why?

Let me give you my point of view a simple Ukrainian citizen.

We are on the process of registering land for a new churchbuilding; this is second year as we are trying to accomplish it. And we don't see the end. We need to collect huge number of absolutely useless documents. Often clerks openly ask for bribes. And this is only one area. Medicines, education as well as other areas in our country are in total

mess. Our people daily face such attitudes from the government, and see no improvements. This is not surprising that people became angry.

Many of my personal friends lose their businesses, not because they are poor managers, but because of unrealistic taxes and other government regulations. Only by Gods huge grace our business still exists.

People are definitely tired, they have nothing to lose. Total poverty in the villages and unrealistic wealth of several pro-government families, brought people on the streets.

People understand, if they give up now, our country turn to the dictatorship regime, which will depress freedom of word, and other democratic rights.

I am glad that denominations and churches united in decision to pray and insist on peaceful solution of this situation.

With love in Christ, from the cold, and at the same time “hot” Ukraine.