

Reconciliation Mission, Autumn 2013: Ukraine - Moldova - Belarus

"... I will bless thee, ... and thou shalt be a blessing:" (Genesis 12:2)

Yes, firstly we need God's blessing and the blessing of your prayers and gifts so that we can also be a blessing! In these 6 1/2 weeks, the 5 participants and I over the course of our various mission durations have experienced just that. Thank you!

Ukraine:

We were able to operate in two areas simultaneously since Harald, along with Friederike (Freiberg), undertook to lead one group. As he knelt to pray at the scene of the massacre, he experienced something extraordinary. He felt the earth moving beneath him and sensed as though the thousands of Jews that had been murdered there were crying out for atonement and redemption. As long as there are Holocaust-sufferers still living, the necessity for a ministry of reconciliation remains, so that such need not die with bitterness and resentment in their hearts.

After receiving confirmation from the Lord, Wolfgang (Schwarzwald) and I took the night-train to Crimea at the request of a Messianic pastor and served there for 4 days. The focus here, as had been elsewhere, was to visit Jews who had suffered under the Germans during the Nazi regime.

We asked forgiveness of them representatively (Nehemia 9:2-3) and distributed small gifts along with food that we had bought with money from donations, because the Bible teaches, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people..." (Isaiah 40:1).

Moldova:

Moldova is the poorest country in Europe. Food and provisions are often more expensive than they are in Germany, and this is coupled with a minimal pension of €60. Here, our penitent bearing during single visits, meetings with pastors and in churches was received most gratefully. We experienced one miracle while visiting an elderly, Jewish man who, having had 3 strokes, was unable to speak. He lay crookedly on his bed and had to be fed. We anointed him with oil (Mark 6:13), prayed and exercised authority over the devil (James 4:7), after which the man became able to speak a little and even pray the prayer of salvation. Harald also prayed for a younger man whom Jesus had previously healed of cancer, but who now suffered from Hepatitis C. We have now heard that a noticeable improvement has occurred since then.

When the bishop of the registered Baptist church of Moldova heard about our mission, he requested that we meet. Here, I took the opportunity to speak of Israel as God's chosen people, and to ask him that he pass on the message to his many churches.

Vladimir, who provided us with accommodation during our stay, also organized the first 'March of Life' in Moldova. This march (with approx. 100 participants) served as a memorial to the murder of more than 200,000 Jews during the Second World War. At the memorial site, I was able to give a short address and confess the sins of our people. Once the event was over, we were interviewed and testified that Jesus changed our lives and that we perform this ministry because of that change.

Yet another project began in Moldova. When Vladimir saw me with the book 'Why Me?' by Jacob Damkani (Israel) in Russian, he said, "We need 2,000 copies, so that the Jews

in Moldova can recognize their Messiah." We prayed together and agreed to launch the project. Since then, many donations have come in and 380 books have already arrived in Moldova.

Belarus:

There was no plan. We had received no word of anyone coming to pick us up at the railway station. On the 23rd September, we boarded the Kiev-Minsk night-train, and when we arrived in Minsk (a lovely city with a population of around two million) at 9:00 a.m. we were greeted by a Messianic pastor with the words, "You're the answer to my prayers! Hallelujah!" And he hugged us again and again. It was all just as if Jesus were going before us! We received accommodation, a driver, and a translator; we couldn't handle all the invitations!

Once again, God showed me the 'needle in the haystack:' The mother of the woman who took care of our room and board lives in Siberia... right next to the village where my grandfather lived until 1914. Shortly after learning of this, we received an invitation to Siberia!

Belarus is a clean, orderly country. Apparently, they have no unemployment, and I heard that 80% of the population are happy with their president. Also, I found I had a lot more freedom to speak than I had previously been told was the case. In the largest Pentecostal congregation in Minsk (with almost 3,000 members) I was able to talk for around 20 minutes, and later I did so again at a conference in Magilov, around 200km from Minsk. After I had spoken about forgiveness in the Sabbath Service there, I prayed for the healing of wounded souls. After that, a woman came to me and said, "All my life, there was a shroud of sadness over me, and now it's gone!" Thank you, Lord!

One thing that especially touched us was the love with which former ghetto prisoners met us. For example, we visited a Jewess (78), of whom we Germans had killed 80 family members. In the Minsk Ghetto, where around 130,000 Jews died, it is said to have been worse than in the concentration camps. She presented us with her life-story in the form of a book and said to us, "Please, come again!"

It truly is a miracle that God didn't wipe Germany off the map after the Second World War. No less miraculous was Germany's reunification! Are we suitably grateful for God's great love, and are we duly passing this love on to the Eastern countries, upon whom we have brought such immeasurable affliction!?

Why love Israel? www.gcleve.de - www.warumisrael.de - www.eckart-haase.de (the significance of Israel)

More news at www.zum-leben.de 4/2008, 1/2010, 2/2010, 4/2011, 2/2012, 2/2013, 3/2013

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