

Frozen February Flier

It is a day that many despise, but that we love! The temperature is near zero degrees Fahrenheit (-18 Celsius). There is bright, powdery snow on the lawn. Something about the dry, cold air makes the sky a wonderfully unique shade of blue, and the sun never seems brighter! Days like this remind us of our years in Minnesota, on the Canadian border in Bottineau, North Dakota (where we experienced -40degrees!), and in Eastern South Dakota. Of course, it's all well and good sitting in a warm home enjoying the view through a double-paned window!

G.O.S.P.E.L. Training Cohort

During these winter weeks we led an 8-session training curriculum designed by Converge. It is to be completed by all of our current Global Workers, and will be part of the training for all new appointees to International Missions. Focusing on the core values and strategic goals of our mission, the material is organized through the acrostic G.O.S.P.E.L.:

- God Dependent
- Pursuing Multiplication
- Obedience-Focused
- Engaging Culturally
- Steadfastly Focused
- Leaders Developed

Bob led the group along with Steve Valentine (the leader of Converge's Slavic West Initiative). Steve was part of the team that crafted the course materials. We were joined by workers in Poland, Moldova, Germany, Israel, and the United States. It was such a experience to work through the material - but the greatest blessing came from the time interacting with our fellow laborers and learning from one another!



Ukraine Week in DC

In February, I (Bob) traveled to Washington DC for my fourth Ukraine Week in DC event. It was a great blessing to be with leaders of the Evangelical Church in that war-ravaged nation. I met with senior leaders of the Ukraine Baptist Union, the Pentecostal Church (Assembly of God), and numerous parachurch organizations. I was especially blessed to travel with our 12 year old grandson, Cayden, who has an especially tender heart for Ukraine. It was his first visit to the Capitol city, and the first flight experience that he recalls (he flew to Germany when he was very young, but doesn't remember it!).

I participated in a forum on partnerships in International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton, along with the president of the Southern Baptist's International Missions Board, representatives of Samaritan's Purse, and several other ministries. During one of the receptions, I had the unexpected joy of connecting with Andre Trypolskyi, who attended the Church Planter's retreat and training last year in Ulychne, Lviv Oblast!



I know that much of the dialogue about Ukraine has become muddled. Let me tell you from first-hand experience after multiple trips to the country before and since the Russian invasion. Ukraine is the most evangelical nation in Europe. They have a heart to reach their own people and neighboring lost people groups. Russia, on the other hand, is closing evangelical churches and seminaries, and has outlawed home Bible studies, prayer groups, and all evangelistic efforts except those within the walls of a church building that has been recognized by the government. Should Ukraine fall, those same laws would be enacted there. This is not propaganda. This is from first-hand, face-to-face talks with church leaders from both nations. Please pray for peace and continued freedom for Ukraine - for the sake of the gospel in Europe and Central Asia.

Coaching and cultivating Gospel Efforts

Between trips abroad, we work to encourage, strengthen, and coach gospel workers across our Region and beyond. We regularly connect with leaders in Albania, Israel, Germany, Romania, Moldova, Poland, and in the Philippines. Our team members likewise maintain their connections in Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Syria, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Finland, India, and beyond. In addition we all work to strengthen bonds between US congregations and ministries in our region.



Local Ministry in Central Illinois

Missions is not something that happens "over there." It is a call upon every believer wherever they may be. Our ministry is not focused solely on Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. We have a mission to Central Illinois as well - as long as we live here. The house church that we've begun in Kenney continues to worship together weekly, and we have a heart for the hurting and the unreached here.



Carol serves as a Deaconess at Texas Christian Church, as the church janitor, and participates in special services and music. In December and again in February, Bob provided pulpit fill at Lane Christian Church in Lane, IL while they are engaged in a pastor search. He also was invited to speak at the Presbyterian Church in Clinton. In March, we will travel to Hutchinson, Kansas for their Missions Conference. This church has been a wonderful and faithful partner for many years, and we always enjoy any opportunity we have to connect.

Prayer Points:

- Continue to pray for peace in Ukraine. Pray for the church and leaders.
- Pray for tentative plans to visit Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine in May.
- Pray for us as we care for Bob's mother and lead a house church in Kenney.
- Rejoice with us! The Lord has met nearly all of our \$1500/month shortfall in support! Pray as we close in on the final goal.



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