September/October 2018

Connecting People, Nations and Continents for the Great Commission

“I pray that the eyes of your understanding be enlightened; that you may know what the hope of His calling is, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.”
Ephesians 1:18

YOU CANNOT PUT A PRICE ON HOPE

Pastor Yuriy and Oksana Seminyuk

12 years ago Gateway Missions had the unique occasion to meet Pastor Yuriy and Oksana Seminyuk in Tiraspol, Transnistria, an unrecognized state in Eastern Europe. I remember traveling at night to the Russian border where we waited for over two hours to be allowed entrance into this tiny, unknown nation. We had just come from three days of ministering in Moldova in a legalistic religious atmosphere. After being cleared through a couple of check points, we finally arrived at the Church of Christ the Savior in Tiraspol. As we pulled up to the church, we heard vibrant praise and worship filling the Communist air. As our team entered the church, I felt God speaking to me that this would be a place for us to make a long term commitment. Jane Ann and I had no idea at the time where this new relationship would lead us. Since that first meeting we’ve had the joy of seeing God work through a small but dedicated team of young pastors and church leaders committed to winning their nation to Christ. No matter how difficult the circumstances these Christians face, they have always been filled with HOPE. HOPE has been the hallmark of our ministry there. We’ve had the honor of hosting Pastors Yuriy and Oksana in our home. We have encouraged, equipped and supported their vision and we’re grateful for getting to be part of their pioneering success.

As you read this update we trust you have a sense of achievement toward fulfilling the Great Commission. Thank you for your prayers and financial support. In 2019, Gateway Missions will begin our 14th year of Equipping, Training and Encouraging Pastors and Church Leaders in Developing Nations and we are grateful for your continued support.

OUR NEXT MISSION: Gary leaves on November 5, taking a team of four to lead a Pastors Conference in Medellin, Colombia. This will be our fifth year to minister with Pastor Leo Grisales and pastors in Medellin.
Day with Pastors

This year was a very special time with the pastors and their wives. Over the years we have gotten to be good friends with these leaders, so the intimacy of the fellowship, trust and training grows stronger each time we go. It is inspiring to be with these champions of the faith and sense firsthand the trials they face every day. Yet they remain consistently bold in proclaiming the Gospel. All their churches are healthy and growing despite the fact that they are not allowed by law to do any evangelistic outreaches or public witnessing. However, if a congregation owns their own building, they can conduct services as they wish. We ask you to join us in praying for these precious believers.

Encounter the Cross

Eighty-five men and women gathered for two days of life changing ministry. Encounter the Cross is a ministry of Royce and Jennifer Riggin, founders of Water Hose Ministries in Lubbock, Texas. Gateway Missions and Water Hose Ministries have joined forces several times over the past few years to bring spiritual and emotional healing to people who have been wounded in the course of life. Throughout the two days, people experienced freedom from bondage, brokenness, sin and received forgiveness. They learned their true identity in Christ and the importance and power of the infilling of the Holy Spirit. A special thanks goes out to our team: Royce and Jennifer Riggin; Doug and Lisa Barber (Loving People Enough Ministries), Lubbock, TX; Danny and Lea Cay Farr, Levelland TX and Tab Daniel of Lubbock TX. (Our heartfelt thanks also to Maria Leannah for donating craft supplies and gifts for children. Thank You Maria!)

Glorious Sunday Services

After arriving late in Transnistria, our teams rose early and headed to four different churches to share with and challenge the believers. One of the most wonderful things we see throughout the world is that God is the same, offering grace and salvation to all. The power of God is being poured out, people are accepting Christ and being transformed in profound ways! The same Gospel that held HOPE for me and Jane Ann 43 years ago still endures. During our time in Transnistria, we ministered to 345 people in four different churches; 25 people publically accepted Christ as their Savior and many received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit for fruitful Kingdom ministry!
Youth Leaders Meeting

Monday night Pastor Yuriy led a group of 18 youth leaders as they discussed aspects church growth. Pastor Royce and I were able to address some of the issues and questions that concerned them. It was heartening to see a new generation of leaders being trained and excited in the ways of God.

‘And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”
2 Timothy 2:2

Miracles Still Happen

Have you ever needed a miracle? I believe we all have at times. During the Sunday evening service in Tiraspol, our team prayed for over 200 people. Many of them had a real need for a miracle. This young man’s name is Yuriy and he needed a specific miracle. As he shared with Jane Ann and me, he explained that he had incurred a huge debt, in the amount of $33,773 rubles, which equates to $2,000 USD. How he incurred such a debt we have no idea. That is an astronomical liability in Transnistria! The debt was due by the next Thursday (3 Days). On Monday at the Encounter, he came running in and sat down and began to share that his debt had been paid! His massive debt was paid in full and he was freed from the penalty of his actions! Does that story sound familiar? Our obligations may not always be financial, but we all owed a debt we could not pay. Thank God for His plan to pay our debt in full through his Son Jesus Christ! (Matthew 18:21-35)

More Photos

Running the race to win,

Gary and Jane Ann Casey

NOTE OF THANKS FROM PASTOR YURIY

“I want to once again express my gratitude to you from myself and my team for your arrival and serving many people. Thank God for this opportunity and the blessings that He gave through you. In fact, this time was special for me and for other people that you could touch. The dedication, the love of God and the people that you have made it possible to change inside, strengthen in faith and inspired on great things for God here in Transnistria. May God be even more glorified in your life and in what you do.”

Yuriy and the Church of Christ the Savior

Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. All funds are used for designated projects and for the total ministry of Gateway Missions. P.O. Box 53660 • Lubbock, TX 79453 • 806.928.0986 • gary@gatewaymissions.org • jacasey@gatewaymissions.org • 806.928.0934