

News from Ukraine

April 2015

I want to share something with those who went on the BMMI trip to Ukraine in 2012 and with those of FBC Carthage who sent us. FBC Carthage also sends a monthly love offering to brother Alex “Sasha” Pavelchuk who was the local pastor we worked with on that trip. He works in Western Ukraine associated with Bro. Jeff Franks, although he is about 14 hours away from the Franks home of Kiev. Brother Alex has a heart for his Ukrainian people and the outcast and shunned Roma (Gypsies) as well as the drug addicted and Aids patients in his war ravaged country. We witnessed his passion first hand as we worked with him with the Ukrainian people and the Roma (Gypsies) in 2012.

He stays in touch with us via facebook and we have reported about his ministry in Faith magazine last year as he traveled to the east to witness to the soldiers on both sides of the conflict in Kiev. He is a voice of hope in the despair that is tearing Ukraine apart today.

Not long ago brother Alex “Sasha” wrote me and sent some photos. One of them was of him and another man I recognized from our 2012 mission trip. He was a Ukrainian surgeon who worked with us in the BMMI clinics. I remembered him because his name was also Sasha. We called him “Dr. Sasha”. There were 4 Sasha’s with us that day! I asked Brother Alex about him. And he sent me a story that touched me deeply about Dr. Sasha.



Bro. Alex (Sasha) and family with Dr. Sasha (center)



I texted Brother Sasha about the man I recognized in the pictures. He said...

"Yes, it is a Dr. You know him, and now he is at war. He came to us in the church, after you came to us. He is a hero, saves the lives of many people, and does not take up guns. He will be easy to remember, his name is Sasha too. (All named Sasha in Ukraine!)"

This touched me very deeply to see and read this update about Dr. Sasha. He became part of the church as a result of our Mission trip there, seeing how we ministered to the “least of these” in Ukraine. And now, he is risking his life to save the lives of his countrymen in war.

Never doubt the difference a short week of ministry can make. It makes a difference. You make a difference, whether you GO or SEND or PRAY. Please remember Ukraine and pray for Dr. Sasha and for the ministry of Brother Sasha (Alex Pavelchuk) as they share the love of Jesus in their beautiful and beloved country as it is in civil war.

And thank you for your love of missions!

Marty and Julie Stewart
FBC Carthage TX Mission MAT

Here is the original letter I received March 2, 2015 pastor Alex “Sasha” Pavelchuk to FBC Carthage TX

Dear friends!

Thank you so much for your prayers and your support, especially in these hard times for us. Because of the war that is being held by Russians in Donbas (east part of Ukraine) we are having tough times. It’s like a nightmare, people are dying every day, mothers become widows, the number of orphans is growing, etc. As the result of this, economics is going down, for example the minimal wage of a person is \$40 per month, while the price on everything is growing like crazy. But in the midst of all this, we see God’s support through your help. Thank you, because through you we can feel that God will never forsake His children. We really appreciate it.

Nowadays, when people have lost their trust in the justice of government, they are searching for help in the church. 2 Corinthians 4:1 “Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart”. God gave us this ministry of peace and love, and we will keep doing it till He comes in His glory.

Here is some news from our ministry:

1. We still work with HIV-positive people, people who are dying, they are burden to the society. And if not us, then who will take care of them, who will show them the great example of loving Jesus?! A lot of hospitals have opened the doors for us, so we can visit those who are in need, we can tell them about our loving, merciful God. That’s why we are asking God to give us His unconditional love, so we will not just tell them about God, because it’s our duty, but because we LOVE them and want them to be saved. As a great example For King and Country has this song “The Proof of your Love” which goes like this:

If I speak with a silver tongue and convince a crowd but don't have love

I leave a bitter taste with every word I say.

If I give to a needy soul, but don't have love then who is poor it seems all the poverty is found in me.

And here is one testimony:

Michael is 32. His wife, Oksana, is 29 and they have 3 kids together. They live in a small village, approximately 200 miles away from Uzhgorod. Michael had pneumonia 3 times during the previous autumn. His health has been getting worse with every day. He’s lost 20 pounds. He would have constant fever of 102.2, and the doctors did everything, but couldn’t lower the temperature. After a while they have decided to do AIDS test. The results were positive. For Michael it wasn’t just a shock, it was a tragedy. Not having any information about the disease, without any psychological support Michael became depressed. His wife also has been tested and she is positive with HIV. AIDS

has become a tragedy for this family and they didn't know what to do. Finally Michael has called us, desperately crying for help. We consulted him about the advanced medical support and treatment against the disease. We told them that it's not the end of the world, we gave them example of people having the same problems but still living their lives and struggling for happiness. But the main thing is that we could introduce them to God. Since January 2015 Michael has been on antiviral medications. His physical and psychological health is getting better, he's gain 15 pounds. His wife is getting better too. They started attending local church more often.

2. Our team started working with drug-addicted people. We rent an apartment where we provide rehabilitative treatment for them. As Proverbs 24:11 goes: "Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter". We have 4 guys in our church going through rehabilitative treatment.
3. Despite these hard times in our country, we're getting ready for the great youth festival that is going to be held this coming summer. The motto of the festival is "Grow! Glow! Save!" We expect around 500-600 people. We want to set our youth on fire, we want them to burn for Christ, and passionately give everything away for Him. Could you, please, have us and our plans in your prayers? And also you are very welcome to join us, to minister to God's children or just to share a great time with us.

Also we have sad news.

1. On February 12th I've lost my dad, I loved him so much and after he passed away I'm having a very tough time.
2. Also Sasha Kulikov died at the age of 32 from AIDS, he passed away in severe laceration. We witnessed him about God, but he refused to accept Jesus in his heart. Only 8 people came to his funeral, but none of his family members were there.

But we know in whom we trust and whom we believe. And He gives us opportunities to serve Him and glorify His holy name. Pray for us, please. Because of your support and prayers we feel that we are not alone and we have a great family through Jesus Christ. Faithfully yours, Alexander Pavelchuk.