

Join Us In Ukraine!

"Come over...and help us." Acts 16:9

From Bob:

Paul's invitation to take the gospel to Europe was a simple one. "Come and help us!" Bringing the love of God and the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ to a people, to a nation, or to a continent is the greatest help we can give!

Tomorrow morning I will leave for a visit to our brothers and sisters who are faithfully leading and serving the church in Ukraine. I will be joined by Converge's Regional Director for the Europe and Mediterranean, Dennis McMains. We will also be joined by Tania Martin, Converge's Director of Mobilization. (Dates of journey: 8/23-9/10)

The world has been inspired by the courageous defense the Ukrainian people have demonstrated against the Russian military. What most are not aware of, however, is the amazing growth of the church over the past 19 months. Thousands upon thousands of people have flooded to churches where they have been served, loved, and told about Jesus. Churches are filled to overflowing, people are baptized, and disciples of Jesus are multiplied in unprecedented numbers!

This extraordinary growth in the church is coupled with unmatched stress on the church leadership. The war has led to hundreds of empty pulpits. Pastors who remain bear the burden of their own family's health and safety, but also the weight of the displaced people who come to them with deep trauma having lost homes, husbands, fathers, or other family members and friends. They often carry these burdens as bi-vocational pastors, working full time secular jobs in order to be able to serve as pastors. Many of them have had their jobs cut since the war began due to economic conditions. It is a very difficult time for the shepherds, even as their flocks expand!



We are meeting with national and local leaders to help them with this need. We have partner ministries who are working to train new church planters (see last month's update [here](#)). On this visit we will visit, encourage, pray with, and talk about meeting the needs of the existing and expanding church. How can we help keep existing pastors in their pulpits? How can we identify and license new pastors quickly while still following the biblical guide to "not lay hands on a leader too quickly"?

I'm asking you to join us on this journey! Your prayers for us are essential to the fruitfulness of our ministry. As Paul told the church in

Corinth, "And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety." Pray for us as we travel by plane, train, car, bus and on foot! Pray as we stay in Kyiv, and other regions of Ukraine. Pray for us as we meet with national and local church leaders and church planters. Pray for the Ukrainian church and its leaders as they labor faithfully for the cause of Christ.

Thank you for your love, prayers, and support! Your partnership makes our ministry to the Europe and Mediterranean Region possible!

~ Bob