



Slavic BAPTIST MISSION

February 7, 2015

Dear Praying friend,

My last Sunday as pastor at Faith Baptist Church was December 28, 2015. What a joy it was for a little over seven years to pastor and see the Lord work through His Word, His Spirit and His people. With a new year came a new focus as we began full time deputation. The Lord opened doors and we have already traveled from California to Alabama sharing about the Lord's work and ministry in Ukraine. We are praising the Lord for those churches who have sensed the Lord's call to partner with us there.

While being a missionary on deputation, I also continue to oversee Slavic Baptist Institute. This Friday I fly to Ukraine for the winter session of SBI. I'll be teaching New Testament Survey, as well as preaching in our chapel services. Also, the Lord has presented an opportunity to speak at a rehabilitation center in Kharkov as well as in a church there pastored by one of our graduates. Please pray for the Lord to bless each speaking opportunity with power and understanding and for the Lord of the harvest to call out laborers for His glory and kingdom.

As you have probably noticed in the news there is much taking place right now in Ukraine. NATO is reporting some 9,000 Russian troops, plus Russian weaponry are being used to cause greater turmoil in Ukraine. Some 1.2 million Ukrainians have fled their homes since the conflict began. More than 5,000 have been killed. Earlier today I read of specially trained insurgents (by Russian intelligence) that are now spreading fear and panic outside the region of Southeastern Ukraine. Examples of these terrorist acts are an attempt to blow up a bridge as well as a train that was partially derailed. Pray especially for Carl, my co-instructor, our students, and me as we travel in a country where civil war is becoming more predominant. Pray for the Lord to take this terrible time intended for evil and turn it into a time where hearts are turned unto Him.

Your friend and fellow servant,

Derek A. Thomas