

THE BENGGE BULLETIN

WINTER 2018



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Our ministry partners include InLumine publishing (left), Arman Aubakirov, 9Marks co-ordinator for the Slavic world (center), & OIC (Overseas Instruction in Counseling) (right).

MINISTRY REPORT FOR 2017

Our mission in Ukraine is to promote healthy churches which in turn can facilitate the spread of the Gospel to the Russian-speaking world (the former USSR). So we begin by reviewing how God has been working in 4 strategic areas to promote healthy churches:

1. Teaching: This provides the foundation for healthy churches and also offers an opportunity to build long-term relationships with students and their churches. In 2017, Jerry taught 11 courses on subjects such as Pastoral Leadership, Peacemaking, Biblical Counseling, Marriage and Family, Psalms, and the Pastoral Epistles. Seven of the courses were taught at Kiev Theological Seminary, while the rest were taught at schools in other parts of Ukraine. He also taught in 10 church-based seminars in 5 different cities.



November class on Biblical Counseling at KTS

2. Resourcing: Books and Tracts



Ukrainian Baptist Seminary church-planters glad to receive book, Center Church by Tim Keller.

This ministry began with a discount book ministry for the students that has grown to a “bookstore” with over 120 titles. Hundreds of books have been purchased this year for personal or church libraries. Two years ago, we began a partnership with the Gospel Coalition (called “Theological Famine Relief”) and regularly distribute their books (free of charge) to students and pastors (see picture above). We also continue to supply churches in Ukraine with Gospel tracts (“The Story” and “Two Ways to Live”) that we print in partnership with Christian publisher, InLumine (located in Chernigov). By God’s grace more than 75,000 tracts have been distributed so far.

3. Networking: An intentional web of relationships with a shared vision

As God providentially raises up ministries whose objectives overlap with ours, we try to find ways to intentionally cooperate with and support each other. For example, a ministry at KTS called CMI (Church Ministries Institute) augments our seminary’s theological training by making it accessible to local church leaders across the country who otherwise could not receive formal training. Because of our resource ministry (see #2 above), we have been able to assist CMI in this strategic opportunity. (See more about networking on p. 2).



Jerry with Vladimir Nikolaev, Director of CMI who is using this 9Marks book on Expository Preaching for local church-based training.

HOME SERVICE INFORMATION

U.S. Address

16999 12 Mile Rd.
Roseville, MI 48066

Dates: Arrive in Detroit, March 9; Return to Kiev, August 21, 2018

Sending church: Cornerstone Baptist Church, Roseville, MI

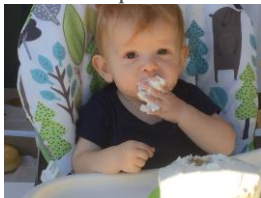
Home Tel. 586-441-4686 (Our home number in Kiev *and* the U.S.)

E-mail: jwbenge@gmail.com

FAMILY JOURNAL



In the midst of a busy year in Ukraine, the Lord gave Kellie and me the opportunity to visit and spend about three weeks with our family, all of whom live in Louisville, KY. We had the privilege of seeing our **sixth** grandchild (Knox, above left) for the first time as well as the opportunity to celebrate the **3rd** birthday of Ella (above right) and the **1st** birthday of Finn (see below). We even took in a couple of soccer games of our oldest two grandchildren, Maddox (see below) and Lilly. But we especially enjoyed hanging out with them, playing games, hiking, telling or reading stories, and making chocolate malts. God is so good to allow us such times (along with FaceTime and Facebook Messenger when we are in Kiev) to remain a part of their lives.



Ministry Report (cont'd. from p. 1)

Besides the opportunities with CMI, we also have or are beginning to develop cooperative relationships with **Overseas Instruction in Counseling** (with whom I am an instructor in their Master of Arts program at KTS), **9Marks** for the Russian-speaking world, and The Gospel Coalition (see #2 on p. 1) and **City to City Europe**, a ministry that focuses on Church Planting and training pastors to “bring the power of the Gospel to every part of life.” It seems very apparent that God has opened the door for these ministries to prepare and equip the next generation of church leaders to promote healthy churches that have a compelling local witness and a passion for the advance of the Gospel in the former Soviet Union. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with them.

4. Mentoring: As God raises up faithful men, our goal is to identify them and come alongside to encourage them in their lives and ministries. The intended outcome is a relationship that promotes healthy leaders who care for God’s flock and lead churches that will become a model for other churches. We are very excited about an opportunity that God has provided for two young men with whom I have been working. **9Marks** has offered both of them scholarships to attend their 9 day intensive training in ecclesiology (in Russian) at Capitol Hill Baptist in May. Pray that God will use this opportunity to help them advance in leading their churches.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM
THE BENGES IN UKRAINE**

PRAYER ITEMS

Wisdom for scheduling time for Home Service (see schedule below).
Health and strength for Karissa as she prepares to give birth to her second child in mid-February.
Seva and Bela, Ukrainian friends of ours who need Christ.
Our son, Joel, and his wife Rachel are still very much in need of your prayers.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Jan. 12: Travel to Khust (Western Ukraine) for Family Seminar.
Jan. 29 – Feb. 2: Teaching Pastoral Epistles at KTS.
Feb. 6-8: Speaking at International Partnerships conference (church leaders)
Feb. 12-13: Teaching at preaching seminar (The Charles Simeon Trust).
Feb. 20: Kellie flies to KY for birth of our 7th grandchild.
Feb. 26 – March 2: Teaching Psalms at KTS.
Mar. 10 – August 20: **Home service** in USA, visiting supporting churches and individuals.
Note: Our Home Service schedule will be available in early March.

OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION

We praise the Lord and we thank you, our ministry partners and friends, for your prayers and sacrificial support of our ministry to promote the Gospel in the Russian-speaking world. We remind each other quite often about the great privilege that God has given us to serve His church here. Without His faithfulness to His promises and your faithful, ongoing participation, we could not do what we are doing.

We also ask you to pray for us as we finish our second term in Ukraine and prepare to return and report to our supporting churches and ministry partners. Pray that God enables us to finish well and that he helps us to work out the logistics of planning, scheduling, and traveling. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Jerry and Kellie Bengé