

# TAKING THE SAVING GOSPEL TO A LOST WORLD

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"...GO INTO ALL THE  
WORLD AND PREACH THE  
GOSPEL TO EVERY  
CREATURE..."

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## KREMENCHUK, UKRAINE

**Rose** and I have just returned from working with **Kerry** and **Tommie Cain** in Kremenchuk, a city of 300,000 about 150 miles from the capital, Kiev. Kerry preaches for the church in **Colorado City, Texas** and has been going with me annually to teach in the Bible school in Kremenchuk since 1999. The congregation is certainly to be commended for allowing him to participate in this! This time I taught the afternoon class on **Jeremiah** and he taught the evening class on **Denominational Doctrines**. As usual, we preached for area congregations on Sundays and on Saturdays participated in classes at the Central congregation. It is the largest in the city with an attendance of about 110. Russia has tightened restrictions on American missionaries, making our work in that country more difficult. Fortunately, nothing like this is happening in Ukraine. My next scheduled trip to help in this work is in October.

### THAILAND TRIP POSTPONED

I was scheduled to leave for Thailand on April 16<sup>th</sup>. However, early in the month I received a call from **Dorsey Traw**, long-time missionary in **Chiang Mai**. He explained that he and his wife, **Ola**, were in the states because of the death of her mother. They likely will not return to Thailand for 3 or 4 months. We will reschedule this work for later in the year.

## BENEVOLENT WORK

The present world-wide economic woes affect most countries worse than the USA, and Ukraine is certainly no exception to that! They are also experiencing political turmoil and increasing friction with Russia, which is trying to bring Ukraine back under its wing. The current economic situation made the help we take for the poor more important than ever. Most of our benevolent aid goes to help children—primarily

orphans and abandoned kids. This trip we had more funds for this purpose than at any time in the past. Rose and I worship at **Wylie** and the congregation always has a special contribution...*this time a new record, \$9475*. Several individuals sent additional funds to me making a total of \$11280. Christians in Colorado City sent \$5890 through Kerry giving us a **grand total of \$17170**. This generosity is truly amazing. The need is so great and tremendous good was accomplished with this money!

Some **individual Christians** with special needs were helped and money was left with the **Central congregation** for their very efficient and well run benevolent program. There are **two shelters for abandoned children** in Kremenchuk and, as always, assistance was given to both. We were able to provide clothes, sweaters, shoes, socks, food, and medicine. Also a meat grinder was purchased for the kitchen in the really large shelter. As in the October trip we gave significant help to the special orphan home/school in Svetlovodsk, about 30 miles away. This is the **home for blind and visually impaired children**. They have 185 kids living there. We were informed that 30 are blind, 37 are invalids, and 25 have psychiatric problems. In addition to visual difficulties, as many as 40% of the children suffer from some physical, psychiatric, emotional or mental problem. We bought a special machine they need for the treatment of children with crossed eyes. Money was given to purchase shoes for the 60 children who have no relatives or contacts on the outside to help with such things. Funds were left for a computer and special computer programs to be used in therapy and treatment of various visual defects. We supplied the funds for some sporting equipment, and also for renovation of two toilet areas and a hygiene room. In the near future we hope to help purchase some up-to-date diagnostic equipment for them. They have no such equipment on site and the kids have to be taken elsewhere to be checked out. [REMEMBER: in Ukraine help from the government *falls extremely short* of taking care of the needs of such children...and they usually must simply do without.]

Christians in Kremenchuk go with us to all these places, translate for us, and make sure the money is properly spent. They are allowed to teach the Bible in both shelters and soon we expect to have regular Bible classes in the home for the kids with vision problems.

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Even with delaying the Thailand trip to later in the year my immediate schedule is pretty full. I will teach in the school of preaching in **Queretaro, Mexico** in May...leave for **India** on June 11 and travel to work again in **Zimbabwe** the first of August. I always work there with **Paul Jones**, a South African who now preaches in Palestine, Texas. Paul and one of the elders just returned from a trip to Zimbabwe and their judgment is that the situation is improving and it is safe enough for our group to return. Other work is planned later in the year.

Your coworker,