

# 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

When the Soviet Union fell in 1991, Ukraine became independent and free from Communist rule. People were now free to study the Bible and evangelism was allowed. The church was established in Kremenchuk soon afterwards and brethren from Tennessee and Alabama began the Bible school in 1993. I teach in the school twice a year and Don Oelze is my co-teacher each October. This year Don taught Old Testament Survey and my subject was Revelation—my third time to teach this challenging book since I started going in 1996. I believe the classes at the school went well and we left tests to be administered by our translators. As usual, we preached for most of the congregations in the area the three Sundays we were there. One that we usually visit is in a nursing home in a town about 15 miles away. The 20 or so members are, of course, all infirm in some way and most are elderly. Although a local Ukrainian brother is still allowed to visit and worship with them, we outsiders are no longer permitted. No explanation was given. About three years ago permission was withdrawn for us to teach the boys in the juvenile prison. A local brother is still allowed to go regularly and has converted quite a few there. One of these now preaches for a congregation somewhere in southern Ukraine. Central, the largest church in Kremenchuk, has a two-hour class on Saturday afternoons. We always participate in this. There is singing, praying, refreshments and then the study...mostly a question and answer session. Especially considering the background of these people, it is not surprising that the church in the region has growing pains—but there are many wonderful Christians and it's encouraging to see obvious spiritual growth.

## BENEVOLENT EFFORTS THIS TRIP

Through your generosity we always take wonderful help for the needy, especially for the many orphans and abandoned children. This trip the amount given for this purpose was just amazing. Our congregation in Wylie always has a special contribution...this time more than ever, \$8891. Help from two other Texas congregations, Wieland and Kingston, along with money from a few individuals brought the total to \$11,136. Don Oelze had \$1,500 for this work, bringing the grand total to \$12,636. As usual, assistance was given at the two area shelters for abandoned children. This involved one new cook stove, a minor repair job, food, pajamas, shoes and winter coats. We visited for the first time a home in Svetlovodsk, about 30 miles away. This is the home and school for orphans who are blind or too visually impaired to attend regular schools. 130 children live here. On a second visit we took supplies and equipment for their laundry, school supplies, toys and games. Some of their old, large building is really run down. In especially depressing condition was the tiny, inadequate shower area where the children are washed...once a week. This is mostly in cold water...the minuscule water heater is of virtually no use. We left money to make possible (with help from a congregation in Kentucky) improvements to the shower situation. Plans are for the old showers to be used while decent new ones...with sufficient hot water... are constructed. Then the present facilities will be brought up to a good standard. As usual, money was given to help with the medical needs of the congregation that meets in the nursing home. Funds were provided to furnish medicine and hospital treatment in Kiev for a 10 year-old Kremenchuk girl with bone cancer. PLEASE remember this girl (Stefany) in your prayers! Various poor Christians were assisted and what money remained was left with the Central congregation for use in their very efficient, well run benevolent program.



#### CONTINUING NEED FOR DEAF GIRL IN INDIA

We are still trying to raise money for a three-year-old girl in Vijayawada. She needs a very expensive operation (Cochlear implant) to ever be able to hear. The mother is a Christian and we hope the father soon will be. The family is pictured here. Their monthly income is about \$60. Her only hope in this matter is our help! Maybe you or your congregation can help.