



humanitarian aid response teams

international relief



HARTbeat Third Quarter 2008



Nuclear power plant in the city of Kuznetsovsk, Ukraine



Pastor Sasha Orsychyn

Dear friends,

“This is the most unique ministry I’ve seen in Ukraine” declared Pastor Pavlo from Lutsk, Ukraine. A representative of Baptist Union in Kyiv commented, “While many Western missions agencies seem to be leaving Ukraine or downsizing, HART is not only surviving, but thriving and growing in its ministry scope and impacting more people today than ever before.”

How does a Western missions agency garner accolades such as the above?

Simply, years of faithfully listening to and providing National ministries with practical resources for the work THEY are carrying on in THEIR own countries.

It’s a common sense, cost effective approach that works so well, it really is tragic how few Western missions agencies have figured this out.

Why not? The following illustration may give you the answer.

I was recently approached by a large USA Missions organization, who proposed that HART partner with them and help promote their new “leadership” material and courses in Ukraine. They wanted to tap into HART’S network of ministries throughout the country.

However, after reviewing their literature and plan, I politely declined but also left them with a challenge:

“Why would your agency choose to go through the incredible expense of translating, publishing, promoting and sending Americans to teach YOUR courses; instead of partnering with an existing Ukrainian ministry already teaching similar courses?”

“For a fraction of the cost to develop your own program, you could instead provide annual financial support for a Ukrainian ministry such as the BTC (Bible Training Centers) which not only has 8,000 students currently enrolled in classes, but is also the most fruitful, leadership-training and church-planting ministry in Ukraine.”

Now it was their turn to politely decline. This didn’t surprise me, because as I see it, one of the fundamental

problems in today’s Missions world is the old-school proprietorship nature that prevails among most agencies.

Instead of partnering with and supporting existing National ministries, their preference is to re-invent the wheel (despite the enormous costs) just to have their ‘brand name’ stamped upon their work.

Clearly, an example of how good stewardship and common sense can be hijacked by Mission “agendas.”

HART’S approach couldn’t be more different. Our strategy has always been to “lose” our identity into the ministries we partner with.

We’re content to work quietly and efficiently in the background providing practical support to over 200 fruitful ministries we’re now partnered with - led by dynamic people such as Vitaley Yevtechenko (see next page) and Sasha Orsychyn (pictured at left).

Sasha is the Pastor of a Baptist Church in Kuznetsovsk, Ukraine; a city of 40,000 people built adjacent a nuclear power plant.

When asked about his ministry’s vision, he explained to me there were 162 apartment building in his city, such as the one he is standing in front of. His goal in the next 5 years is to plant a Bible Study group in each one of these apartment buildings!

When we learned his church needed sound equipment and musical instruments for their services and outreach projects, THANKS to YOU, we were delighted to be able to bless Sasha with the finances he required for these items.

Along with Pastor Sasha, we extend to you our heartfelt thanks for faithfully standing by this “unique” ministry.

Lloyd Cenaiko
President

