

# AECM (HARVEST NETWORK) UKRAINE MISSION 2002 REPORT

April 25 – May 21

## **Mission Overview**

The mission took place during the Eastern Orthodox Passover and Easter Celebration. The Greek and Russian Orthodox Church primarily represent eastern Orthodoxy. It is difficult to understand the orthodox rituals surrounding Passover in light of the fact they have the same Bible as all the churches in Eastern Europe; however, this also provides an open door for effective witnessing. The extent of the religious bondage is large as the media reported that 80% of the population, including many government leaders, visited the orthodox cathedrals on Passover to light candles, kiss icons and the bones of dead patriarchs, and receive the priests blessing with holy water over sacred eggs, food, and even vodka for consumption. These things we observed as well as priests reading prayers in an old form of Russian that no one understands today. It was evident that all these rituals were the creation of man and that no one could be sanctified through such things. We all agreed that God was jealous for these precious souls. It was *kairos* (now) time and the apostolic calling was strong upon the “living” church of Ukraine to tear down the spirits of religion and Babylon in order to set captives free.

The apostolic team ministered in eight cities (4 each in the North and South regions) to encourage and strengthen the “living” churches and to set many free from religious bondage. Kiev is the capital of Ukraine with 2.6 million people and Odessa in the south has a population of 1.4 million. The team was multicultural with AECM/Harvest Network partners from Ukraine, Rwanda, USA, and Great Britain. Grace and Love of Christ Church (GLCC), an apostolic network of 17 churches provided a very mature context to make significant advances for the kingdom of God. This network is on the frontlines of what Jesus is doing now! GLCC served as an ideal setting for the Lord to accomplish His will. In addition, there was a team from High Mill Church of the Resurrection, Canton, OH, a future AECM/Harvest Network partner, conducting youth ministry and a Women’s Conference in L’viv.

## **Mission Highlights**

*5<sup>th</sup> All Ukrainian Apostolic & Prophetic Conference, Kiev* – This Conference began on Sunday evening at the GLCC service when the team was introduced and continued for four days and evenings. The opening service was bathed with powerful prayer and high praise. There were five salvations. “Visitation” was the overall Conference theme with Micah 7:4 as the key verse, *The day of your watchmen has come, the day God visits you.* This theme was viewed as a judgment against the spirit of Babylon and an open door for heaven throughout Ukraine and the nations. The primary meeting place of GLCC is in central Kiev and seats at least 700. It appeared full most of the time particularly in the

evenings. God spoke strong messages through the apostolic team accompanied by very powerful prophetic/spiritual actions. Messages included: *Ukraine arise walk into your day of visitation, Time of new wave of watchmen placed by God for a new level of prayer, The new apostolic move around the world, New fire of the Holy Spirit, New wineskins, The new mantle of the full measure, Day of preparing the bride for Christ, Day of visitation with no options, Day baroness ceases and God's increase (multiplication) comes, Living in historical days yoked with Christ.* All were anointed with new oil on the final evening of the Conference. It was evident that God had sealed an apostolic calling upon the church and established an apostolic people in a new level, a new anointing, a new flow, and a calling to new nations. In addition, the Conference provided an unexpected offering for ministry to the nations through AECM/Harvest Network of \$952.

*GLCC, Borispol City (Pastor Maxim)* – The pastor may have been a little disappointed that only 25-30 attended this evangelistic service, but it was due to the national celebration of Passover. However, two young men were saved and a new level of healing ministry began to manifest. A woman with a broken disc in her back was fully healed as she jumped and then bent down touching her toes with much joy. The team traveled to the central orthodox cathedral after the service to see firsthand rituals like lighting candles for the dead, kissing icons, dead bones, blessing with water vodka, sacred eggs, etc. We had observed orthodoxy before, but nothing could compare to the magnitude of this. It was helpful to better target our prayer warfare.

*GLCC Passover Evangelistic Service, Kiev* – This service was an opportunity for the team to win souls trapped in orthodoxy. Olga preached on light in the darkness. A drama clearly demonstrated the absolute futility of the rituals and the need for Christ alone. I followed preaching on life in the blood of Christ. There were 32 salvations and we prayed for their healing needs. These were orthodox and they represented a big harvest.

*GLCC Missions Training Center, Kiev* – Wilberforce Musoni (Rwanda) and I spent two evenings teaching on evangelism and dedication. Over 40 students attended and reported they received the meat of the word. The presence of the Lord was strong as we prayed Rom. 1:11, 2 Tim. 1:6-8, and Eph. 6:19-20 over each student. An unexpected opportunity to share at a nearby public school was used to plant a seed for Christ into the hearts of over twenty 15 year olds.

*GLCC Communion Service, Kiev* – Team preaching again proved effective, as there were 6 salvations. This was also the day of the WWII Celebration and following the service we went to the high place where thousands were gathered for fireworks. At 10:00 P.M. we blew the silver trumpet and shofar over the large crowd.

*GLCC Korsum City (Pastor Osanna)* – This church-plant of around 30 meets in an excellent location. There were around 70 at the evangelistic meeting. There

were 14 salvations and a notable healing ministry as at least three with severe back problems repeatedly bent to the floor totally healed of their condition. We also prayed for a young man with a severe drug problem. Wilberforce and I taught at the Korsum Missions Training Center the next morning. There are 12 students, but around 20 people were present. The young man who was prayed for the night before brought his friend who received salvation.

*GLCC Kanev City (Pastor Valentin)* – The church is two years old with 20 members. Pastor Valentin shared that he spent two years praying over the city prior to planting the church. This would be the first evangelistic meeting of this type. Around 70 attended and there were initially 11 salvations, but two teenage girls also received salvation later. Healing ministry was very prominent here with a woman missing a bone in her leg threw her crutch aside and walked unhindered. A man with severe back problems also was healed as well as a mother and daughter who could not breathe through their noses due to a hereditary condition. Many others received healing. The team arrived back in Kiev at 1:00 A.M.

*GLCC Resurrection Service, Kiev* – This was our final service in Kiev before traveling by train to Odessa for the southern mission. There were 15 salvations and a number came forward for healing. One man was healed of severe headaches. GLCC also took up an offering for Rwanda of \$128.

*GLCC Missions Training Center, Odessa* – We began the southern mission by teaching Bible students on two consecutive evenings. There were around 70 attending including over 40 students. The move of God was very strong in both sessions and we again concluded with specific prayer for each student.

*GLCC, Odessa (Pastor Vadim)* – The pastor shared the battle to begin the work in Odessa starting with strong spiritual action six years earlier. The church is now four years old and has grown from 6 – 120. We were touched to discover that Vadim gave up a prominent and high paying position in the Kiev Theater to obey the Lord. The evangelistic service was glorious with well over 150 attending. There were 42 salvations with many healings that followed. A young woman who had just come from the hospital received complete healing of a crushed vertebra in her neck. A young man who could not walk on the heels of his feet walked, leaped, and praised God. Many testified and demonstrated their healings before all to the glory of God.

*Word of Live Mission, Balta (Pastor Antolle)* – This was a reconnaissance mission to a region that I had previously been to seven times. There are now three churches in the city, but the new living church is yet to come. Two evangelistic meetings were held with 20 and 30 people attending respectively. There were surprising 14 salvations in the first service and 7 in the evening, but there was no church we could refer them to with confidence. The spiritual battle was enormous, however, there were two healings and a man I knew was

baptized with the Holy Spirit. God showed us that a season of prayer and spiritual action is necessary before a living church can be planted in the region.

*GLCC, Mirnoe Village (Pastor Igor)* – There were around 100 at the evangelistic service. There was a real battle for souls as 6 initially came to repentance. At least 13 more came forward and were saved when a woman's foot was miraculously healed and restored. Also, swollen lymphatic glands of one baby immediately disappeared. Many more healings occurred, especially those with back problems.

*GLCC, Iljichevsk City (Pastor Jonja)* – This is one of the largest seaport cities and there again was heavy warfare involved in the battle for souls. There were around 50 present at the evangelistic meeting. There were 6 salvations including the bus driver.

*GLCC, Odessa (Pastor Vadim)* – This was the final service of the southern mission. Again, there were over 150 attending. The service included drama and spiritual action with the shofar (trumpet). 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet: Open ears, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet: Gathering of hearts to Him (spirit of adoption), 3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet: Victory with all shouting and all instruments played prophetically. A strong reading of Romans 8 followed along with the preaching by the team. There were 34 salvations with many healings including a woman with a deaf ear and those with back problems.

### **Lessons Learned**

1. God will raise apostolic teams to new levels of effectiveness when they walk together in love and unity with genuine humility and obedience. As Pastor Olga recently stated, *With the new eyes we looked at the team ministry and we will continue to practice it further.*
2. Healing ministry is very prominent in God's plan for the end time harvest. *Again and again during the services we could hear exclamations of people who were healed through God's touch: I have a new leg... I have a new back... oh, it's not my arm, I was not able to lift it up... I can hear! Look, I am hearing, I can walk. More than once the hall was exploding with exclamations of joy and applause to His power and anointing, many times you could see the tears of joy of healed people.* – Pastor Olga.
3. Church planting involves much praying and warring with a strong resolve to plant healthy churches. *Today we are receiving large number of testimonies from pastors that many saved people continue to attend the church, growing in the Lord.* – Pastor Olga
4. Biblical standards of godliness and holiness are the same for all believers regardless of the respective cultures. Although the gospel transcends culture, it also penetrates, works change, and releases captives.
5. Prophetic and spiritual actions are a very important part of the Lord's breakthrough process in churches, cities, and nations.

## **Conclusion**

The apostolic calling is growing stronger and stronger upon the “living” churches of Ukraine. There was the sense that the Lord was connecting each part into a large kingdom net. I believe the Holy Spirit confirmed a new Harvest Network of Ukraine that could be registered in 2003. This would be a great advance in God’s plan since the “living” church is only ten years old in Ukraine. A growing number of leaders and churches are waiting for this development. There were 210 salvations during the mission, 88 in the Kiev region and 122 in the Odessa region. I also cannot say enough for the dedication and maturity of the leaders and members of GLCC. They now have 110 Bible students at Missions Training Centers in three locations. This apostolic network is in a forward advance to train and release the next generation of leaders, to plant healthy churches throughout Ukraine, and to touch the nations for the glory of Christ Jesus.

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