

August 22, 2014

Dear Friends

Many of you remarked on my last newsletter that it was good to get some on the ground, behind the scenes genuine and trustworthy news on what is actually going on in Ukraine. Some even asked how to help.

I have been travelling just now for a week in Ukraine. Here are a few snippets for your interest & prayers. This is all info gleaned from personal talks and experiences in Ukraine of the past week...



Malcolm Clegg  
CEP, ARKA

Prologue:

- \* You will hear of wars and rumours of wars...
- \* Do not be frightened, these things must take place...nations will rise against nations...
- \* Many false prophets will arise and mislead many...
- \* "And the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached to all nations." Mt 24:6-12

Wars and rumours... Isn't it incredible that Jesus was so young and yet he had such tremendous insight into how things would be over 2000 years later. Could it be that he was actually God?

Not only is there a war in Ukraine, with thousands dead and more dying every day, there are rumours...lots of them. In war time no-one likes to give away information about their side and everyone takes sides, so genuine truth is hard to come by not to mention the informational distortion caused by scaremongering western media.

A little like present day Christianity. Lots of prophecies purport to be truth, but the genuine deep truths achieved by searching God's revealed Word to know Him are neglected, hard to come by,... so they simply remain unknown, even by those who claim to believe. Few have the patience to search for gold.

Not only are many unaware of God's truth, they are frightened. ...Travel to Ukraine? Why it's not safe for goodness sake! Freedom in Christ and putting Christ first in daily Lordship decisions remain empty, unexperienced ideals, even for most Christians.

It is a little like travelling back in time to the days of the KGB. For the first time in many years I brought along 100 new testaments to give out. People are looking to the heavens for hope. NATO is conspicuous by its absence. How about **Jesus**? Yes, **HE** is here in Ukraine touching people, **HE** is the only hope! Not Obama, not the EU!

Borders are emptier than normal, at least coming into the country. The EU is making it harder to get a visa out. A 2 month wait now is the norm...a good way to prove friendship and solidarity!

The helping hand from the West is as empty and unconvincing as the "humanitarian" convoy presently crossing the border in the East. Not only is the EU not willing to fight, it's not willing to let Ukrainians out. Supposedly Poland is considering such a move for next year...

Men are expecting the dreaded knock at the door. A 4th round of conscription will take all able bodied men between ages 18 and 66. It is expected any day. There are only two ways out of it. Have at least 4 children (3 is not enough!) or if it's too late to go for four, as it is for most...bribe your way out.

Ukrainians know they will lose as the army is almost totally inadequate in the face of Russian equipment, bolstered by billions of euros of French military equipment. Hence their requests to me to invite their wives and children out...I'm working on that...

Yes, they know Merkel is coming to visit. They mock her and the Western political leaders who are "disturbed" and express their "concern" to the Russian aggressors...they know Putin believes only in

power plays and plays hardball.

The army trucks are to be seen rushing from its bases which were built against the supposed enemies in the west of the country to hurriedly built bases in the East from which direction in decades past they were promised only comradeship and brotherhood.

Undermining this eastward thrust are rumours that unknown quantities of Russian tank units await hidden in the barely penetrable border woods and forests to the north and north west in pro Russian communist Belarus.

The last pro Russian president has long since escaped with billions of booty-money, weapons. The new government has barely been sworn in, let alone is able to handle a war with a super power , nor the endemic corruption which sells military equipment to any buyer.

- Nights are getting cooler, and gas dependency on Russia is still considerable...
- Daily news of new deaths, growing local hero-martyr photo boards and wreaths in town squares.
- People scurry to work, although some government departments haven't been paid for two months and dont expect to be for the rest of this year.
- The currency has devalued 50% this year.
- Average wage is now around \$100pm for those lucky enough to have a job and be paid.

Indeed on a lighter side there are some perks to shed light on the situation.

- Schools may well have the winter off, so at least children might be pleased.
- You can buy a pint of Guinness for less than 2 euros...godly old Arthur Guinness would I'm sure approve...its cheaper than in England!
- And if you care to deposit your money in PrivatBank Ukraine they'll give you over 10%pa for your dollars, euros or pounds...in these days of low interest rates its an investors paradise...any takers?

My aim in being in Ukraine: to share the gospel of the kingdom wherever possible. To summarise our initiatives and plan for the coming year. Here are some highlights and opportunities for YOU to get involved.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- \* Last year we started a language school as an evangelistic platform...over 60 students and 6 teachers in the first year...our newly minted foundation is beginning social initiatives to reach out to the needy
- \* 4 summer camps took place in our network...over 250 mostly unchurched children and youth heard the gospel...
- \* This coming year we plan to extend these initiatives with 6 people part time employed sharing the gospel

#### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO BE INVOLVED: why not...🤔?**

- \* PRAY for us
- \* JOIN US...either at summer camp next year or join me on my trips around Ukraine (November & April)
- \* INVITE us to your church/group/home so we can share with you and your friends? I'll be in GB in November and March with our Ukrainian colabourers (if GB allows them a visa!) and will definitely visit you if you invite us soon! We'll even come to USA if invited
- \* [SUPPORT one of our staff or children?](#)  
\$100pm presently supports one of our staff full time!  
Or \$50 sponsors a child to go on a camp to hear and see the gospel.  
Any sum would help in our travel ministry...



If you're interested in any of these opportunities, please do write back and I'll send you more details...I look forward to hearing from you...

Whatever you do, pray that God would be glorified in Ukraine these days...

Your friend and brother, **Malcolm/Marek**