May 13, 2008

Dear Friends and Mission Pray-ers:

This has been one of the most incredible trips we have taken. Thank you so much for praying for this team as we have represented you in circling Europe. We arrived back in England from the Ukraine last night. By the time you receive this email we will be flying back to Dallas. Thank you so much for praying with us and for us.

The Ukraine meeting was unique and a “first” for them to rally in such unity and strength. We met in an outdoor stadium in Dnepropetrovsk. This city was like the last three cities we wrote you about – Copenhagen, Gdansk, and Warsaw. Each of these cities has several similarities: their location is strategically important; all have been important to the Jews, and all have had to content with the Germans and Russians in their history.

Dnepropetrovsk was of particular importance to the Soviet Union as a key center of nuclear, arms and space industries. Because of its military production, the city was a closed city until the 1990s. (A closed city or closed town is a settlement in the former Soviet Union with travel and residency restrictions.) During the German occupation of Ukraine in World War II, this was one of the six key ruling regions of the Germans. The city was an important center of Jewish life. Approximately 80,000 Jews lived in the city before the Holocaust, but soon after the Nazis conquered the city on October 12, 1941, 11,000 were shot! In the end, only 15 Jews survived the war in Dnepropetrovsk. We drove by and prayed at a new, modern synagogue. Therefore, the Jews do seem to have found some refuge for worship in modern day Ukraine.

The level of unity for this event was unprecedented in the history of this modern young Church. We must remember that most of these people have only been saved since 1992. We were hosted by Maxim Belousova. His wife, Julia, an incredible vocalist, led the worship for the event. On the Global Day of Prayer gathering on Sunday night, groups of leaders would pray for the Ukraine. I have to say there was not a leader that was not anointed when they prayed. This was not a typical formal event where people are content to pray polite prayers. In Dnepropetrovsk there was a passion and a fire with each prayer.

When it was time for me to exhort the people, I led them in thanking our Father for His Kingdom around the world. We then prayed for Israel and Jerusalem. Next, I shared with them over how the Lord told us to love our neighbors. We then spoke the names of all the neighboring nations that surround Ukraine and had the attendees pray for these nations. The Lord had given me the book of Haggai to pray through. This book represented the perfect biblical pattern for where the people of Ukraine are today. During Haggai’s time, the people had been in captivity. They had returned from captivity to rebuild the Temple and had gotten discouraged, disinterested, and disillusioned. The warfare against them moving forward was great. Therefore, 16 years later the prophet Haggai exhorted God’s covenant people to rise up, “consider their ways”, and begin to build again. The Lord then said He would shake them until the latter glory became greater than the former glory.
This was the same time frame that we were dealing with in the Ukraine. The people were in Soviet captivity for 70 years. In 1990 there was an opening. Then in 1992, 16 years ago, a move of God began in that nation. But weariness had set in. I declared that in the midst of all the shaking ahead, the Ukraine would rise up and be bold to lead in change. We ended the meeting with an evangelist giving an altar call. Ten came forward to know the Lord and many renewed their faith.

The team and I were well received. The Spirit of God moved upon us. A new unity was knit amongst the leaders in this nation. I believe new strength was found by all attending so they could go into their next phase of building the new wineskin for this nation.

Blessings,
Chuck D. Pierce