

MARCH
2022



Ukrainian refugees will soon be arriving in the central Pennsylvania area. Keystone Baptist Association along with The Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware are preparing to help Ukrainian refugees with housing and food as well as assistance in adapting to our language and culture.



Brad and Jeanine are former International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries who served 5 years in Ukraine and 20 years in Russia. Brad is helping direct this outreach to Ukrainian refugees here in Pennsylvania.

Keystone Baptist Association will work in conjunction with the Ukraine Relief Task Force formed by the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. Brad Horne is serving on the task force. Currently the task force is establishing channels for prayer, giving and awareness with the understanding that there is a possibility that churches will have the opportunity to sponsor refugee families in the future. KBA has developed pages on their website with prayer needs, giving opportunities, and updates.

Serving with Brad on the task force:

Ellen Udovich, the BCM/D's Disaster Relief and community engagement consultant, formed and is overseeing the group, drawing from her many years of experience and connections in crisis ministry.

Andrew Goins pastors Kingsville Baptist Church. The church is a unique blend of Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarussian believers, many of whom experienced Soviet oppression and have immigrated to the U.S.

Rosalie Chesley serves as the assistant to the interim executive director and managing editor of BaptistLIFE at BCM/D. She first interacted with Slavic culture many years ago and has maintained an interest in that part of the world since that time.

Please go to www.keystonebaptist.net for additional information on how to give and pray.



Here are ways Brad suggests that our churches can pray for Ukraine.

1. Spiritual: Pray for salvation over safety. Pray for Ukrainians, who are faced with the real possibility of death, to consider their eternity, and that many would repent and receive Christ. Also, pray for the salvation of the Russians who are invading Ukraine. Most are young conscripts, serving their 2-year duty.

2. Physical: Pray that the Ukrainians would repel the Russians back, that God would cause confusion in the Russian military, and this war would become repugnant for Russia and would withdraw.

3. Future: Pray that regardless of the outcome, Ukraine would become the Bible Belt of Europe, and just as refugees are pouring into other European countries, they would someday have missionaries pour into all parts of Europe and the world.

KBA PRAYER FOCUS:

Pray for:

- KBA churches and their pastors. We currently have two churches without pastors and four additional churches that are searching for new pastors. Please pray for the Pastor Search Committees at Mount Wolf Community and New Hope Baptist as they seek a pastor.
- Pastor Vladimir and Natalya Kitsen and the members of the Slavic Baptist Church. Most of the members of this church have friends and family in Ukraine.
- The Ukraine task force.
- The planning of a Pastor and Wife retreat this fall with our partners from Mississippi.
- The three churches that are considering joining the Keystone Baptist Association
- Continue to pray for the Mississippi partnership. The vision team will arrive on May 11th as we begin plans for this important partnership.
- IMB missionaries that were serving in Russia and Ukraine. Their work still continues, wherever they may be.
- Becca Murray (Pastor's wife at Noble City) as she recovers from foot surgery.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Jordan and Chantel Alturas and the birth of their precious son, Esteban Ray. Born on February 21, 2022, weighing 6lbs. and 13oz. Jordan is the pastor at Fellowship Baptist Church located in State College.



NEWS FROM KBA:

Pastor's Prayer: Pastors continue to meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am for prayer. **Brad has added an additional Thursday evening prayer time at 7:30 pm.** All pastors and pastoral staff are invited to join.

Pastor's Roundtable: will be Thursday, March 31st at 10:00 am.

Pastor Wives continue to pray on Monday nights at 7:30pm.

Mission Trip to London: Dates have changed! KBA has had to cancel the April trip to London, but we are working with our IMB partners, Ben and Judy Armacost, to schedule another date later in the year.

NAMB: The Replant Practitioner Training: Brad and Tim Parker will be attending this training in Atlanta on March 14-15, 2022. This event is to help address the needs of declining churches that may require replanting or revitalizing.

BRN: Evangelism Conference: March 21, 2022, at Calvary Church in State College. Admission is free to this event. There is an optional lunch fee of \$10. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ed Stetzer who will speak on "Reaching the Post-Covid World" and "Reaching the Next Gen." Other speakers and break out leaders include Daniel Yang, Dr. Chris Betner Sr., Dr. Larry Anderson, and David Ludwig. For more information, schedule and register go to: www.Advancepasj.com.

Next Executive Board Meeting: is scheduled at 7:30pm on April 25th at Stewartstown Baptist Church.

KBA FINANCIAL UPDATE

February income: \$8,245.94
February expenses: \$10,835.21

Ukraine Gifts: \$1,385.00

A WORD FROM BRAD:

Ukraine from My Perspective

On April 1, 2002, I was staying in a hotel in Istanbul, Turkey, when I received the news that I had been categorically denied a visa to get back into Russia, after having served there for 5 years.



A WORD FROM BRAD (CONT) ~

After praying and seeking God's will, my family and I moved to Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine. Later, the city was renamed to Dnipro, since it's located on the Dniپر River, in the center of Ukraine.

We lived in Dnipro for 5 years and started one Baptist church as we served with the IMB as Church Planters. Our 4 daughters spent much of their formative years in Ukraine.

Ukraine is a country the size of Texas and has a population of about 44 million Ukrainians, or at least until women and children started leaving as refugees. Before the war began, Ukraine was approximately 3-4% Christian. Hopefully, there are many more Christians now as many are faced with the real possibility of death. Pray that they would hear the good news of Jesus Christ from the believers that are there.

Many ask me what are Ukrainians like? They are the opposite of Americans in many ways. They seem rude or unfriendly on the streets but are willing to go very deep very quickly in relationships. Americans seem to be friendly on the street, but superficial and shallow when talking about deep, personal, heart issues. Ukrainians often throw themselves birthday parties, will provide all the food, and invite their friends over to their house. In America, our friends or family throw us birthday parties. Most Ukrainians live in high-rise apartment buildings in large cities, whereas most Americans live in individual houses. In fact, our daughters would complain about taking out our dog to go for a walk because all the time they wasted waiting for the elevator going up and going down. We lived on the 10th floor of our apartment building. Ukrainians are very artistic in art, music, dance, and poetry, whereas Americans are more sports oriented. Ukrainians value working together as a team as a life value, whereas individualism is valued by Americans. I learned this part of the culture the hard way when the class I was teaching kept cheating with each other because learning was a team effort for them. Ukrainian women don't shake hands with men. I also learned this the hard way when I put my hand out to shake hands with a girl that had just been introduced to me and she just look at my hand. She left me hanging. Lastly, Ukrainians tend to dress up, much like Americans dressed up in the 1960's and 1970's and Ukrainian women are known for wearing skirts and high heels. Ukrainians usually feel Americans dress too sloppily (comfortably).

But there are common traits that both Ukrainians and Americans share. One of those traits are that iron grit determination. You might even call it stubbornness, but it's a "never give up" mindset that keeps us going. That is why the Ukrainians believe they can be the David and defeat the goliath, Russia.

Now that you know Ukrainians a little better, please join me in praying for them to become desperate for God and seek Him as they consider their eternity in the face of war.

Keystone Baptist Association: "Equipping and Connecting Churches to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. "