



June 2024

Nikopol Evangelism
1200 E Moreland Blvd
Waukesha WI 53186

A Ministry in support of the Nikopol Church of Christ

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor principalities powers nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Spring and summer months have been tough in Nikopol. Our brothers and sisters need our prayer badly. Depression is a real thing. They have withstood so much pressure and held the light up for so long. However, the reality is, the light is getting heavy. Christians there are feeling like the morning isn't going to come.

Local Damage

The neighborhood of the church was hit on May 9. Our neighbor's house was damaged, thankfully outside of a few minor reports the church building was unharmed. Sergei and his 12-year-old son hid in the basement for 40 minutes while they were surrounded by the explosions. Physically, both were safe, however, we understand these things take their toll emotionally. Sergei and Zhenya have relocated temporarily to Pokrovskoe until dangerous conditions subside.





Prison Ministry in Kyiv

Viktor Shuka and the prison ministry from Obolon currently visit 5 prisons. They visit three men's prisons and two women's. They share the gospel with a total of 400 inmates. They cover 2,800 miles every month. Valera, in the yellow t-shirt came to the rehab in Nikopol through Viktor's prison ministry.

After prisoners are released, they are invited to stay at what is called an adaption home. This is like the American concept of a half-way house. The Obolon congregation has just opened a women's half-way house and has received their first resident from the women's prison ministry.

Women's Ministry in Nikopol

Prior to Russia's invasion, the church in Nikopol had a women's crisis/ alcohol rehab facility. When the violence began there was a mass exodus of women and children, while men were forbidden to leave. Our women's facility was empty for a short time, so when conditions in Nikopol became dangerous, our preacher, Slavik, and his family moved into the home temporarily.

At the same time many Ukrainians fled to western Europe, leaving their homes empty and vulnerable to looters. They often ask a kind neighbor to keep an eye on their property until they return. The Christians in Pokrovskoe have several such properties they have been left in charge of, so the church in Pokrovskoe will re-open the women's shelter utilizing one of these vacated homes, providing shelter for women like Sofia and Viktoria. Viktoria recently completed a 15-year prison sentence and asked to participate in Slavik's rehab program. Both Viktor and Slavic were encouraged she chose rehab over returning to her family. The church in Nikopol was overjoyed to be able to provide shelter while at the same time maintaining this property until the homeowner returns. In difficult circumstances, strangers become friends.



Two beautiful ladies, Sofia (left) and Viktoria.

The draft looms over Nikopol

The Ukrainian military is struggling to find enough men willing to defend Ukraine. In the beginning of June, the military began drafting men to fight. This was terrifying for the church. Our evangelist, as well as other able-bodied men were strongly urged to join the military. We are grateful they all avoided the draft. Having recently overcome addiction, their sobriety will be nearly impossible to maintain in violent conditions in the war, especially with the surprising availability of drugs and alcohol along the front lines. In special circumstances the military will even provide soldiers with drugs depending on the task they need personnel to complete.

We are asking for your prayers on the behalf of these new Christians. Some of them have recently been married, others have young families. Their names are Andre Boyko, Sergei, Andre Pechenok, Misha Pasichnik, Slavik Krishnevki, Artim Belyarov, Dmitri, Yura Senchenko, Vadim, Maksim Karas, Yura Gudima.

The Ukrainian military turned to Ukraine's prisons for the first time to recruit soldiers. So, the church in Obolon, Kyiv will be more impacted than the rehab in Nikopol.

Life goes on



Bible studies, church services and youth group continue, even with the dark shadow of war, constantly upon the church. At the time of the writing of this newsletter, Slavic had taken a number of the kids to camp Amerikraine. It was a wonderful time of encouragement for them.

Nazar, 21 years old, has a heart for the Lord. He visited the church in Nikopol and Pokrovskoe Recently and spoke with our young people.



Sunday services in Nikopol



Club Smile, (Youth group)

Andrew and Katie Green worked in the church in Nikopol from 2004-2015. They now serve the congregation together in Waukesha Wisconsin.

