



GLOBAL RECORDINGS NETWORK

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News
From Audio Vie

News flash on

Ukraine

PRESENTATION

GENERAL SITUATION

Ukraine is an Eastern European country boarded by the Black Sea on its South side, Moldavia, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland on the West side, Belorussia on the North and Russia on the North and on the East. The country extends over 1.316 km from East to West and 893 km from North to South. It totals 604.000 km² (larger than France) and its population is about 44 million inhabitants. Ukraine became independent from the USSR on August 24, 1991 and remains deeply marked by the Chernobyl catastrophe (April 24, 1996) even though the direct damages affected Belorussia. However, Ukraine still suffers collateral negative effects.

POLITICAL SITUATION

The country has been openly at war with Russia for several years.



Workers of the Baptist Church in Rivne

On March 21 2014, Vladimir Poutine officially signed the decree creating two new administrative Russian bodies on the Ukrainian soil: Crimea and the port city of Sebastopol. In addition, an armed conflict has been going on since 2014 in the Donbass region (eastern part of Russophile Ukraine closely attached to Moscow) that is seriously

deteriorating the lives of the Ukrainians. As a consequence, the self-declared/proclaimed Popular Republic of Lougnask in April 2014 (not recognized by the international community) forbade, at the beginning of this year, all humanitarian aid so necessary to the survival of its inhabitants.... Restrictive measures have also been taken against all the Evangelical Churches (Baptist, Pentecostal, Adventist...) whose members are said to be terrorists who conspire against the authorities!

THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION

- The official orthodox religion represents the majority (+/-70% of the population) but another sign of the conflict with Russia is the separation of the Ukrainian orthodox Church from the Moscow patriarchate with the consent of the Constantinople patriarchate (the highest authority in that matter) in order to become the independent, autocephalous Orthodox Ukrainian Church.... Christians represent +/- 20% of the population including 2% Protestants, across all denominations.
- Concerning the Evangelical Churches from the Eastern part of Ukraine (Donbass), their situation has become catastrophic this year: buildings devastated, Churches robbed, pastors fined, computers confiscated, Christian literature seized and humanitarian aid forbidden!



Valya using GRN material in the public schools and orphanages

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

All these politico-religious conflicts naturally breed severe economic and social troubles on all levels. In order to sustain the "war effort", the government had to take radical measures that have led the country into extreme poverty. Let's take some examples: the price of all energy resources (gas and electricity) remains very high; the liter of petrol (gas) costs over 1.00€ and inflation is rampant: in 2014, 1€ was worth 10 hryvnias (national currency); today, 1€ is worth nearly 32... Within such a severely dislocated context, let's mention two important factors:

- Many Christians from the East (Donbass) have fled the war and persecutions to settle in the West (the Rivne region that we have been regularly visiting since 2010): they arrive without any luggage or reserves and it is essential to find accommodation for them, to feed them, to take care of their health and to find them paying work in a country that is already bled white and without any economic structure.
- All handicapped people are considered as worthless population and, therefore, receive no help from the state. On top of that the

increasing number of abandoned children is impressive; their survival conditions are dramatic.

THE SPIRITUAL SITUATION

At the end of last November, we were able to visit all our Ukrainian workers. So, we went to Rivne (400 km west of Kiev). Allow us to recount some details of our various meetings, rich in spiritual intensity and fellowship. The main goal was to distribute as much useful material as possible, including solar Bibles and prerecorded radios that have been warmly welcomed and appreciated, along with the hundreds of SD cards already preformatted in numerous languages because evangelization is not limited to Ukraine (evangelization campaigns, many Bible camps, education for the young people...). In fact, their missionary teams also bring



the message of salvation to the neighboring countries and even sometimes much farther (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kurdistan, Armenia [among the Yezidis], North Korea, India, China...).

All our contacts admire the quality of the products that GRN propose for their use such as the messages in the languages that are directly necessary for them:

– Ukrainian, Russian, Tatar, Azerbaijani, Uzbek, Armenian, Kalmyk, Mongolian, Touvin, Belorussian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak, Somalian, Turkish, Arabic, Yesidi Kurd, Kirgiz, Ulghur Xinjiang, Moldavian, etc.

They all show the same desire: to faithfully witness of their commitment to Jesus-Christ and to spread everywhere, in Ukraine as well as afar, often risking their lives, the imperishable message of the cross, living testimony that we express in one of our hymns:

“... that cross, on all the world spreads its arms always farther and from everywhere voices answer to this pressing divine call.” Hymnbook “Reflets”, N° 66, verse 2.

– The missionary organization Hope to People

This institution has a Bible school aiming to train teachers, pastors and especially missionaries. Among them, several leave Ukraine to go to faraway lands, even as far as Asia. In a completely covert fashion, some even visit North Korea! In Ukraine, they take great care of the youth: participation in national contests on the Bible, organization of Bible camps, whether in a gymnasium or on the soccer field (for athletes, with the participation of a club of Christian Brazilians) or even in the classroom (learning of English).

Furthermore, they can also present Bible lessons in official public schools, schools for the deaf and for children suffering from visual deficiency as well as in boarding schools (orphanages) for abandoned children and orphans.

Conclusion: The generalized impoverishment of the people, the total negligence of the authorities towards the most deprived (widows, handicapped, orphans and abandoned children) and the extreme precariousness of the living conditions experienced by Ukrainian Christians have deeply moved us: that is why AVB has taken the initiative for the last few years to organize regular humanitarian convoys in order to bring them a little comfort and to manifest to them the Love of Christ (cf. 1 John 3.17). This year's 2018 convoy of more than 4 tons (?) included among other things 150 boxes of various clothing, sewing machines, beds with mattresses, 150 folding chairs, a large party tent (60m²), etc..., including a large amount of material for evangelization (books, CD cards).

– A State institution for abandoned children

We arrived right in the middle of their end of the year party and the headmistress asked us to

address them a message. We were touched to see the great number of abandoned children... Some of them don't even find a home among their relatives for the school holidays... Valya, a teacher from Hope to People, visits them regularly and gives them a religious education coupled with much love. Her sister and her husband Sacha have done major work on their personal home in order to welcome and take responsibility for about ten orphans when they finish their schooling.

– The headmistress of an institution dedicated to humanitarian aid

She expressed her gratitude to all of us for the material destined to handicapped people (wheelchairs, hospital beds, wardrobes, clothes...) that she was able to take delivery of the humanitarian convoy we had organized at the beginning of 2018.

– The Baptist Church if Timotheo Mulyk situated at about 100 km from Rivne.

This pastor evangelizes a lot in his region where there were no churches. Since the Lord called him to that service, two churches have been planted: one in his village (+/- 30 Christians) and another one 20 km away. Praise the Lord! He was particularly attracted by the radios.

– **About 50 deaf young people** met during their conference at Leonid Mulyk's who had asked me to give them a biblical message. Imagine the scene (cf. photo): I speak in French, Nelly translate me in Ukrainian and a young lady conveys the message in sign language to the large interested audience! Once again, Christ has conquered the Babel barriers! During this time of sharing, in spite of the difficulties, we felt such a fervor and a deep communion that we all rejoiced and were encouraged (cf. Rom 1.12).

Pastor Mulyk also takes special care of deaf orphans for they are in great danger in Ukraine: famished and without defense, some steal by necessity and are condemned to heavy prison sentences... L. Mulyk hosts the largest possible

number in order to offer them a decent life. The message of salvation is also preached: the DVD The Living Christ in Eastern European sign language is very useful for it is understood in all the ex-USSR countries.

- The pastors and elders from **The Baptist Church** attended by our worker Nelly Troyan have expressed their deep appreciation for the financial help sent by our Churches. It has enabled them to organize dozens of camps for children and to help a large number of widows and sick people from their community. In fact, many of them must undergo surgery or tough treatments in the hospital.

We have been particularly touched by the overall vision of all our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who, in spite of their own difficulties, fervently desire to help the poorest people who are often neglected by society: abandoned children, the deaf, the blind and those with poor eyesight, the handicapped... We seemed to hear the Lord's voice, so close to us: ***"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."*** (cf. Mat 25.40)

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Let us give thanks for all that is accomplished in Ukraine, and commit all our active/engaged brothers and sisters into the Lord's hands, for His only glory!
- Concerning our own activities in Belgium, we desire that a new generation manifest itself to help us and to be initiated progressively in view of a future takeover.

Michou and Pierre Blond
GRN Belgium

News flash on

Belgium



*Simultaneous translations
French/Ukrainian/Sign
language during the Conference
for deaf young people
in Ukraine.*

GRN ACTIVITIES

"Whatever your hands find to do, do it with your might..." (Eccl 9. 10)

"Everyone whose heart stirred him up to do the work." (Ex 36. 2b)

Among our multiple activities, we can mention our active participation in different Christian Conferences (AVB booth often visited and much in demand), organization of humanitarian convoys for Ukraine and the regular supply of material for those who request it, be it:

- **Private people:** Christians committed to the service of the Lord has entrusted them. Requests often come via telephone, letter or mail and are sent through the Post.
- **Missionaries:** such as, for instance Jan and his wife Printemps from Brussels, who have an overflowing activity for Christ. Judge for (by) yourselves: in the morning, they evangelize on the market place and in the afternoon, Jan visits the many refugees and migrants present in our capital city while Printemps brings the good news to the prostitutes on the North Side of town... In the evening, in their Church, they take care of the destitute and homeless people, giving them hot meals and liberating Words.
- **The translation team into sign language** for deaf people: thanks

to major restoration works, we have been able to supply an adequate space for their meetings, adapted to the requirements of such an enterprise. D. Manouvrier is in charge of this large project (a three-phase translation project of the 12 stories of the life of Jesus recorded in our magazine *The Living Christ*): this project calls for a considerable investment. She is also captivated by the various possibilities to transmit the Word of God to the blind and sight-impaired people and is looking for solutions to help them with a particular application of solar Bibles as well as new useful processes.

In general, we notice that the use of traditional CDs is gradually replaced by the new technologies such as SD cards (necessary for the deaf via the videos), the solar Bibles, programmed radios in multiple languages to make contact with the migrants, for example. The direct transmission of all messages via the social networks (Bluetooth, YouTube, Facebook...), also multiply the opportunities for evangelizing.

Michou and Pierre Blond
GRN Belgium

News flash on

Congo

A PERILOUS JOURNEY

THE VILLAGE OF KAMUNGU

This village is located 1.280 km from Lubumbashi where we live. In order to reach it, we use trucks, jeeps, trains; considering the critical state of our roads, we prefer the train, but during the dry season we often take the jeeps.

As we are in the middle of the rainy season, I went to Kamungu by train, but for my return trip I waited for the train that was stuck at the level of the Maniema province. As it wasn't coming, I boarded on a Land Cruiser. We were condemned to be bogged down in the mud. Thankfully, God guided me on the choice of transportation for my return trip as the SNCC train I was waiting for derailed and more than 20 people died.



In spite of the difficulties encountered in our evangelistic efforts, we rejoice for the fruit it has produced to His only glory. For that reason, we thank you for your financial support. May the Lord continue to strengthen us for the furthering of kingdom for "His harvest is gigantic, but there are few workers..." (the Bible).

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?

In Kamungu, we have begun to talk to teenagers and to children. As most adults go to the fields, they are only free as of 4.00 p.m. on. The Lord has blessed us by putting on our way/path a Sun-

day School teacher from the Pentecostal Church. She has really helped us in reaching young people.



John, a young person, was touched by the teaching we shared with them. He has accepted Jesus-Christ as his Lord! After his conversion, he went to share the experience of his conversion with his father by giving him a micro SD card *The Good News* in lingala. Just like John, his father decided to give his life to Jesus. In turn, he started to witness and to say how he met Christ through his son's conversion. We gave him some GRN material for the strengthening of his faith.

When we presented the slide show *Good News* with our pico projector, a woman and a man were converted as they renewing their relation with Christ. The sister Thérèse Museke has decided to attend the Community of Pentecostal Churches.

THE KASAPA QUARTER OF LUBUMBASHI

Before leaving for Kamungu, we had the opportunity of sharing the Word of the Lord Jesus by distributing Bible messages on CD, DVD and micro SD cards.

GRN organized a day seminar to train a few brothers and sisters from several local Churches in view of an evangelistic campaign based on the GRN Bible messages. We rejoiced that these Churches each sent three evangelists. After the seminar, we

evangelized through the listening of messages on Saber. Late in the evening, we showed a *Good News* film in Swahili thanks to our pico projector. The brothers, Chola and Mombela, met Jesus-Christ. As brother Mombela does not know how to read, we also gave him a mp3 New Testament on SD micro card in Swahili as well as a small adapted radio (mp3 reader).

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray with us for these new converts and for those who received the GRN messages.
- Pray also with us for my future trips and for the distribution and the witness.

NEED

We also need, if possible, Saber solar Bible audio messages and picture Books to go along with the CDs, DVDs and micro SD cards.

Umba wa Bondo Kazadi

AUDIO VIE (GRN)

Philippe Tapernoux, co-directeur

Audio Vie International

philippetapernoux@globalrecordings.net

GRN: <http://globalrecordings.net>

Belgique: Pierre et Michou Blond

blondmichou@hotmail.com

Compte: FORTIS BANQUE

IBAN: BE85 0015 8602 8206

Code BIC Fortis: GEBABEBB

France: Emma Ruel

emmaruel@globalrecordings.net

france@audiovie.org | www.audiovie.org

Banque Postale 20041 01014 087841W035 24

Suisse: Laure-Isabelle Goy

danielgoy@bluewin.ch | www.audiovie.org

CCP: 23-1299-9 Audio Vie,

2316 Les Ponts-de-Martel

Banque Raiffeisen Le Locle

CH 54 8023 7000 0127 3885 3

Graphisme et impression:

Blue Sky | Pierre-André Perrin

CH-2206 Les Geneveys-sur-Coffrane

paperrin@bluewin.ch