



# INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Building Cooperative Bridges  
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## *Equipping the Saints brings new hope!*

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Ukrainian, Pavel Kakurin, recently spent three months in the United States to learn building techniques that he's now using to build churches in his homeland.

Kakurin's visit to the United States was sponsored by Dwayne Borkholder, president of Borkholder Buildings in Nappanee, Indiana, along with International Network, a Texas-based mission organization.

"I'm here to study church design," Kakurin said in an interview a few days before he returned to the Ukraine. "I'm working with Borkholder's engineers to learn the technology and the codes."

Over the past three years, the ministry has built seven churches or church-related buildings. There is a serious shortage of church structures in the region.

"Under the Soviet Union, no churches were allowed," Kakurin says. "After the Soviet Union no longer existed, churches returned." Kakurin estimates that of the established congregation in Ukraine, only between five and 10 percent of them actually have church buildings. With religious freedoms intact, the faithful are meeting in places like theaters and schools.

However, the churches are in a midst of a crisis, Kakurin explains. Because space is in such high demand, rents are increasing. Church members realize they need buildings to call their own.

In addition to taking his new building techniques back to his homeland, Kakurin says he'll also be sharing a different business attitude with his countrymen.

"Americans have a much better attitude toward work than we do in the former Soviet Union," he says. "In the Soviet Union, it didn't matter how well you worked or the quality, everyone was paid the same salary. People don't enjoy work. But in the United States, the people I met seemed to enjoy their jobs. Work is done quicker. People care more about the quality."

He feels that by showing fellow Ukrainians that the customer is someone who needs to be valued and that work can be an enjoyable experience, he can help build better business relationships. And that, he says, can only help his mission work.

While Kakurin was the only person from the Ukraine to come to Indiana on this trip, there are plans to bring more people for building training in the near future.

### **And the results?**

Kakurin will get to test his new skills immediately. There are seven projects scheduled for this year, doubling the output of the first three years of the mission. Many of the churches he works with are small, with 200 or so parishioners, but there are mega-churches looking to add on more branches around the Ukraine.

The mission doesn't discriminate building for any Christian denomination. "Not only do we work with churches," he adds, "but this year we're working with an orphanage." New in the Ukraine is the idea of Christian Youth Camps.

"One of our pastors wants to build the youth camp and have facilities for conventions," Kakurin says. It's an exciting time, he adds. "I'm happy to live in this historical moment."

## *Becky's Recovery*

Thank you Father...I can breathe! In April, I had surgery to correct a crooked septum and remove a bone spur from inside my nose. God blessed me with a wonderful surgeon and I can breathe better now than I have in years.

Because of recovery and a couple of other medical issues, my departure back to Ukraine was delayed by a couple of weeks. But now I am ready to go and I praise God for quick resolution and speedy healing in my body!

Please cover me in prayer for wisdom and good health as I return to Ukraine on May 18th for this season of new growth and development. I am very excited about this year. God has planned great and mighty things!



## *Cindy's Thoughts*

In the Purpose Driven Life daily devotionals I receive by email, I have a favorite I'd like to share with you.

*"We all have the power, by God's Spirit within us, to help people rebuild their lives, to give hope to people in despair, to offer others a fresh start when it seems they have nothing left".* God equips and empowers us to help those he places before us. Our hearts are filled with compassion for the people of the former Soviet nations as they seek God and hope for better lives.

We, as their brothers and sisters in Christ, show compassion when we act as a voice for those who have no voice. *"Our compassion can help the powerless, the ignored, the forgotten, the defeated, and the falsely accused. We are compelled to look out for the interests of others, in particular, those in volatile or vulnerable situations"*.

Through our concerted efforts we put our talents and resources together and make a real difference for pastors, congregations, children and families who long for peace and joy. God is the one who is providing them with this new Hope. We are simply conduits. We can help them build where their meager finances can truly provide knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the multitudes. God will always multiply the blessing just as He did with the loaves and fishes.

In 2008 and beyond, we *"press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called [us] heavenward in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13b-14, NIV). Therefore, once again, we affirm our commitment to the work of the Great Commission knowing that God is the supplier of all our needs!

*Thank you, dear partners. All of this is possible because of your prayers and financial support!*

*With love,*

*Becky & Cindy*