



ON ADVENTURE WITH GOD!

**A REPORT TO
HIS PEOPLE**

Volume 02 Issue 1

The Gospel Vision Foundation, Inc. is a Christian mission group founded in 1995 by Darrell and Kay Smith as a vehicle to fulfill their God given dream of winning souls and making disciples.

DIRECTORS:

- Rev. Darrell T. Smith
- Kay Smith
- Greg Gossett, Esq.
- Dub Izzard
- Rev. Buck Smith
- Rev. P.J. Tyler
- Rev. Victor Gureev
- Rev. James P LaRose



Inside this issue:

New Directors Bringing THE light	2
Light bringers award Never beyond GOD	3
Our NEW Missionary Training Center opens	3
Meet Vadim Chorney	4
A Well of Blessing	4
Lasting Legacy	5
Help Wanted !	6

2001-A TREMENDOUS YEAR!

The Year 2001 was a year of tremendous growth, rapid changes and a whirlwind of events that has already impacted thousands of lives. Just to give you an idea of the accomplishments of 2001 I have compiled the details statically. Remember as you read these that they do not tell the entire story. Statistics do not show the faces, the families or the friends of those who have been reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These do not take into account of the ripple effect of changed lives changing the lives of others.

I believe much of the joy of heaven will be when someone comes up to you and thanks you for your part in their salvation- when they tell you about the ripple effects of what you have done.

1. A minimum of 1050 people came to Christ this year through our continu-

ing evangelistic outreach and through the work of pastors whom we support.

2- I participated in the baptism of over 200 new converts.



3.-We officially registered 3 new churches .

4-The focus of our work changed from simply supporting local pastor to that of supporting missionary minded church planters.

(Continued on page 5)

AMAZON SCHOOL OPENS

Buck Smith retired as a missionary to Venezuela after over 30 years. Oh, did I say retired? Well, not quite. Buck joined our Board of Directors last year and has continued and expanded his life's work there. The picture is much more

than a just a picture, it is the realization of a dream God gave

Buck for a pastors training school in Puerto Ayacucho. It opened last November.



Pastors & leaders at new training school

†

Bringing Light In To Dark Corners

One of the most exciting opportunities God ever gives us is to take His Message of forgiveness to people that have never before heard it.



KOSHARKA, a village of 2,500 people, was one of four such places we visited in 2001. It is a backwater collective farming community in the Odessa Oblast of Ukraine.

Since the cows come home to be milked around 5 PM we set up shop in a field adjacent to the community milking pens. With our new sound system atop the car the music began to sound the call at about 3 pm, and the village seemingly awoke. People began to gather and Jim LaRose and I began to preach to them the

simple message of God's love and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

They listened with rapt attention to the message in both music and word, and God began to work in lives. Skepticism showed on the faces of many at first, but we saw the changes take place as the Holy Spirit made real to them their sin and Christ's sacrifice.

When the invitation was given 31 people, several with tears, accepted Christ as their personal savior and we rejoiced. Two ladies in their mid 80's were among the saved and both thanked us and said that **this was the first time in over 85 years that anyone had ever preached salvation in their village.** †

NEW DIRECTORS Jim LaRose and Victor Gureev

James P. LaRose, CFRE

Jim, during his career as a development professional has assisted over 170 non-profit institutions in the U.S. and overseas. The organizations he's served include child and human welfare agencies, colleges and universities, private K-12 schools, civic organizations, mental health institutions, animal protection agencies, and fine arts coalitions. He specializes in major gifts cultivation, special events, direct mail, foundation solicitation, annual fund campaigns, capital campaigns, feasibility studies and board/staff development. Jim has worn the hats of conference speaker, development officer, and agency director, and is President of both the Association of Christian Development Professionals (ACDP) and the Western Maryland Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). He is the founder of the National Development Institute, a certificate program for development professionals committed to continuing education. He holds the Certified Fund Raising Executive certification from the AFP, and is a graduate of Indiana University's Executive Leadership Institute, Indianapolis, IN, the National



Planned Giving Institute, Memphis, TN, Tennessee Temple University, Chattanooga, TN and Word Of Life Bible Institute, Schroon Lake, NY.

After two weeks on mission in Ukraine, Jim gained a new appreciation of the work God was doing there, as well an expanded heart for winning those people to Christ. Jim brings to The Gospel Vision Foundation new abilities, ideas and structure that is vital to our reaching God's objective for us.

Victor Gureev- Director of Ukraine Since his salvation, Victor Gureev has served tirelessly as a missionary in the Odessa Oblast. He and his wife Inna began a work in Frunzovka, a former collective farming center of 5,000. Starting a church in their modest home and walking up to 20 miles to start home fellowships in other villages, they took Christ into homes and hearts of the lost.



Victor and Inna disciple the youth through their work with Awana, and have just finished building a new church in Frunzovka. This year God has led him to assume leadership of our missionary team. Since he took this responsibility he has recruited several of our new missionaries and is actively training and helping them in their work. We thank God for his willingness and dedication. **WELCOME ABOARD GENTLEMEN!** †

Our New Christian Training Center Opens in Odessa.

2001 we saw another of our long-cherished dreams become a reality. Since our first visit to Ukraine in 1991 the need for trained leadership was apparent. Every year I have held mini-workshops and training seminars for our staff. The lack of good materials in Russian has been a major drawback and to overcome this we have translated and printed two training manuals and over 100 sermons.

However 2001 brought a wealth of newly printed Russian versions of excellent theological and practical books. We purchased over \$2,000 of this material and in addition had printed the Church Planters Manuals- a three workbook series by the Church Saturation Alliance along with Basic Theology by Gene Cunningham.

Armed with this material and a

core of willing learners we began the *Gospel Vision Foundation Christian Training Center* (CTC). Located in our office in Odessa, Ukraine and staffed by Svetlana Potapenko, an English teacher and translator, along with Pastor Victor Gureev, the CTC now has an enrollment of 30 students. Much of my 'spare time' now is in developing tests over the materials.

A special thanks to Dr. J H Law and to Dr. Jerold McBride for sharing so much of their work with me. Even now it is being translated into the lives and ministry of our missionaries.

God has told us to teach others how to reach others and now this expanded work has begun. †



New Feature: "Bringing Light Into Darkness" Award



Jesus has commissioned us to go into all the world and preach the

gospel. No better way of doing this is to spread His written word.

Every year Gospel Vision Foundation distributes thousands of New Testaments that are furnished by The Gideons, Int. These are excellent for new Christians. However the need for the complete Bible is desperately hungered after by thousands of more mature Christians who are limited in their growth because they

cannot study the whole Word.

God placed in the minds of two people I had never met to help meet that need and they contacted me and asked me if I would buy and distribute The Bible to Russian speaking peoples. The check they sent allowed us to place over 1000 Bibles in Churches there. Thank you Mr and Mrs Clifford Peach of Rogersville, Tennessee! †

You're Never Beyond God's Reach!

It was hot and I had been invited to Zena's home to witness to her 93 year old father who had consistently rejected the possibility that God could or would forgive his sins. We sat under a grape arbor and talked. At 14, Ivan had been taken to Germany to work in the factories of



Ivan at 93 years discovers God's Love!

war. Walking home after the war, he had felt deserted by God and his life under communism reinforced this belief. After listening to this bitter old man I told him about the suffering of Jesus, and Christ's invitation to become His friend. Ivan laughed incredulously. I stood, put my arms

around the old man and began to pray. 'Father, Ivan really does want to know the truth. He knows the sin in his life and wants to believe that You will forgive and save him.' At this point Ivan began to shake. So holding him tighter I ask Ivan if he would ask Jesus to forgive him and give him the faith to become His child. And Ivan stepped prayerfully into Christ's embrace. †

MEET VADIM CHORNEY— Kirovograd Oblast

VADIM CHERNY- a former Baptist pastor who decided to work outside the box.

Vadim joined our staff of missionaries in August 2001, bringing with him an infrastructure which will add greatly to our ability to work and minister throughout Ukraine.

Vadim started his own church, **GRACE CHURCH**, seven years ago in his home. It has grown now to a dynamic

fellowship of over 350 members, a TV and radio ministry, 7 fledgling missionary outreach churches. They publish a monthly newspaper with a circulation of over 7,500. People are saved each week and the church continues to grow.

Vadim decided to follow Jesus, and God has led and blessed him,



and thousands through him and his ministry.

We welcome Vadim to our staff! †

A Well of Blessing

Most of the trains were reasonably comfortable. But the train to Vinnitza was slow and most uncomfortable. After 18 hours I arrived at Rev. Vladimir Otchenko's home about 11 pm the night before. I had been introduced to several families, fed and after a breathtakingly cold outdoor shower, had finally gotten into bed sometimes after 2AM. As tired as I was I could not find a comfortable position and simply could not sleep.

Just after daybreak I was still reeling from the train ride when Vladimir loaded us into the small Russian car- a Lada. I was feeling very un-Christian-like just then and we were told that a doctor wanted us to speak to the patients and staff of a rural hospital before 9 AM my first thought was, 'just what am I doing here in the backwoods of Ukraine?'

We bounced along the highway at a good clip and it was impossible to nap. Then we turned onto a dirt road and the driver slowed, but only slightly. Dust and dirt fogged into the car and I shuttered at the prospect of that cold shower, yet knew that I would choose cold water over grit, at least the water would go away- the grit would not.

So when we approached it I was exhausted, covered with dust and questioning my sanity for being there. But The Father is always so good, and when I saw the well, sitting at this lonely crossroads in Nowhere, Ukraine, I suddenly knew why I was there.

The well dramatized for me what God has called us to do.

Over the centuries God has spoken to people from burning bushes, and from clouds, with voices ranging from that of that of a thunder clap to a small hard to hear whisper. I was refreshed. Life was good. God had spoken to me from this rustic old well and had restored my soul, my purpose for living burned indelibly into my memory. *I was to be a well.*



We, as living wells, are to position ourselves along the lonely and dusty back-roads where people live lives devoid of hope. Their lives are spent in the same condition I was in that morning, exhausted and crying out for an answer to why they are where they are; their souls dusty and thirsting for the waters of life. We are to refresh them with the living waters of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Fifty-seven people in three small towns and villages drank living waters that day. Some of them have since gone on to be with the Lord. And what if- just what if I had had my way that day? And what if I had been able to nap and miss seeing the well. Oh how thankful I am that I was there that day. I am even thankful for the exhaustion and the dust. Without it my spirit may not have been ready to receive the blessing of the well.

My prayer is that God will continue to allow me to spend and be spent in the high calling of being a well of blessing. †

Tremendous Year *(Continued from page 1)*

We now support twenty-eight full time native missionary-pastors.

5-Along with the course change of supporting native missionary-pastors, our focus is to build the Body of Christ through participation in, the Home or Cell Church. The concept is not new. It was used in the early days of Christianity (Read Acts) and is today still the best vehicle for both rapid and wide-spread growth of Christianity.

6-We now have 40 strong Cell Churches meeting in homes and small rented buildings.

7-We completed the building of the mother church in Frunzovka Oblast to care for the 4 mission churches and 8 home groups she started.

8-We have increased our network base of pastors and leaders within Ukraine.

9-We have begun an affiliation with the Church

Saturation Alliance. This is a large international group that allows us to print the training materials they developed to train pastors, missionaries, and lay-leaders in the organization and teaching of Home or Cell Church groups.

10-Video church, an exciting new ministry utilizing VCR's and television to reach hundreds of people each week with the gospel. (More Later)

11-In 2000 GOD gave us a vision from which we formulated a three-phase plan which will allow the Gospel Vision Foundation to establish churches with trained native missionary-pastors in all twenty-five Oblast in Ukraine by the end of 2005. The third phase of the plan will, by the end of 2010, enable us to evangelize every major city and town and most villages with a block by block evangelistic outreach.

12-It is my pleasure to report to you that in 2001 GOD gave an increase from seventeen missionaries to twenty-eight and we have ongoing work in 15 of the 25 Oblasts. †

~A LASTING LEGACY~

We all go through life accumulating 'stuff'. Some of this 'stuff' is actually needed to maintain the standard and quality of life we are accustomed to, but much of it, on final analysis is just 'stuff.'



As parents and grandparents we are stewards of more than just stuff, we are stewards of moral and spiritual values that must be preserved and passed on from one generation to the next. In short, it is necessary that we leave our children and grandchildren more than 'stuff.'

We must also preserve and pass on to them the Christian heritage that our folks left for us. We do this, not only by funding those organizations that teach and preach the gospel, but also by setting an example of where we place our priorities. We need to actively demonstrate our faith by leaving part of our 'our stuff'- to carry on the spread of the Christian message.

They need to see first hand, that we care Enough in life, to make sure this work survives us. Planned charitable giving makes good sense for you and your loved ones. The planned giving of part of your stuff to charity actually can work to secure your future and simplify the distribution of your estate.

**SECURING YOUR
FUTURE
THROUGH
PLANNED
CHARITABLE
GIVING**

The Gospel Vision Foundation offers free information that can help you learn of new ways meet your goals and secure your future through a program of planned charitable giving. †

THE GOSPEL VISION FOUNDATION



2025 W. Beauregard
San Angelo, Texas 76901
Phone: 915-942-9989
Fax: 915-944-1699
Email: dgospel@wcc.net
www.gospelvision.org

I NEED YOUR HELP !

THIS EMAIL JUST CAME TODAY, AND WITH IT GOD HAS AGAIN CHALLENGED MY FAITH.

Feb. 10, 2002-- Dear Brother Darrell- In the name of Jesus we do greet you and bless your work! I am carrying out the Timothy Project seriously & this vision brings results. Today, I want to introduce brother Anton Chapitsky. He is 30 years old, single, had studied in Moscow in Christian College, in 2000-2001. I sent him there to study, because I saw the potential of the minister in him: He is ready to serve the Lord in a missionary: There is a great need to start a church in Znamenka (town) in Kirovograd region. There is a vision to start 4 projects in April:

1- Znamenka, Bro. Anton Chapitsky : 2- Horny vilage region of Kirovograd, Bro. Yevgeniy Alekseyev: 3- Veyolovkah village – Bro. Alexander Druchenko: 4- Malaya Viskah – Bro. Maksim Chebotarev.

I know that your funds are low and that the monthly salary expenses have risen, but Darrell, God is moving here in a great way and our people must be reached with the gospel. Please pray and ask Our Father to allow us to open these new works. I am waiting for your decision, but even more than that, my people are perishing even as I wait. With love, Vadim.

I challenge you, to join with us in reaching Ukraine for Christ.

God has given us this once in history opportunity to win this nation of 50 million people to Christ. I have never wanted to make this ministry 'about money.' Perhaps it is my pride, but Kay and I had always thought that we would be able to fund the work ourselves. But now folks, it has simply outgrown our purse, but not GOD'S!

My challenge to you is to join with us by making a commitment to invest monthly to underwrite this work. **So, yes, I am asking you for money- not for myself, but in order that lives and destinies can be changed eternally.** Just so you will know, I work at this ministry full time with no pay. We also still pay most of the expenses involved in this work, but we also realize that we cannot sustain it much longer without your help.

Some people will read this and think, 'I would really like to help but I can't give enough to make a difference,' so they give nothing. However a regular monthly investment of even \$5 WILL make a difference. I thank God in advance for your willingness to help. Darrell †

The Mission of The Gospel Vision Foundation is to birth local churches worldwide; by training, providing oversight and financial as well as human resources to indigenous people as they preach the Gospel of Grace and teach the Lordship of Jesus Christ, through a planned program of evangelism and discipleship, and church expansion.

How we fulfill our Mission:

[Spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ](#) In close cooperation with other Christian mission efforts, we attempt to seek and to save the lost both at home and abroad.

[Training Pastors & Lay Leaders](#) Our Christian Training Center in Odessa, offers distance training along with quarterly seminars to pastors and lay-leaders. Courses in theology, church planting and administration, counseling and practical Christian living. Bibles and other printed materials are provided for pastors and lay-leaders.

[Establishing Churches](#) usually beginning as home fellowships which are organized as a church. Rented buildings allow more funds for helping people. Growth through formation of sister groups in nearby neighborhoods is encouraged.

[We furnish direct Support and training to native missionaries in Ukraine.](#) The biggest impact that anyone can make is through the financial support of our missionaries in the field. For \$150 a month a full time missionary-pastor is on the field, winning souls, making disciples, and starting church fellowships. \$3 a day will support this full time soul winner and church planter.†

We're on the web
www.gospelvision.org