



the Holmes family

serving the Lord in the country of

UKRAINE



Dear Prayer Partners:

April 2020

I don't think that anyone was expecting to see what we have seen come to pass this past month. *What a wild ride it has been!* You are very well acquainted with the reaction to the Coronavirus outbreak in your "neck of the woods". Let me inform you about what has been going on here. This whole month we have been under a lockdown order which will continue until May 11th. After that date, we are told, there will be 5 stages of returning to "normal life" that will each last 10 days. All public transport is shut down except for those who have "necessary" jobs who have special government permission to work. This is really hard for most Ukrainians, who have no form of personal transport. All churches have been specifically shut down. Any group of more than 10 people is forbidden (inside or outside). In fact, they strengthened the restrictions to say that groups of more than 2 people (except in the case of a large family) cannot be together outside. If you are outside, you must have a mask on. There are lines outside of every bank, pharmacy, and grocery store (the only business that are aloud to operate right now) because only a small amount of people are aloud to be in a store at a time. There were many rumors about the city government shutting down the border of Kiev and doing through inspections for all who are entering the city, so every trip to the village has been a little nerve racking for us! I prefer to get back to my family each night! Praise the Lord, even though there are heavily armed military personnel and medical personnel in special protective suits at every entrance, and they are stopping and inspecting people, we have yet to be stopped, and yet to be inspected! Everyone is struggling financially right now. Most are out of work and the only people who get a stimulus check are those who are retired, who received a \$37 dollar check from the government.

All this does not mean that we are not currently ministering. We are still staying busy in the work despite the restrictions. In the city we cannot meet in our building, so we have been meeting in our apartments. We have a group over to our house (always over the meeting limit of 10, a couple of times we had around 20 present), and those who are not present with us join us through "Zoom", participate in the worship, share testimonies and sing, as well as listen to the message. The rest of the group that was not present for the Sunday group, we try to have over to our house during the week. We have a new family who now regularly attends our weekly meetings. **Please pray for Yana, the wife, who is very close to salvation!** I would say that around 40% of the residents of Kiev have left the city for their "dachas", so that they are not cooped up in their apartments, and life in the village is much cheaper than the city. Although most of our city group is still in Kiev, we still have several that are in that situation and are currently spread throughout our oblast (state). I am really striving to work with the men, who now have more time on their hands, to help them grow and become the Godly leaders of their families that they need to be.

We kept meeting in the village despite the lockdown, because everyone is very isolated there and comes in contact with very few people on a regular basis. However, Vasya (our main man in the village) got a call from a policeman, who warned him that the next time we meet we will be raided and everyone present will receive a \$630 fine. This is very significant, because the average family in the village makes about \$200 a month! So since that time we have not meet in the church, I go and meet with each family individually on Saturdays. On Tuesdays we now have a Bible institute for the men. We had 11 present for our first meeting (so don't tell anyone)! We are really excited about the 8 men and 1 young man, who have committed to the institute. We are desiring to see God bring up godly leaders, for His honor and glory! We had a really good inaugural session!

We also had a great opportunity to minister to soldiers this month. The captain who let us preach the Gospel to 150 of his troops in Lviv a couple of months ago, called Dima (our main man in the city), and asked him for help in purchasing masks and anti-bacterial soap for his troops, who are gearing up for going to the front lines soon. We obliged. The missionary that heads the military outreach sent some money and we purchased masks and soap for the soldiers. In every bag we placed a camouflage New Testament and Gospel literature. We are praying that God uses that as well! May God continue to use us all for His honor and Glory. *Until next month!*

By His Grace and for His Glory!
Daniel Holmes
 I Cor 15:58

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 LIBERTY BAPTIST TEMPLE
 821 GIBSON ST, MUSKOGEE, OK 74403
 918-682-9999 www.lbtemple.com
 PASTOR BILL DONALDSON
 justifiedbyfaith1978@yahoo.com

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EMAIL: holmesnukraine@gmail.com
 CELL: 918-913-0539
 MAILING ADDRESS:
 Daniel Holmes
 Maryna Tsvietaievoi, 13
 Apartment, 37
 Kyiv, Ukraine 02232