



# The Most Excellent Way

INTERNATIONAL

## “Ukraine Diary”

2003 – 2008

Missionary/Pastor John Townsend  
“Matthew 25:34-40 Ministries”

### “The Most Excellent Way” Newsletter Ukraine Reports

#### • 2003 Fall Newsletter

Missionary John Townsend emailed news from DniprD: We have made significant breakthroughs with the First Hospital. So many have responded to our work that the staff is giving us further latitude to bring Christ into the hospital, and, more explicitly, to use The Most Excellent Way program. We praise our Lord Jesus for opening this door – I pray we will be wise while it remains open.

Pastor Dan Shaw is fearful the door for the Gospel is starting to close as Ukraine is becoming more prosperous.

A drug addict was approached by one of our pastors: “I hear you have a drug problem.” “I don’t have a drug problem – I have money and there are plenty of drugs. What’s the problem?”

Unfortunately, this attitude is getting more prevalent ...

#### • 2004 Fall Newsletter

Pastor John and Susan Townsend spent last summer in Dniprodzerzhisk, helping local churches in the orphanage and soup kitchen, teaching at the church’s Bible College, and supporting TMEW program there. American Pastor Dan Shaw was introduced to TMEW at North Park Christian Fellowship, San Diego, many years ago. His church has sent Luba, and wife, Marina, to Kartaly, Russia; Pastor Mischa and Natasha to Sumy, Ukraine; and Deacon Sasah to Zaporoshia, Ukraine; to plant churches and start TMEW. Of course, their main emphasis is to preach the Gospel.

Missionary Doctors John and Ursula West visited Kiev last summer, and learned that a Christian counselor liked TMEW Russian manual so much, that he and others were making revisions, adding more scripture so they can use it help addicts in their churches. Ursula brought us a finished copy when she returned from her recent trip. The revised translation is available to anyone who wants it, however, there’s no English parallel.



## The Most Excellent Way International ~ UKRAINE Diary

### • 2004/05 Winter Newsletter

**Pastor John** reports that there are now seven TMEW meetings a week — four on the left bank and two on the right bank of the river, and a children's meeting — in **Dniprodzerzhinsk** (Dniprod). These meetings include three "family and friends" meetings that really help the parents whose children are using or coming off drugs.



The meetings are attended by an average of 60 people each week. The left bank church started the Children's TMEW meetings for the children of parents who attend meetings.

In **Bom** and another town near Dniprod, **Deacon Sasha** is starting meetings. **Luba** and **Marina** have returned after starting a TMEW meeting, a Bible study, and youth meeting in **Kartaly, Russia**.

### • 2006 Summer Newsletter

To our sorrow **Missionary/Pastor Dan Shaw** passed on recently after a lengthy illness. He did so much for the people in **Dniprodzerzhinsk**, and surrounding area.

Dan attended TMEW meetings in San Diego many years ago, and started them in the **Ukraine** where he planted his church. He developed a Bible College and trained many pastors in TMEW during their Biblical studies. A number of meetings are operating there (and in Russia) because of his ministry.

John Townsend visits there every year, and has supported Dan for the 16 years of his ministry.

Please pray for Dan's wife and children and John Townsend, as it is a great loss for all — especially his family and church.

### • 2007 Spring/Summer Newsletter

Two thousand plus exuberant people participated in the Festival of Hope via TV broadcast from Kiev in July.

The local Festival featured testimonies by people from TMEW meetings in five churches there. Over 600 people stood in front of the stage to testify of their deliverance from drugs, alcohol and other addictions through the power of Christ Jesus — this was over half the people present at the time.

Thankfully, two churches have outreaches in the First Hospital where they treat addictions. The churches adopted "The Most Excellent Way" as it has proven eight times more effective than the local 12-step program. The total number of people receiving help is much higher than the 600 mentioned above. Nearly two-thirds of some of the church congregations are former addicts.



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### • 2008 Spring Newsletter

I have noticed that the number participating in the Dependents meetings is decreasing as more people realize the total deliverance and transformational healing of Jesus Christ; how-ever, we are less successful in attracting people with dependencies into the churches.

The Ukrainian economy has been improving, with the added effect that drugs are more accessible and more affordable, and alcoholic dependence is dropping substantially across the country.

We have expanded our network in Ukraine to over 150 churches; we believe about 70 of them are sponsoring meetings based on TMEW. Pastor Andrey Yarosh is my senior pastor for Communications and Logistics and is responsible for our network of churches in Ukraine. However, the Ukrainian Family Institute [UFI], based in Kiev, has been the biggest promoter of TMEW, thanks to the endorsements of Missionary/ Drs. John and Ursula West. A majority of the churches in our network (and most of the active TMEW sponsors) are UFI affiliated churches. ■



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