

## Preacher's Pen Points

## New Work in Ukraine



In a little less than two months, Lord willing, Jim Deason and I will travel to Mariupol, Ukraine to work with a newly-formed congregation there. I want to use this means to tell you a little about this new congregation and ask for your prayers and support.

### How the church began

A little over three years ago a young Ukrainian woman and her husband, a soldier in the Ukrainian army, were transferred to Argentina. While there they came in contact with some Spanish-speaking brethren and were converted to the Lord. Immediately they began correspondence with their family back home. Through their efforts, the young lady's mother, Alexandra Sinicena, indicated a desire for someone to visit her and help her in obedience to the gospel. She also indicated that there were a number of others who were also interested in studying the Bible. Alexandra's request passed through her family to Gardner Hall who works among Spanish-speaking brethren in the northeastern United States. Gardner hearing that a group of American preachers were traveling to Tula, Russia asked if they would consider visiting Alexandra and helping her in her Bible study.

Upon their arrival, these three, Carl McMurray, Josh Creel, and Shannon Shaffer, not only found Alexandra ready to obey the gospel but several others eager

to learn the gospel as well. Over the next two weeks, eight souls would be baptized, the beginning of a new church in Mariupol. After returning to the States Carl began to urge others to help with the continued teaching. In December Vernon Love spent a few weeks teaching resulting in the baptism of five more souls.

### The Present Need

As the church gets underway there is a great need to ground these new saints in the faith and to help them overcome the obstacles of discouragement and isolation from their spiritual teachers as well as their surrounding culture. As faithful preachers go, it gives them encouragement to continue on, knowing that they will not be left alone to struggle by themselves with little knowledge or experience in the faith. Jim and I will go with the goal of strengthening these new disciples and also helping them teach others that they may invite to studies.

### Pray for the work

Just as in the Scripture the disciples sent forth their preachers with fervent prayer (Ac. 13:1ff), so I ask you to pray for Jim and me and for the work in Ukraine. Pray that God will open up new doors for the word and that He will use us to encourage the new disciples and reach others as well.

—Johnny Felker

