

SEPTEMBER 28, 2008

THE \$1,000,000 SUNDAY

THE BIBLE. WE WANT EVERYONE TO GET IT.

"THE STORY."

Government officials in the state of Donetsk (Donbass), Ukraine have been instrumental in opening the door to get the Bible in the public schools of the state. Here is a short summary of how it happened.

**"YOUR LITERATURE IS THE BEST. PLEASE GIVE IT TO THEM. THEY NEED IT."
— MINISTER OF RELIGION, STATE OF DONETSK (DONBASS).**

In October of 2007, Richard Baggett, EEM's Vice President for Advancement, met with the Minister of Religion for the state of Donetsk. This meeting was arranged by EEM's lead employee in Ukraine, Natasha Tsvyashchenko and her husband Nick, who was a schoolboy friend of the Minister. Richard and the Minister of Religion discussed EEM's literature, various programs and several possible activities EEM could undertake in the Donetsk area.

During the meeting, the Minister of Religion said, "EEM's literature is the best of any group working in the State. There are two reasons for this. One, it is good quality. Two, it is not confessional." He then explained what he meant by confessional. He said, "Your literature does not try to argue against other religious groups or try to get people to follow a formal set of religious procedures. Your literature just presents the Bible as the Word of God, tells what it means and calls people to live by it." Then he said, "There are 49 religious groups working in this State. I have a request. Would you provide samples of your literature to the other groups? They need it."

THE PRESIDENT HAS A REQUEST. THE NEXT DOOR OPENS.

The next series of events was triggered by the President of Ukraine. Ukraine is new as a democracy, so the President declared a national holiday to celebrate Ukraine and help unify the country. It is called St. Andrew's Day. The President asked government officials across Ukraine to undertake some positive initiative in their area to improve life in Ukraine. Local officials in Donetsk were trying to think of something to do to respond to the President's request.

"YOU DID IT IN FOUR DAYS. NOBODY DOES THAT."

At this point Natasha approached the Minister of Religion with an idea. What if, she asked, we put Bibles and Biblical literature in all of the prisons of the state. The Minister of Religion liked the idea and set up a meeting with officials of the Ministry of Justice. They also liked the idea, but asked, "How much will it cost?" Natasha said, "It won't cost you anything. EEM will provide the materials and deliver them." The officials really liked the idea then! So, Natasha and the EEM staff in Donetsk delivered Bibles and Biblical literature to all 20 prisons in the state, which hold over



20,000 prisoners. Natasha and Alexander Prokopchuk (who is the speaker on the weekly nationwide television show) were escorted by Ministry of Justice officials into each prison. After all of the deliveries were made, the Minister of Religion said, "Many groups have promised many things, but none of them came through the way you did. You not only did what you said you would do, you did it in four days. Nobody does that." As a result of this effort, we might add, Alexander has a regular Bible study now in one of the prisons.

ENTER THE MINISTER OF CULTURE.

After the Bibles in the prisons episode, the Minister of Religion told the Minister of Culture what EEM had done. The Minister of Culture is in charge of all after-school programs for children and all public libraries in the state, among other things. The Minister of Culture had a request. He asked: Would EEM put its literature in all 738 public libraries in the state? EEM said yes. The Minister of Culture said EEM could advertise that our literature was available in the libraries AND that EEM could put information in each Bible and book that told what other literature EEM had and that the readers could request the material by contacting us at our address in Donetsk, which we gave them.

In return for putting Bibles and Biblical literature in all of the libraries, EEM told the Minister of Culture that we had a request of our own. We asked the Minister of Culture for an introduction to the Minister of Education because we wanted to get our Bibles and Biblical literature in the schools, as we had done in Russia.

THE MINISTER OF RELIGION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE WRITE THE GOVERNOR.

The Minister of Religion and Minister of Culture wrote a letter to the Governor recommending that EEM put Bibles and Biblical literature in all 1,188 public schools of the state. The Governor signed his approval on the letter and sent it on to the Minister of Education.

THE MEETING THAT WAS OVER BEFORE IT BEGAN.

On January 30, 2008, Dr. Mike Armour, President of EEM; Richard Baggett, Vice-President for Advancement; Natasha Tsvyashchenko, Lead Translator and Director Special Projects, EEM-Ukraine; and Bart Rybinski, Vice-President of EEM Operations in Europe, went to a meeting set up two weeks before with the Ministry of Education. Upon arrival, we learned that the Minister was on vacation and that we would be meeting with the Deputy Minister of Education.

Disappointment is not a strong enough word to describe our feelings. Then about halfway through the meeting, Natasha revealed that it was really a good thing that we were meeting with the Deputy Minister. That is because the Deputy Minister is in charge of implementation of projects. We did not know when we went into the meeting that the project had already been approved and we were already beginning to work out logistics of implementation!

Mike Armour told the Deputy Minister that when we put Bibles in Russian schools, within a year or two we begin seminars to train the teachers. The Deputy Minister immediately said, "Oh, you want to train our teachers? You can begin this fall, if you want to, even before all of the Bibles are delivered. In fact, that might help the teachers be even more interested to use their Bibles and literature when they arrive." The deal was done and the door is open.