

MISSIONS: HOME AND AWAY

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*Thank
You!*

There is a familiar twist to an old child's cartoon jingle which goes like this: "I owe, I owe, it's off to work I go." Those words fit my motivation for mission work so well. I owe such a great debt of gratitude to the Lord that I fully desire to say with Paul, "Woe to me if I don't preach the Gospel."

I am so thankful to Renewal Ministries for taking care of all the expenses for these mission trips and to all of you who support our ministry with your financial help and donations. My body may not respond as quickly as it did in the past but my spirit is more willing than ever to do the Lord's will.

CHANGE OF ITINERARY

This month's mission was scheduled for Ukraine/Belarus and that had to change. Last year while working in Belarus I was interviewed by a newspaper reporter, which takes place on most of my mission trips. Like Russia, Belarus requires a visa for Americans to visit. There is no problem obtaining a tourist visa; any other visa causes long delays so I always choose a tourist visa. In the newspaper interview I mentioned I was teaching and a government official who read the article called the local bishop and told him that my visa did not permit me to teach. The bishop told the person who invited me that I may be arrested if I returned this year. Consequently, at the last minute, we contacted some friends in Lithuania to set up some meetings for me and my schedule was completely filled.

AUGUST MISSION TO UKRAINE

I landed in Lviv, Ukraine, a city close to the Polish border. The largest population of Catholics live in this area of Ukraine. Andrzej Lewek picked me up at the Lviv airport. Andrzej is a Polish friend who has assisted me many times in the past. He

drove seven hours to pick me up then drove for two more hours to the city of Drohobichy.

We were welcomed by Fr. Igor Kozankiewich, the head of Caritas center along with Fr. Igor Shved, a Greek Catholic priest. I was then asked to teach and pray over 60 people in their community. After that we attended a Greek Catholic Mass. It was over 90 degrees that day and I had been awake for over 40 hours. I actually fell asleep standing up and almost fell over. I don't sleep on planes at all and I think I have to plan on not working as soon as I arrive on the initial mission.



Pilgrims

The following day there was a pilgrimage walk with over 400 pilgrims setting out on a 150 mile walk over an eight day period. I met up with them at lunch time on the first day and gave a talk and asked them if they wanted personal prayer and just about everyone came forward to receive.

The next day we drove to Zytomir to Divine Mercy Parish which was about a 5-hour drive. Approximately 70 people were in the hall for the teaching and they all wanted to be prayed with. Fr. Jaroslaw Olszewski was very encouraging and asked if I would pray over people after each Mass on Sunday, and I gladly did. I was also asked to visit

some Benedictine nuns. At the end of the last Mass they drove me to their monastery.

There were 25 sisters waiting for me. They expected a teaching and to be prayed over. I hadn't prepared a teaching but the Lord provided me with more than enough to say and the prayer afterward was very blessed. They even invited a few family members to join us. I then had to rush back to the parish for the end of 7:00 pm Mass.



Benedictine Nuns

On Sunday, August 16th, I continued praying over everyone after each Mass. That included five Sunday Masses plus the people were calling their friends telling them to come and receive prayer.

At 3:00 pm they arranged for a men's meeting and 70 men attended and all stayed after the teaching for a question/answer session and to receive prayer. That meeting lasted three hours.

The next day we had a seven-hour drive to Kiev, but before we could leave the Benedictine sisters they asked me to return for Mass, prayer, and breakfast. All the sisters asked for prayer a second time! Two of them received physical healings and several received emotional healings.

We then were off to Kiev. When we arrived we stopped at Maria Radio for a 40-minute interview. Following that I had an hour interview with a Catholic newspaper reporter, followed by a 1 ½ hour interview with a secular newspaper woman. As I was being interviewed I was trying to evangelize the reporter. I left her not quite positive about her conversion, but I believe I will receive a favorable report in the future.

That evening there were 50 male leaders and one religious sister in attendance for my talk and a question and answer session. Fr. Blazej Suska, the provincial for the Franciscan Capuchins in Ukraine, introduced me. He told them all to listen to me because I was responsible for his becoming a charismatic priest.



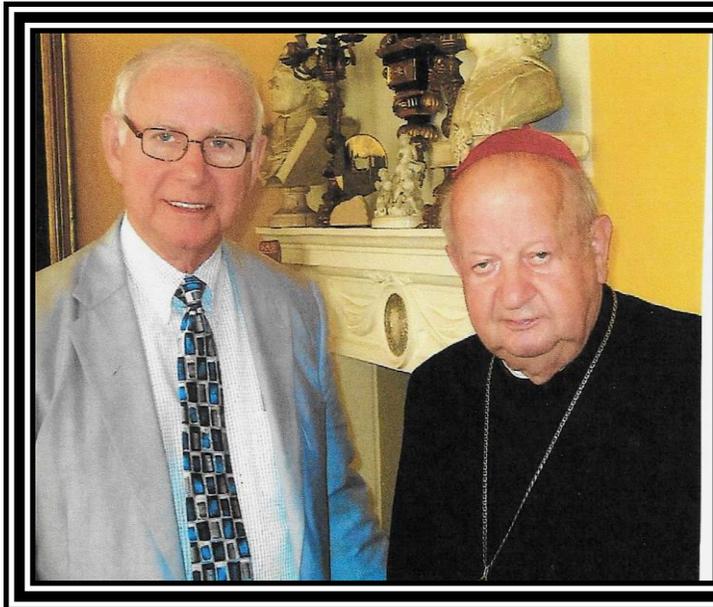
Andrzej Olenchuck

We slept in Andrzej Olenchuck's home. He is the leader of Marantha Community and his day job is on the board of finances (like our federal banking) for Ukraine. He told me the exchange rate for the Ukraine Grivna is now 22.7 to 1 dollar and the last time I exchanged money it was 5.5 to 1. The war is hurting everyone! Half the people I prayed with asked for an end to the war. We had to get up at 3:00 am in order to drive 12 hours back to Krakow, Poland to meet with Bishop Gazgoaz Rys for supper.

The original plan was to fly to Belarus from Kiev but that all changed and I had an opportunity to have supper with Bishop Rys, who is the bishop responsible for evangelization for all the dioceses in Poland. I have preached for him in the past and I will be going to Poland in October to preach for him again. We did conduct a little business during supper but the visit was mostly a social one. Bishop Rys is a brilliant man and also an extremely approachable person. It was great to be able to talk

with him about the saints, the early Fathers of the Church, or the business of the Church. He is so well informed and open to the Holy Spirit. I will miss spiritual direction from the late Archbishop George Pearce. These times with Bishop Rys are spiritually invigorating. At the end of our time together the bishop asked if I would visit him for a half hour the next day because he knew I was going to visit Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz and they reside in the same building.

The next day we did meet with Cardinal Dziwisz to give him some updates and we received a great deal of encouragement from him. The Cardinal promised to assist us in Poland and in Rome. After visiting Poland for 21 years I may be mixing Polish blood with my Irish blood!



Don and Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz

We were able to meet again with Bishop Rys for a half hour. He is very interested in building a good relationship and I am equally interested. That night we met with 50 men and I taught about receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and 20 men came forward for that grace. I prayed over all the men for their needs and it turned out to be a truly blessed night. We didn't get to bed until 11:00 pm and I had to get up at 2:00 am to drive to Lithuania, but what a privilege to serve the Lord!

LITHUANIA

Because of the last minute change in visiting Lithuania instead of Belarus, things were not always well organized. Also, August is not a good time to get a group together with so many away on holidays. We did meet with 20 men to teach on discipleship on Thursday. Friday and Saturday we gathered with 7 leaders for a retreat and an additional leader did come from Belarus. It was good to have that personal time with each man. We had one Olympic basketball player in the group who spoke English very well. Overall they were very accomplished men who should produce good fruit for the Kingdom of God.

On Sunday we met with the Community, which consisted of 25 people and mostly women. We attended Mass, I gave a teaching and offered prayer ministry. That evening I spoke at the Franciscan Church where I had been staying. Fifty people attended and I taught and prayed with everyone in the church. Fr. Tomasz knew me from six years ago in Ukraine and he was very kind to both me and Andrzej.



If you would care to support our ministry, it would be very much appreciated. Please send your gift to the following address:

*PGS Mission Fund
218 Paris Irons Road
Glocester, R.I. 02814*

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DON AND PAT**

MEN'S RETREAT - MOSJI

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For more information, call Don Turbitt at (401) 568-7601/02

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Putnam, CT 06260

(860) 928-7955

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