



# CHURCH PLANTING PROJECT

## Crimea, Ukraine

Report by Peter Paluch (July 2010)

### Crimea Project Officially Launches

After two years of project Development - building relationships, visiting target communities, meeting and interviewing prospective church planters - the Crimea Church planting project officially began in January of 2010. We began with 10 church planters and are hoping to see that grow to 15 -18 over the next two years.

In January we conducted the first of six training sessions scheduled for this year. I traveled to Yalta and led the training together with Greg Swinamer. We had two days of strategic study, prayer and fellowship. One thought that resonated with these leaders was how to effectively impact the lives of the



Some of the project leaders



Speaking with church planters

community. A number of them shared how God opened the door to minister where they live because they have engaged in the life of their town. Going to schools to share about moral foundations for life, caring for the poor, taking a leader's role in the community proves to be the way that God pours out His blessing.

In March Judith Linnell conducted short-term missions training for the church planters preparing them to receive mission teams. This was a very beneficial session and the fruit was evident when the first team arrived in April.

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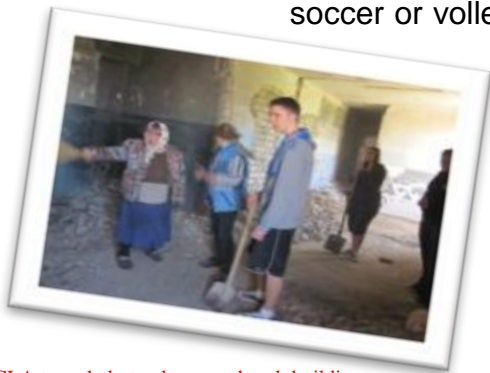
## CLA Intern Mission Trip in Crimea

A team of 26 interns from Christian Life Assembly was to arrive on April 15 but the volcano eruption prevented us from crossing the Atlantic. It was truly a miracle to get 26 tickets on another flight just a few days later. We arrived in sunny Simferopol almost a week late where we spent one night. The following morning we divided into 3 groups and traveled to various places to minister together with the newly appointed church planters. And what a time it was! These teams went to schools sharing with the young Crimeans about life in Canada, and then challenged them to a Canada-Crimea game of soccer or volleyball. Following the game was usually an appeal for salvation.



Outreach on the Street

As a result lives were changed and relationships established. In some places team members distributed food hampers to needy families and did community projects, which made a great impact on the community. Many could not understand why these young people would pay their own way to come so far to do something for Crimean people. One of the team members after a day of such ministry put it this way “This was the best day of my life”. Having teams come and minister in whatever capacity yields enriching rewards.



CLA team help to clean up church building.

Leadership Training Conference

## Leadership Training Conference

As part of their training curriculum the church planters attended our semiannual Advanced Leadership Training Conference in May. Anointed speakers from England and Canada presented the Word and challenge to church planters, pastors and leaders of mother churches. There is a sense of unity among these people uncommon in these parts of the world.



Pastor Dima of the Simferopol Church & Peter

## The Crimean Challenge

Crimea as an autonomous republic of the Ukraine is facing economic setbacks. In some parts where industry is struggling with significantly diminished economic output, people have not been paid for months. However, in the midst of this trouble people are coming to Jesus. Despite the economic problems leaders have a huge passion to reach Crimea.





The Bilik Family

It is an honor to know these men and women who give up so much to serve. They are passionate in bringing people into the Kingdom. Among the church planters is a psychologist, some former managers of companies, businessmen, and people who are eager to see the Kingdom expanded. One of them is Volodia Bilik who pastors the Simferopol church. Just recently Volodia and Irina adopted two children. They are involved in an organization called Moya Rodyna (My Family)

which places orphans in families.

### Short Term Missions Teams Needed

Scheduled for this year are teams going to Crimea from many places and we need your prayers as Judith, Alex, and the teams arrange their schedules. I would like to encourage you and give you opportunity to come with the team this year and the next. Much can be accomplished for the Kingdom through a team. This has been demonstrated to me over and over again with the teams from CLA. What a wonderful opportunity to sow into the lives of this nation! May God give you much grace as you are getting ready to come!



Working on bringing services to newly acquired property.

### Peter Paluch – Project Leader

The Crimea Church Planting project represents the first time that NLI has employed the concept of an Operations Center to execute a project. In this project, Christian Life Assembly (Langley, BC, Canada) is working in partnership with NLI to oversee the Crimea project. Peter is CLA's key project representative and will oversee the work in Crimea working closely with NLI personnel.



Peter has been involved in Ministry in Eastern Europe for many years, and speaks both Polish and Russian fluently. He was the Director of a Bible School in Russia and ministered there between 2000 and 2007.

Prior to that, Peter served as a missionary in Tanzania, Africa planting churches, raising leaders, and doing capital development projects there between 1983 and 1996. He also is a graduate from Regent College with a Masters in Christian Studies.

Peter and Arlene have two sons; Jonathan (26) and Josh (23). They live in Surrey, BC and have been a part of Christian Life Assembly for the past 7 years. His current involvement there is to coordinate short-term mission teams as well as participating in church planting projects in Eastern Europe.

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