



Ann Hayner <ann.hayner@gmail.com>

FW: Winter Prayer Letter 2019

1 message

Ken Largent <klargentwhbc@yahoo.com>
To: Ann Hayner Cell Hayner <Ann.Hayner@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 6, 2019 at 8:11 AM

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Missionary Derek Thomas](#)
Sent: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 4:18 AM
To: [klargentwhbc@yahoo.com](#)
Subject: Winter Prayer Letter 2019

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February 6, 2019

Dear Praying Friends,

How can we describe the honor that God has given to us to be his ambassadors and to participate in full time Christian ministry? Paul said, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me. . .putting me into the ministry." We were reminded of our call this past week during the winter

session of SBI. Part of our homiletics class included a section on the call to preach. We examined some Biblical characters who each received personal and distinct calls from God. It reminded us of our call to leave the business world, our ambitions and launch into full time Christian ministry. As we look back over almost 25 years, we see clearly that it was not a calling of duty or obligation, but of grace and privilege. **Nothing has brought a greater sense of purpose or a deeper perception of satisfaction to our lives than fulfilling the call and ministry given to us.**

Our hearts were overcome this past week not only in remembering our calling, but in seeing the calling of a younger generation to proclaim His Word. As part of the homiletics course, men were asked to prepare messages and preach them before the class. Each preacher was a blessing and thrilled our souls. One who participated was a deaf student named Osman. What a blessing to see him sign his message and then hear his passion for the Lord and His Word communicated back to us verbally through an interpreter. Another of the students who participated, Sergei, was from the war-torn area of Donetsk. His church, recently closed by the Russian separatists and their building requisitioned, is now forced to meet in homes. **It is a blessing to see a younger generation taking the mantle upon themselves to answer God's call and proclaim His Word no matter the cost or physical limitation.**

Recently the Lord has been especially burdening our hearts for local church ministry and for a church plant in Kyiv. **Please pray with us for grace, wisdom and power for our team as we seek the Lord to birth and call out an assembly unto Himself.** As we continue our other institute ministries, we ask for your prayers for next month's session of SBI Advanced. Pray for pastors and church leaders to be challenged, and edified. We praise the Lord for the honor bestowed upon us to serve Him in each capacity He calls. We recognize your partnership in our calling. God has given us a work to do, and through your prayers and assistance God is aiding us in completing our call. **Thank you for being conduits of God's grace and for sharing in His calling for our lives and ultimately for His glory.**

For the glory of Christ in Ukraine,

Derek and Julie

P.S. If you'd like to receive our prayer letter to print, and are not already doing

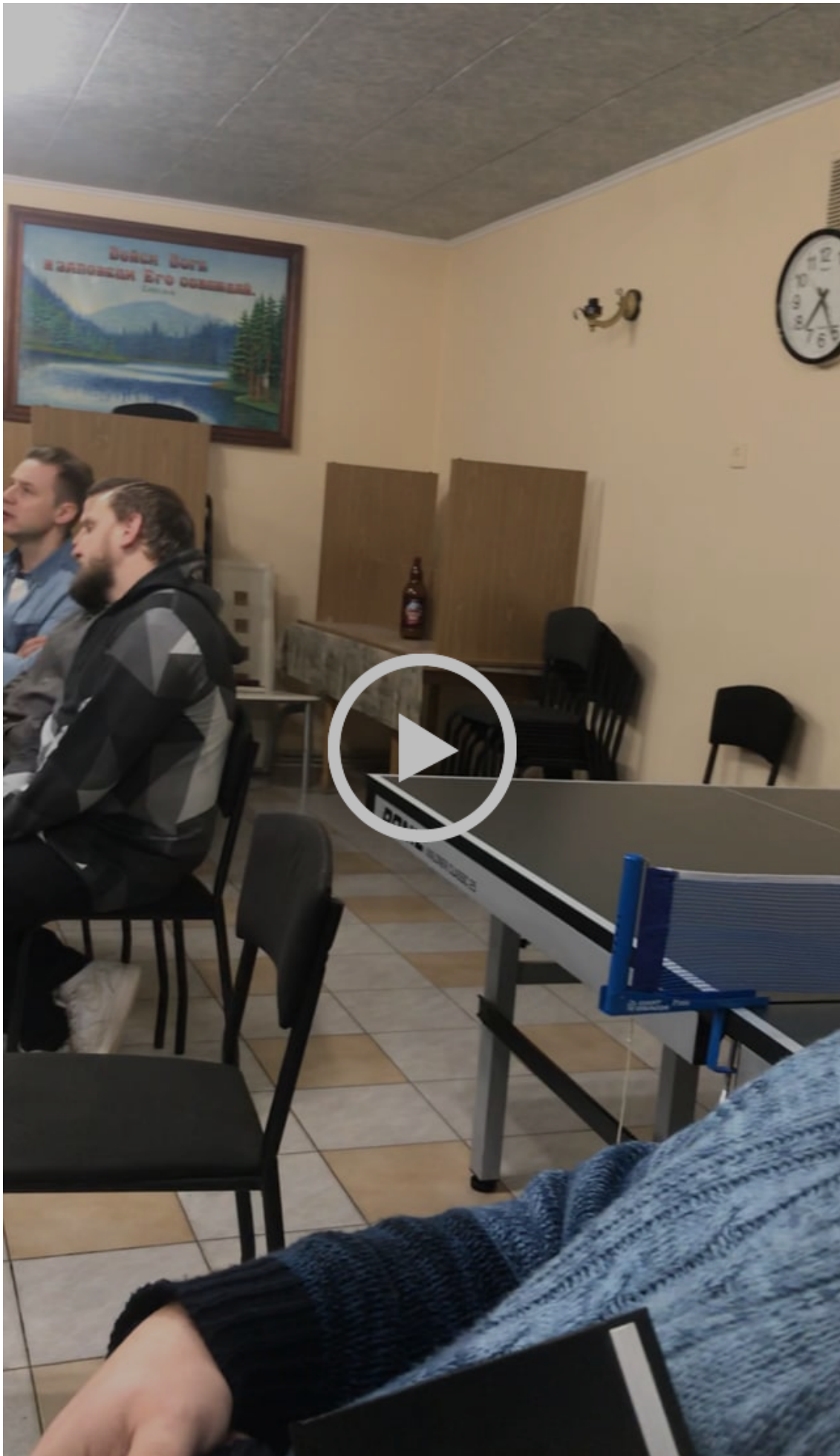
so, please send us an email and we'll get one out to you.
Also, don't miss our photos and video below!

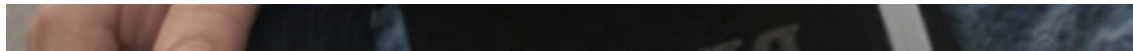


Our student body for winter session 2019 at Slavic Baptist Institute. It included 5 new students, one returning student from Lithuania and the balance of students from various parts of Ukraine, including the area now controlled by Russian separatists.



To the right are two deaf students from our winter session. The young lady below is Ira our deaf interpreter at SBI. Osman, who preached in our homiletics course, is just in front of me next to our Vice President, Carl Lendermon. Pray for these men as they are used of God to reach a very unique people group in Ukraine, the deaf. Pray for more like them to train for this most precious and important work!





On Monday evening of our winter session, we enjoyed a time of fellowship with the men. We ate (notice the empty pizza boxes) sang, and heard from God's Word about being a man of God. The song they are singing is of God's greatness and that there is no other like Him!



One of our homiletic students, Bogdan, preaching in class. Pray for the Lord of the Harvest to give and call more for a harvest that is great, white, and ready!



The students received an especially special blessing on Thursday evening of our session as Julie made her now world famous American borscht (chili) with corn bread! The young lady assisting is Sveta who cooks for our student body and staff during each session. She is a great blessing to the ministry of SBI.



Ukrainians have "Christianity," but they need Christ. There is a gospel being preached that includes celebrations at Christmas and Easter, but its another gospel filled with the bondage of earning God's favor through works and religious deeds. Please pray with us for the power of the true gospel to pierce the darkness of false Christianity and for Ukrainians to be brought to the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls. We covet your prayers for our church plant ministry in Kyiv.



Our field mailing address is:

Derek and Julie Thomas
Akademika Viliamsa str. 5, ap. 34
Kyiv, Ukraine 03189

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