

May 2019

**From: Howard Frost, IMC Team Member; Caring for the Vulnerable
Scottie Griffin, IMC Team Leader; Proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior**

**Re: An Overview of the April 15, 2019 Dinner Meeting with Roman Matviyiv and
Oksana Savka, Missionaries, European Christian Mission International (ECMI)
ECMI)/New Hope Ukraine**

Following is a summary provided by Roman and Oksana of how their ministries began in Ukraine and the effective strategies they continue to implement to lead others to accept and proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior, and to care for the huge number of orphans in the country.

First, Roman commented that while New Hope-Ukraine was not one of the original countries of New Hope International, in the recent past it has had of the most active ministries.

In its early days ECMI/New Hope-Ukraine operated a Bible-study radio program for teens and young adults, and the staff answered more than a hundred letters per week that they received from the participants. When responding to participants' questions ECMI ministerial staff encouraged them to become involved in their local churches and paired them with mentors in their Bible study classes.

Because of the success of the Bible-study radio program, ECMI New Hope began sponsoring Bible clubs for young people on Sunday evenings. Parents who transported their children also began participating in the program. Consequently, interest in the Bible grew and new churches were formed because of the outreach.

In addition to discussing spiritual issues with teens and young adults, ECMI/New Hope-Ukraine's ministerial staff also conducted presentations in schools focused on abstinence from drugs, sex, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and learning to play musical instruments. Implementation of the aforementioned programs resulted in ECMI/New Hope-Ukraine's reaching more than thirty thousand young people.

Roman stated that he utilizes Sunday school materials translated by New Hope/ECMI staff in their Lviv office when communicating with non-English speaking students. His wife, Iryne, is familiar with the program and helps with the process.

Finally, Roman articulated that the ECMI/New Hope-Ukraine team does business in Ukraine as the "Social-Christian Education Organization"-- a faith-based family ministry that provides outreach services throughout Ukraine. Students' parents and the general public who receive assistance from ECMI/New Hope Ukraine usually express a desire to become more familiar with spiritual principles. The organization is comprised of twenty staff members and several hundred volunteers.

Following Roman's presentation, Oksana, Roman's sister, talked about the decision she and her husband Peter, a Baptist minister and pastor, made to adopt a child after having one naturally.

Oksana noted that their decision to adopt led to the initial organization of ECMI/New Hope-Ukraine's adoption program/ministry.

Oksana further stated that to date ECMI/New Hope-Ukraine's adoption program has been operating for approximately fifteen years with the ultimate focus of helping Christian families adopt orphans.

In executing the adoption process, prospective parents are interviewed carefully to ascertain if they meet the established criteria for adoption. Then following a successful adoption process, ECMI/New Hope-Ukraine continually provides training and support twice annually for adoptive parents. The training is conducted by Christian experts from the United States and varied regions within the country of Ukraine. Additionally ECMI/New Hope-Ukraine sponsors a total of six-day camps for the children and their families during various times of the year. The cost of sponsoring a child for camp is ten dollars/day.

To date the adoption program has sponsored and assisted approximately two hundred families to adopt 500 children, and there is currently a waiting list of couples who want to adopt.

Following Oksana's presentation she and Roman answered questions from the NPC participants regarding their ministerial activities. Oksana and Roman also spoke briefly about their fundraising needs, which are always shared with churches in the United States who support their ministries.