

TRIP TO UKRAINE

1-12 April 2008

PURPOSE OF THE TRIP

A team of about 75 people from Singapore (including a few from Indonesia), led by Pastor George Annadorai of Shalom Singapore, visited Ukraine from 1-12 April 2008. The purpose was to attend an international conference in Kyiv (attended by about 10,000 people), as well as to visit Odessa, a city and a port by the Black Sea. The conference was organized by the largest and most influential church in Europe, a mega-church of over 25,000 members. The ancient city of Kyiv (or Kiev in Russian) has an uninterrupted history of over 1500 years. Ukraine gave birth to the Russian civilization and has produced 14 Nobel Prize winners.

This church is called the Embassy of the Blessed Kingdom of God for All Nations. The members are predominantly white people but the founder and pastor is a black Nigerian, Pastor Sunday Adelaja, who speaks very fluent English and Russian. This is most amazing. Sunday Adelaja clearly has divine anointing and authority, and people within Ukraine as well as people in many other countries are listening to him. The church was also celebrating its 14th anniversary. Within this period of 14 years, a mega-church has been planted in Kiev, as well as over 700 other churches in Ukraine, and over 700 churches in 35 other countries. Over one million people were recorded saved through the ministry of the church in the last 8 years. The church reaches more than 8 million people through TV and other weekly outreaches. We witnessed the ordination of about 500 pastors during the conference.

CHURCH SHIFT

Sunday Adelaja has written about 85 books in Russian and 20 books in English. His key book is "ChurchShift", which is the number one seller among Christian books (in Amazon.com) and summarizes his key principles and practices.

Sunday has an **intense passion for God** and for putting into practice the principles of the Kingdom of God as found in the Bible. The church must go beyond the four walls, and be relevant in society. He trains his church members **to become "deliverers"** (Obadiah 17-21). He challenges each member to find the passion and destiny God has for him/her, and to develop and implement a suitable program. Examples:

1. Natasha was an alcoholic when she was saved and delivered from alcoholism at the age of 47 years under the ministry of Sunday Adelaja. Since then, she has **ministered to alcoholics and drug addicts**. She started a movement which has grown greatly over the years. Over 40,000 have come for help, and over 10,000 have been saved. At the age of 59 she went to Germany to plant a church, and today (two years later) the church has over 3000 people, consisting mainly of ex-alcoholics and drug addicts.
2. Another church member, Alexander Korman, founded an institute to promote family values: **The Institute of Fatherhood**. He wrote a textbook for fatherhood, wrote a curriculum for family values and implemented a training program. Today the textbook has been adopted for schools in Ukraine, and the program adopted and sponsored by the government in Ukraine. Couples to be married are now required to go through the program. About 45,000 people have gone through the program, and they carry family values to the country. The program is also impacting the nations today. This is all the work of one church member, who was properly trained and mentored.
3. Today there are **over 3000 such projects** in the church, reaching out to people including children, the disabled, the homeless, the mafia, and the prisoners. Political and Senate leaders are

members of the church. The Embassy of God is unwaveringly implicated in the **transformation of all strata of society**; church members are involved in schools, factories, banks, arts and media, sports, and other social groups of society. Thousands of mafia members have come to the Lord through the activities of the church. The church's hotline has counseled over 70,000 people, of which 1500 are now church members.

SOME KEY PRINCIPLES

Pastor Sunday Adelaja is raising up a kingdom of kings and priests. He is "**addicted to the purposes of God**". He **raises up others to become "kings"**, using himself as a ladder. Each member will own his or her vision, and will each develop a whole movement with its own leaders. In this way each member discovers, follows and fulfils his or her own destiny, with the result of impacting the society and the nation.

Sunday teaches his members not to go out and preach, but to first **give solutions to existing problems**. He teaches them by his own example **to love others**. When the people become your friends, you can then lead them to salvation in Jesus Christ.

The church has a whole series of **schools to equip his members**: the School of Redemption (for new Christians), the ABC School (to teach the fundamentals of the Christian faith), School for discovering the potentials of the members and their calling, School for leaders, School of ministry, School to teach the Bible, and a Pastor's School.

During the first three years of the church, Pastor Sunday could not get any European saved. His own **breakthrough in his ministry** started when he left the pulpit and went to the streets to look for the outcasts. When he reached out to them, doors opened up wide for ministry. Natasha, mentioned above, was one of his early fruits. God honored his sacrifice with supernatural anointing. When he prayed for drunkards and addicts, they would suddenly wake up from their stupor. The power of God would descend on them so strongly that they would be set free in an instant. In one year the church grew to a thousand, and has been growing by the thousands ever since. After the third year, respectable people including wealthy people, influential people and the politicians began to join the church. Today, the mayor of Kyiv, the Supreme Court chief justice and about 20% of the city parliament are members of the church.

REFLECTIONS ON THE TRIP

We saw in Ukraine a **mega church in the capital city of Kyiv** impacting the city, the nation, and other nations. This is not only a **revival**, but a movement resulting in **transformation of the nation**. It is a **new model for the church**. In my view, this is **a movement greater than the Reformation**. The Reformation was great, as it brought people to a genuine salvation in Christ, justified by faith and not by works. The Reformation, however, did not lead to a clear understanding of personal destinies, as well as God's purposes for Israel and the nations. Martin Luther had faulty understanding of God's purposes for Israel that prepared the German church to agree with Hitler's views which led to the holocaust. **We encourage everyone reading this short report to be part of this new move of God**. Read Pastor Sunday's book on ChurchShift. Pastor George Annadorai will be leading a team again to attend the conference in Kyiv in April 2009. Make plans to join the team. His email is george@shalomsingapore.org

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