

Love, Hate, and Directions in our Lives

"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed." [Psalms 2:2]

For 24 years I've lived in the USA after leaving the Ukraine. My mission is to help people grow spiritually, often done materialistically. Having just returned from visiting the Ukraine April 19 for 2 months, I remember my US and Ukraine friends asking me: "Oh, what did you do? Why did you come to the Ukraine in such difficult and dangerous time?" My answer is that the most dangerous time for me was during 1982-1989 when I was persecuted by my own communistic-scientific (father) family for my religious actions since my parents recognized me as a real Christian.

This story is documented in 300 pages of my book "Only about the love of God" (see <http://www.amazon.com/dp/1615799168/> for details). Now I have a small, non-profit newspaper called "Bible's Word."

As soon I arrived back in the Ukraine, my people asked me in a joking way "where's the camouflage (uniform) of NATO, and American weapons for us?" They say that Obama and Europe are too slow to help Ukrainians. I am originally from South West of Ukraine, a very nationalistic area, where Russians will never try to occupy our Carpathians, a beautiful Mountainous land. It is Stephan Bandera's area who is considered a very strong leader a very strong nationalist during World War Two and right after.

Many pro-Russians were brain washed, thinking anyone speaking Ukrainian is a follower of Stephan Bandera, killer of Russians. Yes, we want to live like in Europe and USA or Canada, and have such employment with pensions and benefits like in normal western countries! Look how in western Ukraine people try to live like landlords; we take care of our soil/ground, gardens, etc.

But talking about my own newspaper, which I publish in three languages (Ukrainian, Russian and English), I express the love to all nations on earth and under the sun. As for me, I don't treat any differences as in the eyes of God, but it doesn't mean I want Ukraine to join back to Russia. However, I see Russia's "imperialistic ambitions" that someone wants to impose a communistic government control. People are people; some just have in their blood the love of war! Just give them the reason to fight!

I do remember this "wild patriotism" which was developed by the communistic system during the time of the USSR. I heard it from my people long ago. But it is a shame; in our modern time, when we should think about new technology and be united by our experience and trade in the world, some want to disturb the peaceful and simple people!

Even more, my people still have suspension after all of the "Orange Revolution" and "Maidan" (Independent Square) in Kiev—after the recent events in Kiev people don't see any changes. They say they see a cold reaction to the situation about lost the Crimea and separatists in eastern Ukraine which brings suspicion that perhaps Putin, Obama, Markel and Yanukovich divide and trade Ukraine.

It seems like that a bad disinformation has fallen on Ukrainians and Russians; fear of war and all those rumors are so strong that some elders I know were brought more than once to the emergency room by ambulance for stress and depression. I know this because it happened in my own city of Chernivtsi. I came to give comfort, give my last funds for the needy as I couldn't stay away. I can't believe that prices have jumped so high for gas and food--inflation crushed so badly that my friends ride bicycles or walk to work; food is much more expensive than in US. Just think of elders' pension (social security), it is now even less than \$100 a month! And the new government, which is still developing, is not promising a good future. How will the people survive?

People in Ukraine are tired of "government changes and promises." They say that even if it comes again to strike on "Maidan" in Kiev. They're afraid it can, God forbid, result in a bloody revolution at this point. Ukrainian people have lost their patience as they have already showed a lot of patience! But they say that they have nothing to lose, but they fight for their freedom, real freedom

Thanks be to God that in my last trip, I was able to receive Bibles from John Hoben, a volunteer from a Bible Ministry for allied armed services families worldwide and Ann Newman from Trinitarian Bible Society of England. I distributed the Bibles among my people, leading them to the love of the Judeo-Christian Almighty God, making Ukrainians to pray for peace and keep our land free and keep our flag with its meaning: blue for heaven and yellow for wheat—for the sake of all generations.

"He [God] brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love."
[Song of Solomon 2:4]

Igor Sauchuk - Chief Editor of "Bible's Word" newspaper, member of Union of Journalists of the Ukraine