

A Year in the Life of CSI

23rd of May, 2016. This is the day when my wife Mary and I got acquainted with bro Bill Davis, the president of CSI. That happened on Skype. What an amazing world we live in right now - the distances are of no matter today! God is really GREAT! But as we kept Skyping I could see how great He is through the work of Church Starts International.

Just one year has passed since then. But I was blessed to see the **most fruitful year** of CSI ministry in 2016. It has brought a lot of blessings to see how the number of CSI Bible Clubs has doubled, new teams have come on board and new opportunities kept knocking at the door of CSI's office in Henrietta, Texas.

I was greatly amazed how God was using a 91-year old servant Bill Davis (he is 92 now) for expanding His Kingdom.

Brother Bill's idea is that most of the church starting work overseas can be done by local people, local volunteers and God's servants. This is by far is the most effective way because local Christians know the culture, the language, they live there 24/7 and they know the best way to approach the people they live among with Gospel. But their resources in most cases are limited...

And this is where Church Starts International comes into play. Over the years, brother Bill Davis and his best friend Ted Lindwall have developed amazingly simple Bible Study materials for all ages. A lot of work has been put into the translations of these materials into 13 world's most popular languages. These materials have been used in Romania, Moldova, Guatemala, Philippines, Russia with great success and have been proved as one of the best ways for unsaved people to study the Bible. And God's Word does amazing things in the longing hearts of people!



In 2016 time for Ukraine has come and my wife Mary started 6 Bible Clubs in the matter of a few months. CSI provided the materials, printers and computers for these Bible clubs to be able to print out these materials that were translated into Ukrainian. It's breathtaking that volunteers can have these materials on demand in any part of the world! I remember the times while we lived in the Soviet Union and my family was involved in underground Christian literature printing. I personally, as a kid, sewed ready printed paper stacks into books in a secret locker room in our apartment in Ukraine. If KGB would have found out that, my parents would have been in jail and all five children, including me, would have been taken to an orphanage to be educated of by the soviet government. My guess is

that I wouldn't have been a Christian then. But God was good and the anti-God country vanished in the matter of a few days in 1991...

But today is 2017. God has given so many opportunities nowadays to serve people with the only intention to bring them to Jesus. What can be more exciting than this? The president of CSI and volunteers from all over the world feel this joy every day as new opportunities and Bible clubs are being opened.

2016 was **the most fruitful year** for CSI as more than 20 Bible clubs were started in just four countries - Moldova, Ukraine, Romania and Russia.



As a CSI volunteer I was honored to get acquainted with Stella Gorbani, a CSI coordinator, translator and secretary in Moldova. Her total dedication and natural talent to teach Bible lessons to young people have led to a great number of young people who got involved in Bible club ministry and became eager volunteers to teach CSI materials at 7 summer camps with over 530 children in just 5 weeks! Mary and I went to Moldova to witness that in August 2016.





Mary and Tony Nastas, Ruben Cicai, Michail and Stella Gorbani, Tanya Legcun

While in Moldova we met brother Ruben Cicai (third from the left). He is a talented preacher and a CSI coordinator in Romania. In August 2016 he had 4 Bible clubs but now he has more and his ministry grows across towns and villages of this beautiful country.





It was a privilege to get to know brother Alex from Siberia Russia. His abilities to work for the Lord are astonishing! As a teacher in a discipleship center he trains and sends students to the utmost parts of Siberia to witness to their people and start churches using CSI's strategy through local volunteers. Now they have 6 Bible clubs and 10 more are to be started in the nearest future.

Brother Alex is also greatly involved in prison ministry which is a great start for new churches. They start Bible clubs in their dormitories first and then in their home towns after they are released.

This is the kind of ministry brother Ted Lidwall has in the state of Texas. Alex and bro Ted had a nice Skype visit recently where they shared their stories and blessings of former criminals being saved and becoming free forever. This is a very effective ministry CSI is involved in and brother Lindwall's book *Prisoner's Power* is used in many languages in several countries now. I personally know a number of stories how churches were started

by former inmates in Ukraine as well as in Russia.

It was a blessing to get to know the Chinese couple of Michael and Linda Lin. I had an honor to witness how Michael got saved during one of Skype calls with brother Bill Davis. The next day he was baptized in the International Baptist Church in Budapest, Hungary and went back to China the same day as a **SAVED** man! God really does astounding things through the ministry of Bill Davis and CSI!

Michael and Linda volunteered to translate CSI materials into the Chinese language, so now we have a door open to over a billion Chinese people who also need Christ. We believe that many Chinese churches will be started through the ministry of Church Starts International and its volunteers in the coming years.



CSI has united talented servants such as Olga, Sasha and Stas from Russia. These are the people who want many churches to be started in their world's largest country.

All these highly appreciated people work hand in hand on the ongoing church strengthening, strengthening and staffing movement each in their country with CSI materials and strategy.

In September 2016 brother Bill Davis invited me to Henrietta, Texas to help him with the website at churchstarts.com and tell the American Christians what CSI is doing in many countries of the world.



I was blessed to meet many sincere Southern Baptists from different churches of Texas who really want to make a difference and be a part of church starting business overseas. That desire really overwhelmed my heart.

In October 2016 I met dedicated-to-the-cause board members of Church Starts International at one of the semi-annual meetings in Henrietta. They shared their stories what God was able to accomplish through their lives in different parts of the world.

The members of First Baptist Church in Henrietta and especially pastor Randy Osborn were a weekly encouragement to me at the church services, Sunday schools and Bible studies on Wednesdays as well at personal meetings and hangouts with Tony and Rena Deweber, brother Mike Campbell, Jerry and Sue-Ann Raines, Kenneth and Billy Anthony, the Codys and many-many others who were so sweet to spend some time with me while in the US.

What can I say? It's so nice and exciting to be a child of God! And we all have a privilege to belong to God's Church. But there are so many people that are waiting for the members of this Church come to them with Gospel. And CSI is doing that by going to far-far away countries using modern technologies and dedicated volunteers to fulfill the Great Commission. That's why I am so excited to be a part of CSI church starting ministry to make it possible for every community on Earth to have a New Testament Church.

I invite you to join CSI's church starting movement for the glory of God and be blessed to see how your help can be leveraged many times over by CSI volunteers not only in the countries I mentioned above but in many more where CSI is invited to. Pray for the new doors opening in Peru, Vietnam and Brazil.

God bless your heart longing to serve Him at best!

Tony Nastas from Ukraine