

A Bit of History

One Year in the Life of CSI



Dear Friends, The purpose of this CSI article, A Bit of History is to show how quickly a people group in a country can adopt the CSI literature and strategy and go to work almost immediately evangelizing neighborhoods across its nation. Before May 2016 I had not heard of Tony and Mary N. in Ukraine. And as far as I know they had not heard of Church Starts International. The following article written by Tony N. illustrates how quickly together CSI can move from nation to nation and language to language strengthening, starting, and staffing churches by clusters. Bro. Bill

From Tony and Mary N., Ukraine 23rd of May, 2016, is the day when my wife Mary and I got acquainted with bro Bill Davis, the president of Church Starts International. 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 Skypeing 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 one of the **most fruitful years** of CSI ministry in 2016. It has brought a lot of blessings to see how the number of CSI Bible Clubs have 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 90-year old servant Bill Davis for expanding His Kingdom.

Brother Bill's idea is that most of the church starting work overseas must be done by local people, local volunteers, and God's servants. This 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 their people with the Word of God thereby starting, strengthening, and staffing churches by clusters in their part of the world.

In 2016 the time for Ukraine has come and my wife Mary started 6 Bible Clubs in a 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. 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, my parents would have been in jail and all five children, including me, would have been taken to an orphanage to be educated 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...

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 many parts of the world feel this joy every day as new opportunities and Bible clubs are being opened.

As a CSI volunteer I was honored to get acquainted with Stella G., 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 and 65 youth volunteers in just 5 weeks! Mary and I went to Moldova and witnessed that in August 2016.

While in Moldova we met brother Ruben C. He is a talented preacher and a CSI coordinator in Romania. In August 2016 he had 4 Bible clubs and his ministry continues to grow across towns and villages of his beautiful country.

It was a privilege to get to know brother Alexey from Siberia, Russia. His abilities to work for the Lord are



astounding! As a teacher in a discipleship center he trains and sends students to parts of Siberia to witness to their people and start churches using CSI's strategy through local volunteers. Now they have several Bible clubs and have plans to start many more in the near future. Brother Alexey is also greatly involved in prison ministry. They start Bible clubs in their dormitories first and then in their home towns after they are released. This is also the kind of ministry Bro. Ted Lindwall started. Bro. Alexey 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. (Read Alexey and his wife Julia's testimony on the **Teams Page** at churchstarts.com .)

It was a blessing to get to know the Chinese couple of Michael and Linda L.. I had the honor to witness how Michael got saved during one of the 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.



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 the world's largest country. All these highly appreciated people work hand in hand on the ongoing church strengthening, starting, and staffing movement in each of their countries 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 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, TX. They shared their stories about what God was able to accomplish through their lives in different parts of the world.

What can I say? It's so nice and exciting to be a child of God! And we all have the privilege to belong to God's Church. But there are so many people in our world that do not know God and that are waiting for the members of His Church to come to them with the Gospel. We must go and bring them in as the Great Commission has commanded. 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 multiplied many times over by CSI volunteers not only in these countries but in many more where CSI is invited. Pray for the new doors that are opening from day-to-day before our very eyes. What a joy this year has been with Church Starts International and I look forward to many fruitful years ahead.

God bless your heart longing to serve Him with your best! *Tony and Mary N. from Ukraine*



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