

The Baptist Home Foundation

"Our Field is **Global...**
Because **Aging is Universal.**"

NEWSLETTER

December 2019

Revisiting the House of Mercy, Kobrin, Belarus

"Let them know that it is your hand, that you, Lord, have done it."-- Psalm 108:27

God has spent centuries preparing the House of Mercy to begin its ministry to aging Belarusians. The Baptist Home in 2006 responded to a request from Belarusians to help them begin an eldercare campus. They had seen these in America. Some in Belarus did not like the idea because it seemed inappropriate in their culture. But the early visionaries were made of perseverance and dogged determination like today's leaders. This eldercare campus now thrives at full capacity and sustains its ministry.

The small village of Imenin near the House of Mercy is first noted in history as early as 1519. That's 500 years ago this year! Through the years this property was a part of a monastery. Later, there were various owners, followed by military property in 1939 as World War II began. In 1997, the military sold all this to the Christian charity called Emanuel to become a children's healthcare center after Chernobyl's disastrous effects.

Many Missouri Baptists now recognize the children's healthcare center as Kobrin Camp. Thirty-two years later, these Missouri Baptists as well as believers from all over America and

Europe help sustain this ministry.

Today, 42 residents call this place home, including a married couple. This is a first for the House of Mercy in its eight-year history with residents on campus. The faithful and capable administrator, Igor Miklyaev, also a local pastor near Kobrin, has been a great leader as well as team leader. Igor is well-respected by his staff and the residents. You will find him interacting with residents always. He plays his guitar while leading music at chapel or in the beautiful gazebo near the gardens. He willingly steps up to face the challenges of any nursing home.

The faithful office manager, Inna Akhremchik, has served well as translator and "explainer." She has so graciously helped The Baptist Home staff better coach these great leaders. Years ago now, they literally stepped out into the darkness into a new calling from God. With increasing confidence, they have assumed full responsibility for the entire ministry. We now welcome Alesya Brishten, who has been the head nurse, and will help Inna.

The latest partnership project has been initiated by a small group of Missouri Rotary Club members. Their goal is to help the House of Mercy secure a much-needed generator. Electricity goes out during storms anytime

throughout the year. They struggle to provide food service and some utilities to the residents. This generator will take some time to acquire. It is, however, another piece in the ongoing journey of this great story of diligent and determined faith.

The House of Mercy models the finest Christian care possible for residents. There is great, compassionate pastoral and administrative leadership along with personal care by staff. The House of Mercy provides nutritious meals, a beautiful campus environment, and multi-generational activities. At the front of all this ministry is the strong Christian focus of daily prayer, Bible studies and music of the faith. Residents have access to the audio Bible, an early gift from The Baptist Home. Professions of personal faith in Jesus Christ have occurred. Gifts of all kinds come to the House of Mercy.

The House of Mercy website is www.dmkobrin.org/en/. Also, the Facebook page @KobrinMercyHouse will deliver an additional source for information and photos.

The Baptist Home's mission is to help aging humanity. This mission is strengthened through TBHF's Global Aging Mission's projects. It is the same burden Dr. Milford Riggs felt when he started The Baptist Home in 1913. Follow the work of Global Aging Missions on TBH website, www.thebaptisthome.org, or the Facebook page, The Baptist Home Foundation.

Information provided by Dr. Roger Hatfield who serves as the Global Aging Missions Consultant for The Baptist Home Foundation.



Resident enjoys sitting outside at The Baptist House of Mercy in Kobrin, Belarus.

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