

LATEST NEWS # 374, October 16, 2006

The following news concerns Ukraine.

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Church leaders unite to prepare for Bible Day in Ukraine

UKRAINE — Every month, the Ukrainian Bible Society's Southern Region branch office in Kherson hosts a meeting of local Church leaders. This is always an important event, but the most recent meeting was particularly significant. As well as receiving an influential leader in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Bible Society staff took the opportunity to gain the support of leaders from all denominations for the Bible Day celebrations on October 28 and 29.



The monthly meeting at Bible House is a vital part of the Bible Society's ministry in southern Ukraine. On this neutral territory, Church leaders are able to debate openly and positively, reaching conclusions over the months about how they can work together and how they can help and be helped by the Bible Society. For the Bible Society, the meeting is a valuable way to show that it is actively listening to Church leaders and taking their advice.

The meeting on September 29 was dedicated to preparations for Bible Day, the Bible Society's most important fundraising project. As this year is the 20th anniversary of the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in northern Ukraine, funds raised on Bible Day will be used to produce and distribute a Children's Bible for victims of this disaster. The Bible Society has prepared a range of materials, including posters and leaflets, to help churches collect funds on Bible Day among their members and in their local communities. Alexander Babychuk, Southern Region Director, showed some of these materials to the Church leaders, members of the media and local authority officials who had gathered at Bible House.



Sitting alongside local Church leaders at this meeting was His Holiness the Patriarch of Kiev and All Rus' -Ukraine Filaret, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate. He had been visiting Kherson in connection with his ministry and, when he heard about the meeting at Bible House, expressed interest in attending. He showed great interest in the work of the Bible Society and toured the premises after the meeting, giving particular attention to the literature on sale in the small bookshop. His presence at the meeting was an indication of the high esteem in which the Bible Society is held among Church leaders of all denominations.

For previous reports about Bible Day in Ukraine, see Latest News #291 and World Report 383/18 and 405/11.

For reports about the work of the Southern Region branch of the Ukrainian Bible Society, see World Report 404 and 405. (353 words – UKRAINE.16.10.06)

Photos (Ukrainian Bible Society/Alexander Sultan):

UKR06DJ-516: Alexander Babiychuk, Director of the Southern Region branch of the Ukrainian Bible Society, showing Bible Day promotional materials to Church leaders at a meeting at Bible House in Kherson on September 29, 2006. Kherson, Ukraine.

UKR06DJ-514: Father Domian, southern region Ukrainian Orthodox Archbishop (left), Patriarch Filaret, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate (centre), and Alexander Babiychuk, Director of the Southern Region branch of the Ukrainian Bible Society, in the bookshop at Bible House in Kherson following a meeting of Church leaders on September 29, 2006. Kherson, Ukraine.

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