



Dear Dr. Hammond,

Happy New Year. I will tell you what I remember about the Ukrainian Orthodox Church leader who suddenly died. In Ukraine he was like the Pope. The Adventist leaders told me in 1995 that he had publicly stated that I would preach in Kiev only over his dead body. This statement was common knowledge everywhere in Ukraine.

We had booked the large Palace of Sport, downtown Kiev. We also engaged in a massive TV advertising campaign. We advertised in newspapers, ran radio ads plus displayed posters and distributed 500,000 handbills.

The Orthodox leader died just before we arrived. His followers wanted to bury him in the great cathedral, but the government forbade it. The result was a bloody street battle between his priests and the government militia that resulted in the deaths of many priests. The priests battled the militia with wooden crosses that proved to be no match for guns. This

was explained to me by his successor, the new Orthodox Church leader. He welcomed us to his palace and was very respectful. This meeting between us and the new Orthodox leader took place half way through the campaign. I conveyed to him our sympathies on the violent deaths of the priests.

We commenced the campaign with 30,000 souls and 100,000 turned away.

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*Letter to
Dr. Hammond*

The deceased Archbishop was buried on the footpath outside the cathedral, in disgrace. At the conclusion of the meetings, 3,530 souls were baptized in the Dneiper River.

After the meetings started we experienced a campaign of systematic persecution by the Ukrainian government to force us to close down. We were fortunate to receive support from the Australian, American, and Canadian embassies. We did not miss a meeting and fulfilled our mission. The Ukrainian Adventist leaders demonstrated great courage and resilience, and supported us 100 percent.

Today you can still see his burial place on the sidewalk. We were never told how he died. We were simply told he dropped dead as he was working vigorously to stop the meetings. Pastor Murga, the Union President, gave us these details. The Adventists believed that God had intervened and stopped the great antagonist whose death came as a shock to the nation, as well as to us. We believe he died as we were traveling to Kiev. We did not find out about his death until we arrived. The city was in a state of shock. We have seen many opponents to God's work silenced and removed. We take no credit for the success of the meeting but give glory to our great God.

Blessings,



John Carter

The Carter Report Ministry

P.S. Feel free to use this story as you see fit. It almost belongs in the Book of Acts. It teaches us to walk humbly before God. There is no room for boasting. We certainly had no joy over the death of the prelate. I imagine that like the unconverted Saul of Tarsus he thought he was pleasing God. Let's hope he made his peace with God before his untimely end.

