



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

January 2017

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“We started Bible Institute as planned in January 2017. The first group consists of 7 students. Thanks to all brethren for prayers and support. Our students take great joy in studying the Bible and thank God for such an opportunity.”

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“WE BEGAN THIS YEAR WITH INTENSIVE WORK IN THE PEACEFUL PART OF OUR COUNTRY. WE ALSO KEEP HOPE TO SEE THE WAR END. WE ARE SURE GOD HAS HIS OWN TIMES AND TERMS FOR THIS.”

Welcome to 2017! The old year is past and the New Year lies before us. Presented to us in this new year will be amazing opportunities to serve the Lord God Almighty and utilize our energies and abilities to further His Kingdom on earth. The events of 2016 are now in the record books and chronicle a truly amazing narrative.

The beginning of the year is often used as a time of reflection on the past and resolutions for the present. Here are several biblical texts that give us an opportunity to pause and resolve to become more “holy” in our life and service in 2017.

Daniel 1:8—Resolve to “make up your mind” to live a sanctified life that is characterized by separating yourself from the world’s values and actions and those who live by worldly wisdom. The command to be “holy” is basic to your Christianity. This means you see the need to separate yourself and not act as to offer approval to those living by the world’s evil standards. Inspiration charges those who fail to maintain a holy distinction and practice as being “inexcusable” in their judgment. These fail to honor God because they prefer to honor man. They may practice and speak religiously but in practicality they are rejecting God’s holy calling (Romans 2:1). This year join with godly Daniel and “make up your mind” to maintain the holy life to which you were called.

Acts 19:21—Resolve that your choices, actions and attitudes will have one “purpose” in 2017—to seize opportunities to serve the Almighty God. These opportunities will be presented in many ways and will be offered to you because you have the talents, connections and qualifications that God needs. When opportunities are presented to you in 2017 do not think “someone else” will do the job. God needs YOU! It is true, as Mordecai told Esther, that God will offer you the opportunity and if you do not accept it then God will find another (Esther 4:13, 14). But do not casually shrug away the responsibility which you are rejecting. The somber words spoken to the young Queen ought to pierce our consciences, *“Do not imagine that you can escape...if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise...from another place and you...will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained (your position, talents, associations, qualifications)...for such a time as this?”* Let one supreme objective direct your mission in 2017, to do whatever you can to see the gospel progress and your fellow saints strengthened in their faith!

1 Corinthians 10:14-32—Resolve that you will resist all efforts of Satan to “blind” you to the true God Almighty! Idolatry is tempting as it seduces us to

POTI, THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

In November I received a request from the Republic of Georgia.

"I hope my e-mail finds you well my friend. It has been a while since our last communication...we started a very useful partnership with a very strong Georgian NGO, working with IDPs, disabled and other socially vulnerable groups in Georgia...we would like to complement our current projects with clothing considering coming up harsh winter conditions for less fortunate population in Georgia. In addition it would be great to receive some hygiene supplies as well. In previous shipments the response from churches of Christ has been wonderful. And so we turn to you once again."

The container was loaded The load took place on December 7, 2016. The container was stuffed with 1,405 items and valued at \$134,325.00!

The container arrived at the Black Sea port January 29.

"Please be informed that the container has arrived at the warehouse from the Black Sea port on Saturday and was unloaded in few hours. The seal was intact...The distributions are ongoing and we will collect photos, thank you letters and other feedback and will provide as soon as we complete the distribution...Me and Giorgi value and appreciate churches of Christ partnership and hope to continue it in the future. Best regards, Irakli Saralidze"

think that "god" is approving and directing us in ways that are obviously contrary to what is revealed in the Bible by the Lord "God" Almighty! The Christian's resolve ought to be to "flee" any attempts to get him/her to compromise biblical restrictions. In such compromises the Christians at Corinth were told they were guilty of corrupting the sacrifice of Christ. An incredible truth revealed in Paul's warning is often ignored by Christians today—those who join with the ungodly sinners and by that presence show approval of their godlessness are actually joining in a "sacrifice to demons and not to God"! This startling truth prompted the Apostle to exclaim, *"And I do not want you to become sharers in demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons."* Many wish to restrict this text to the "Communion Table" but it applies to your associations! The Christian should not only feel "uncomfortable" in the presence of ungodliness but s/he should "flee" (verse 14) such because the God of the Bible is not the "god" that tolerates such compromised associations! The word "flee" is very emphatic. It is from the Greek term **Φεύγω** (pheugō) and is a primary verb meaning to *run away* (literally or figuratively). It implies that the Christian is to *shun* or *vanish* when association with actions contrary to God's will are presented. Contrary to the wide latitude of today's "tolerance" for ungodliness this biblical text strongly urges "intolerance" of ungodliness! Which will you choose in 2017?

Colossians 3:12–17—Resolve that you will nurture and mature in the fruits of Christianity. As a result the peace of Christ will rule your heart...let the word of Christ richly dwell within you...set as your priority in word or deed giving thanks to God the Father for the opportunity to serve the Almighty on earth.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12—Resolve that your actions, attitudes and aspirations in 2017 will cause Christ to be glorified and thanksgiving for God's grace to abound. This is possible only if your behavior in 2017 is "worthy of your calling" and you are quick to act so as to "fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power."

This first newsletter of 2017 highlights reports on the Lord's Church throughout the world. Our brethren in Ukraine continue to struggle with the evils of Russia's invasion and occupation in portions of the eastern Oblasts. But they are remaining strong in their faith.

This month the WORLD BIBLICAL INSTITUTE (WBI) began in Ivano-Frankivsk. This extension of WBI provides Bible training in the Ukrainian language and will broaden the borders of God's Kingdom in western Ukraine. This month you will also read reports from Uruk Otong, Nigeria and the Republic of Georgia. The report from brother Aniefiok reminds us that the Lord's Church is the ONLY universal means of publishing the gospel and freeing those captive to Satan's evil. The report from the Republic of Georgia highlights the fact that there is a welcoming receptivity to the gospel by good and honest hearts.

Thank you for your support and encouragement in our work. Your partnership makes these reports possible.

May the conclusion of 2017 leave behind a chronicled history of actions that are exceedingly abundantly MORE than we can imagine at the beginning of 2017 (Ephesians 3:20, 21).

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

POTI, THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA



The Loading Crew in Judsonia, Arkansas

Arrival and Unloading in Poti, Georgia



In the midst of the New Years' uncertainty there is one absolute certainty: God WILL offer you open doors to be involved in His service. Such may be inconvenient. Such may be uncomfortable. Such may require you to put aside what you think are priorities.

You may think your strength is insufficient and resources are lacking. But this does not remove the opportunity God gives you.

He will open the door but you may close the door!

PREPARING A CONTAINER FOR URUK OTONG, NIGERIA

In late December David & Lola Crouch contacted me about the great need to ship a container of benevolent items into Uruk Otong, Nigeria where brother Aniefiok Akpan is the evangelist and where a Christian Academy has developed using the World English Institute materials as study.

The more I learned of the work in Uyo the more I appreciated their focused commitment to the Lord and His Church.

There are efforts underway to collect and ship a container to brother Aniefiok but we are in the process of making application, registering the Church to receive and making certain we have all things ready. To illustrate how shipping matters are confusing read this comment that brother Aniefiok received from the government NESREA official:

“The full meaning of NESREA is: National Environmental standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency. One of its functions is to supervise importation of used items on environment. We are to advise you that some of the items on your invoice list are prohibited under open market importation. But those on personal effect, after 90 days outside Nigeria on humanitarian/charity less privileges are allowed only on the approval of NESREA, Federal Ministry of Finance. To assist the needy in Nigeria eg Motherless baby homes, I.D.P camps etc.

“It is under these conditions that you are allowed to import some of these items on prohibition list. If your container is ready to be shipped, we can go ahead to do the documentation to cover the papers.”

Brother Aniefiok is currently working on the registration and other matters in Nigeria.

But the situation in the USA at this time is troubled. At this point it appears that an effort to “freeze” our government’s operation so the new administration looks ineffective has basically stopped most of the operations. I have recently received communication stating that even though the approvals and schedules have been approved, it is impossible to know when things might start working. This began as a “slow down” after the November elections and now has escalated to a “full stop” in many departments. This has happened because the people holding the bureaucratic posts have become so entrenched and devoted to an ideology that was defeated in November they are acting as a fifth-column to damage the way Washington is portrayed to be working.

Regardless of the troubles and obstacles we are doing what we can do at

URUK OTONG, NIGERIA

"Aniefiok's hopes are to teach the poor and uneducated of that area about Jesus Christ and raise up leaders for that area and the whole country....they need more plastic chairs for the students since they cannot all sit down during the chapel assemblies. He and his wife have had sleepless nights because of the deep need for the many orphans there. There are no relatives to take them in. He has asked us to help. They are praying and waiting for God to provide help with clothing, shoes, and other things."

"Nothing gives me so much joy in this life than the opportunity to exert Christian influence on the toddlers and youths under our care. I know what it means to be nourished with the word of God right from childhood. I am a beneficiary of such nourishment. Being baptized at the age of 10, I have grown up to discover the relevance of the Word in the life of a growing child."

this point and trust the Lord to remove all obstacles when it is the proper time.

To introduce you to brother Aniefiok I will copy some communication from David and Lola.

"David has just spoken with you about our good brother in Nigeria who is in need. Because we are World English Institute (WEI) Internet teachers, we know of the fame of this Christian brother.

Recently, all of the people associated with the church of Christ and the Rhema Christian Academy became ill from an unknown cause. It turns out that the borehole water was bad (It was located in a bad location as related to toilets). They had to shut it down and then buy vendor water for weeks while the people recovered and a plan was developed to bore a new hole.

"Dick Ady, Founder of WEI, has told me how highly regarded Aniefiok is in Nigeria. He is asked to preach or preside at all the funerals in that area. He preaches the gospel when he does. He believes he is the best preacher in the whole country. I received letters from two people who have been to his rural jungle Christian Academy several times. They both report that he is very true to the Word, is a humble man and growing the Church in that area. He lives simply so as to support the many orphans and widows in the Church and village. He has hardly any furniture and sleeps on the floor with his wife. By the way, she almost died as did a son from the poisonous water. There were others who were critically ill, but the Lord has saved them from death. We are so grateful for that.

"Aniefiok's hopes are to teach the poor and uneducated of that area about Jesus Christ and raise up leaders for that area and the whole country. He uses WEI materials that Dick Ady has sent to teach them English and the Bible. He has told me they need more plastic chairs for the students since they cannot all sit down during the chapel assemblies. He reported to me that he and his wife have had sleepless nights because of the deep need for the many orphans there. There are no relatives to take them in. He has asked us to help. They are praying and waiting for God to provide help with clothing, shoes, and other things, I am sure.

"I am so excited that David talked with you tonight and that there is a possibility of getting some much needed items to them.

"The Bethlehem church of Christ in Watertown, TN, is the congregation that handles any donations for the Church, Rhema Christian Academy and the Akpan family. They have two young children but others live with them, too.

"May God be glorified as these people in Nigeria are served by the Lord's Church."

URUK OTONG, NIGERIA

From: Aniefiok Akpan

Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 2:50 PM

Subject: MISSION Work!

Dear Brethren,

Greetings! Each time my joy overflows, I feel obligated to share such abundance of joy with you. We hope this email finds every one of you doing well. We are doing fine trying to do our best with the resources God has

URUK OTONG, NIGERIA



“At Rhema Christian Academy chapel worship today, I recalled the stress and selfless sacrifices many of you went through to support the completion of our multi-purpose school building.”



“Thanks for everything you have done to support our mission work. We appreciate all your support. Thank you once again for the part you have played in establishing this amazing Christian mission in Uruk Otong, Nigeria.”

entrusted us.

At Rhema Christian Academy chapel worship today, I recalled the stress and selfless sacrifices many of you went through to support the completion of our multi-purpose school building.

Nothing gives me so much joy in this life than the opportunity to exert Christian influence on the toddlers and youths under our care. I know what it means to be nourished with the word of God right from childhood. I am a beneficiary of such nourishment. Being baptized at the age of 10, I have grown up to discover the relevance of the Word in the life of a growing child.

Thank you for sharing and supporting my dream and mission aspirations. Someday, I will tell you how the story of Late Timothy Hill, the first son of Jerry & Fern Hill who died at the age of 11 in 1972 has helped to reshaped my life. Timothy's history was published by his mother in a publication titled "Graduation to Glory" donated to me about 30 years ago when I started high school.

Over the years, I have grown up to know, like and work with people who have a heart of compassion and generosity for the poor. This is what fuels our relationship.

Thank you for helping us establish a good Christian school for my people. Students of World English Institute & School of Ministry (WEISOM) will meet on Wednesday this week for a review class on the Course EVIDENCE OF GOD IN THE UNIVERSE written by our great teacher, mentor and shepherd Dick Ady. Our first monthly WEISOM Workshop today at Christian Academy was a huge success. Eight of the registered WEISOM students turned up for the training. We had a wonderful time studying together. Activities during the event included Open air preaching, house to house evangelism, training workshop, interactive sessions, inductive service and chapel session.

The construction of the septic tank and the new toilet facilities at Christian Academy is in progress. The recent downpour of rain devastated the construction work, but everything is under control now.

Sister Precious Edidiong Udeme of our Church had difficulties delivering her baby. My wife and I rushed her to the General Hospital at Ukpom Abak where had a surgical operation and delivered of a bouncing baby girl yesterday. Last year, our Sister Godstime Imowo Effiong lost her baby and her life during a similar incidence.

We are committed to hosting a Thanksgiving Service & Reception Ceremony in honour of the only surviving pioneer preacher of the church of Christ in our community in 5th March, 2017. His name is Sunday Usen Emanah. He lost his wife and his health some years back and has been so helpless during the past couple of years. He is our father in the Lord as the minister who baptized me into Christ.

Thanks for everything you have done to support our mission work. We appreciate all your support. Thank you once again for the part you have played in establishing this amazing Christian mission in Uruk Otong, Nigeria.

In Christian love, Aniefiok & Queen Akpan
His Will Prevails!

URUK OTONG, NIGERIA



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PAVAL TUZNICHENKO REPORTS ON HIS EFFORTS IN JANUARY...

I am happy to greet you as the New Year begins, my dear brothers and sisters! May love, peace and grace be with you always. I thank God for you and your prayers every time I talk to Him in my prayers. I hope you had a great Christmas holiday season filled with joy. I pray and ask God to give us more wisdom, love, understanding and to help us be more considerate of others so that we could work even more and even better in God's vineyard and gather more treasures in heaven, and help many more souls that need God and His gracious love to be saved. My dear brethren, please pray with me for the Lord to add as many people to His church as possible, for the growth of church all over the world, for those that haven't come to the right path and are not followers of Christ yet.

I continue working in God's vineyard in Ivano-Frankivsk. I take part in teaching Bible classes, participate in multiple church activities, fellowship with people (as much as I can), and help with humanitarian aid distribution. People are thankful to you for that aid and they are also thankful to God Who works through us on this earth. Such deeds show others what kind of people Christians should be and how they should treat one another. Thank you for your prayers as God has heard them and has blessed us with our Bible Institute here. It is wonderful to realize that now with the School many more people will study the Word of God and will apply their knowledge laboring in God's vineyard with love. I will ask God in every prayer to open many more opportunities to spread His Kingdom on earth.

I pray for all of you and your families. I wish good health, God's love to all of you and may God bless you a hundredfold for your love and charity.

With great love, Pavel, your brother in Christ
С огромной любовью ваш брат во Христе Павел.

VOLODYA SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD...

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in Christ. I am happy to send you greetings from the city of Ivano-Frankivsk in Western Ukraine. Another month of our lives has flown by and I would like to share with you some news about the life of Christians and our labor in God's vineyard.

I spent a lot of time this month getting ready for the Bible School. Lord blessed us as the Bible Institute began its operations the 16th of January. This School is an answer to the many years of prayers that God blessed us with. Currently, there is no other educational institution in Western Ukraine to train preachers and ministers of church of Christ that know the Word and minister faithfully in God's vineyard. That has created certain problems regarding evangelistic work and the planting of churches in Western Ukraine as this part of Ukraine has its own culture, traditions and the mindset here differs a lot from that of the Center and the East. Thus, we need to train local people that know this area very well. The School has begun its work this month. We thank God and all the brethren that had the same vision and helped us set up this institution.

Brother Ivan taught the first 2-week course and I am teaching now the second 2-week course. This is the first time for me to teach in an

Ivano-Frankivsk Bible Institute Begins!

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educational institution of such level so I try to do my best and have given a lot of time to preparation this month. It involves great responsibility to God, thus I pray to Him continually asking Him to help me hold onto the truth and give me ability to convey the truth that God has revealed in Scriptures.

My parents are going through trying times again. My dad is on his drinking spree once again, which hurts the whole family so bad. Please, pray with me asking God to help my Dad realize what state he is in and to motivate him to repent. I know very well by now that without God my Dad is unable to overcome this addiction but the problem is that my Dad has not come to this understanding it yet. That is why I want to ask you to pray for this situation. It weighs me down so heavily for it causes grief to my mom and others. I know that all things possible with God and put my trust in Him.

I try to keep in touch with neighbors and relatives that live in the village where I come from and where my parents live now. One neighboring family has been facing hard times this month. One woman was diagnosed with breast cancer and doctor decided to operate on her right away. They removed tumor together with the breast. This woman is in the hospital now and my Mom and I have visited her several times there. The woman is very religious and has been very active in the Orthodox Church for a long time keeping books there. But she is rooted in traditions and thus she does not have a clear understanding of the salvation through Christ. Mom and I try to be kind and show our concern so that she can see the difference between the world and believers and will open up to Bible studies to learn more about God. This is something else I would like to ask you to pray for. Woman's name is Maria and she is about 50 years old. She is the mother of a friend of mine that I grew up with. This friend passed away. His life ended tragically and I had failed to tell him about God. That is why I am so eager for the soul of his mother to be saved. Please, pray for my work with this woman and for God to give me strength to be the light to people I meet on my life's path.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

With love, your brother in Christ Volodya Didukh
З любов'ю ваш брат Володя Дідух

IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK...

Dear brothers and sisters!

This month has been remarkable for us because for several years we prayed for a possibility of having a Bible School here in Western Ukraine, and 16 January our Bible Institute began its operations. Last year was also strenuous as we started building our own meeting place in addition to our regular Church ministry.

Why is having a local Bible Institute so important to us? It is because Western Ukraine is very religious and Catholicism has captured minds of many people. And, there are many different denominations in this region.

Because of these two facts we need people trained in biblical truth to be able to spread the sound doctrine further in our area. We have been preparing a group for serious Bible study for several years and now they are enrolled in the studies. The first course was "The Plan of Redemption." Everybody did great. The second course started off very well, too.

During January we continued working with people that are close to the

IVANO-FRANKIVSK, UKRAINE SHARING GOD'S WORD!



“We stay in close contact with the family of Natasha and Zenek. We visit and often talk about salvation and Bible. They are open to study the Word of God now but at this point they are content with just discussions at home. Zenek’s sister Vera often joins us. She is taking care of her granddaughter, Vera also, who is 16 years old.”

Church and with those that have been baptized recently. These people might want to go to the Bible School in the future as well. We pray for each soul and try to keep every soul secure in their faith because they are the future of the Ivano-Frankivsk church of Christ.

Meanwhile, the construction of the church building continues. The situation in Ukraine is far from being stable these days and this instability causes hardships everywhere. We live with every day filled with stress from morning to night.

To give you an idea of how our work is done I would like to give a brief report on a few of the many visits and studies we have each month.

We stay in close contact with the family of Natasha and Zenek. We visit and often talk about salvation and Bible. They are open to study the Word of God now but at this point they are content with just discussions at home. Zenek’s sister Vera often joins us. She is taking care of her granddaughter, also named “Vera,” who is 16 years old. Because her mother lives an immoral lifestyle, Vera has developed some diseases caused by stress. Two weeks ago, she had thyroid surgery and biopsy revealed cancer. The girl is in Kyiv in the hospital now. Please, pray for this family, for Vera’s health and for her mother.

Please, pray for the family of Yaroslav and Luba. Luba’s father has been diagnosed with gangrene of one foot. He is at the hospital now and getting ready for surgery. This family needs encouragement and we visit them every week. Their son Valentine and his family have not yet made their decision to be immersed but they are open to discussion and ask questions.

We visit the family of Bogdan and Galina that live in the village of Zelena. Their son and daughter-in-law, Peter and Tanya, as well as Galina’s parents, Dmytro and Anna, have a lot of questions and study the Word of God. They are very religious and are surprised to find out that God in His Word says that He does not want human traditions. Please, pray for these families.

We also stay in close contact with Natasha. Natasha teaches English and is willing to translate for us and our brethren from Ghana when Tanya is gone. Natasha does not ask questions but always listens very carefully and reads English Bible. We pray for her and her son to understand God’s Word and desire to be saved.

I am happy to report that Vitalik and Olya want to be immersed for forgiveness of sins. They were baptized into the Mormon Church before. Having studied this topic more they decided to be immersed here in Ivano-Frankivsk and become members of Christ’s Body (the Church).

Our children at Church study verses that talk about Christ, relations between Christians and the growth of Church. Our children are very blessed because, unlike adults who grew up in USSR, these will grow up learning about Christian relationship and morals, obedience and ministry that God expects from Christians.

Now and then, we visit with those that have attended our retreats and seminars and those that have received humanitarian aid from us. Those are Olga from the Maternity Department, Olga from the Police Hospital, Galina and Dmytro from Sniatyn, and Vasily – Chief Doctor from the hospital in Yaremche. We stay in contact with these people and their families.

IVANO-FRANKIVSK, UKRAINE SHARING GOD'S WORD AND HARVESTING THE FRUITS!

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We try to keep in touch with Natasha from Stary Lysets although we communicate only by phone. She has tried to come to our classes several times but it has not worked out because of her little son and Catholic parents. It was during the October visits by American brothers and sisters that Natasha learned of church of Christ in the Region.

To Dalraida church of Christ in Montgomery, Alabama, kindergarten teachers are very thankful to your congregation. New windows kept children warm even when it was -20C outside. Thank you, dear brothers and sisters, so much for such a great role that you play in our lives and in the work that we are doing in Western Ukraine. We pray and ask God to give you back a hundredfold and more for your kind, compassionate and faithful hearts.

We pray for the construction of our building so that we can complete what we started and that it will be a blessing to us and our descendants, and so that the true Word of God will spread all over Ukraine, for the sake of which my family and I have given our lives and suffered a lot.

Lord has blessed us with spiritually mature brothers and sisters. Thank you, dear brother John. You have stood by our side all these years, in joys and sorrows. We have learned much from you. We appreciate and respect you as our older brother and friend.

Dear sister Debbie, thank you for the many years that you have supported us and prayed for us. We pray for you, too. We look forward to having you and your team here.

We would not have reached all the people and administrations in Ivano-Frankivsk and the Region had it not been for humanitarian aid. John, Kathy, and everybody else who participate in this work, thank you very much for your tireless efforts for the sake of Western Ukraine.

Dalraida and Hillsboro churches of Christ, thank you very much for our joint work and the multiple ways that you help us. We are thankful that you find time to come and visit us. Thank you for your lessons and personal example. Thank you for your compassionate hearts that care for others who are in need even when they are far from you and in live in a different culture and speak a strange language.

We thank our interpreters for their efforts to help American and Ukrainian brethren understand each other.

May the Lord bless endlessly all American brethren and those that help us in Western Ukraine for their hard work and may He keep their hearts open to serve Him in His vineyard.

We have a strong desire to visit our American brethren, meet with churches, learn to serve God from your experience, and to give a full report on our work and life in Western Ukraine. We have tickets to make a trip to the States from March 20 through April 10. To enable our communication with the brethren there we will have an interpreter with us. It will be Tanya who has lived in Ivano-Frankivsk for over one year and helps with translations both within the Church and outside it. She has worked with John for the benefit of church of Christ in Ukraine for many years.

The more we try and do the more cunningly and viciously our adversary tries to attack and destroy. We need your prayers, dear brothers and sisters, for God to give us more courage, perseverance, strength and wisdom so that we could serve the Lord and His church more.

With much respect and Christian love, Ivan and Svitlana

IVANO-FRANKIVSK, UKRAINE SHARING GOD'S WORD!



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ANDREW FROM SKVYRA SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD...

Hello, dear brothers and sisters, families, friends.

We began this year with the intensive work in the peaceful part of our country. We also keep our hope to see the war end in the region so dear to us. We are sure God has His own times and terms for this.

Situation in Gorlovka.

During the last week the situation in the war zone became worse. If I wrote about the periods of escalation of the conflict, this situation can be compared to the powerful explosion. In the last days of January there was a battle between the Ukrainian army and the rebels. As the result of the counterattack the Ukrainian army managed to recover several important strategic places that had been formerly under the control of the rebels. Since that time violent battles have been going on along the entire front line. In these constant battles the heavy weapons are used (which had to be taken away from the division line), and there are many casualties and destructions. Until now the degree of the battles is constantly increasing.

Gorlovka, Avdeevka, several districts of Donetsk and other places close to the region of this conflict have suffered the reactive missiles attacks and large caliber shelling. According to statistics, only in Gorlovka 10-20 buildings suffer from such shellings daily. In the last days the objects of electric, gas, heating and water supplies become the target of these attacks. As the result the dwellers of the places closest to the epicenter of the battles are on the verge of surviving. Because of constant shelling the repair teams cannot fix the damages, and moreover now we have freezing temperatures up to -4F.

Also, there are several factors that suggest that the situation will get even worse, such as the evacuation of the dwellers of Avdeevka and the Kiev district of Donetsk is announced; the schools in Gorlovka have not been working for a week now, and the active work of preparing air-raid shelters and basements for hiding people during the attacks is being done. If during the previous months many people returned to their homes in the occupied territories, now crowds of people try to leave this dangerous territory.

I planned my trip to Gorlovka for the end of February. I call my brothers and sisters there every day. They all tell me about the heavy shellings they have to live through now, and of the burdensome atmosphere of the terrible threat that seized the city. It is not hard to understand their difficult situation now: sleepless nights, never-ceasing cannonade, red sky because of many fires, and news reports that increase the tension. I try to encourage the Christians in Gorlovka all I can and want to see them soon and worship God together, but all brothers and sisters say that now it is very dangerous to travel there, and it is wise to postpone it till a more favorable time. I worry about all of them very much and ask you pray to God to protect Christians there, to make the war activity to subside, and to make my trip there safe in the near future.

IVANO-FRANKIVSK, UKRAINE MEMBERS YAROSLAV & LUBA!

Please, pray for the family of Yaroslav and Luba. Luba's father has been diagnosed with gangrene of one foot. He is at the hospital now and getting ready for surgery. This family needs encouragement and we visit them every week. Their son Valentine and his family have not yet made their decision to be immersed but they are open to discussion and ask questions.



(Yaroslav)

Ministry in the Kiev region.

This month I was in the church of Christ Shevchenko District on one Sunday and taught a class on the Book of Ecclesiastes. Yuri Romanov has recently finished his study in the Bible institute and is making his first steps as a full-time preacher in this congregation. I hope the Lord will help this congregation to grow both spiritually and numerically.

As I wrote in my previous reports the preacher of the congregation in Bila Tserkva Konstantine Kisilenko is seriously ill, and because of this he is not able to participate in the conduction of the worship services. That's why the rest of the Sundays I worshipped and preached in Bila Tserkva.

Veronica continues to participate in teaching in the children's Bible Sunday school in Bila Tserkva. The kids have notably increased their knowledge of God's word. Even now we can say that they know everything they need to obey the gospel in the future and become faithful Christians.

Now I'm preparing for printing small calendars for the congregations in Kiev, Bila Tserkva, Poltava and Lvov to be distributed to people. This is a good instrument for personal evangelism.

I am glad that the students we have in the institute now genuinely want to study the Holy Scriptures. Even now many of them are very active in their work in local congregations. I am certain that they will become wonderful workers for God after they graduate.

Dear brothers and sisters. My special request to you is to pray for the war conflict in the east of our country to be solved. The situation now is very explosive, and we do need your prayers to God. Thank you for being so concerned about the situation in our country, for your loving and compassionate hearts.

Your brother in Christ, Andrew.

DENNIS SOPELNIK REPORTS ON THE LORD'S CHURCH IN BILA TSERVKA, UKRAINE...

Greetings, dear brethren, churches and families, God is truly faithful and merciful to us! From time to time we face difficulties that cause us to have fears, uncertainty and even doubts. Satan is very active in producing such situations against us and the Lord. Please continue your prayers for the God's Church in Ukraine and for us.

Sadly, in the end of January the warfare in the Eastern part of our country got worse. Heavy artillery was engaged again. Intense hostilities surround the city of Avdiivka which is a satellite town of Donetsk. No heating, no electricity, no natural gas in people's houses. Many volunteers have started to send humanitarian relief to the place. Unfortunately the efforts coordinated by the Government are not sufficient to keep warm, feed or simply relocate the population of this city that nears 8,000 people.

In the end of January I traveled to Kamenskoe where our recent graduate Sergey Pavlenko's got the job of the preacher. The congregation there is not big but they have a lot of potential. Firstly, the community where they are located is highly populated. Secondly, they have their own building and, thirdly, Sergey is determined to actively work with the community.

A GREAT DAY IN LEXINGTON, KY!



Our congregation in Bila Tserkva is doing well. This month was devoted to families' activities. We had an opportunity to meet the family members of our Christians. Some people were encouraged by us, some of them have encouraged us. This was a great outreach to contact people who are not Christians. I would like to ask you to pray for our new acquaintances who are on the way to salvation. In addition to this effort we are trying to minister in the Central Library that, an evangelical effort lead by our brother Valentin. Initially the library had assigned us a place for the distribution of the Bibles and literature by churches of Christ but later the administration of the library vetoed that. As of right now we are trying to find a way to continue the ministry. In February we are planning to conduct a seminar in Kramatorsk. The topic will be *"The Work of the Holy Spirit"*. The seminars are important milestones for the Christians of Ukraine and many are looking forward to the new seminar. We agreed to conduct them quarterly, changing the locations. We are very thankful to the congregations who host them and practice hospitality. I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to all of you who sacrificed financially and use their time to help our Institute. Most of you I have not even met personally. But your actions speak volumes and are louder than words. Our family and all the students send their love and gratitude for the opportunity to continue their studies with no interruptions.

Respectfully, Your brother Dennis Sopelnik

CONTAINER LOADED IN LEXINGTON, KY!

January 6 was a WONDERFUL day loading two containers in Lexington. The success was the result of brethren joining in the work.

The North Lexington brethren worked hard to prepare the load by removing head/footboards, moving the items to the loading locations made it possible to begin loading immediately. We had a fantastic number of North Lexington brethren come out in MINUS 1F temps and snow to load. Later the Elizabethtown congregation brought a van full of workers to join us. Joining with these two congregations were brethren from Piggot, AR, Searcy, AR, Cincinnati, OH, Olive Branch, MS and Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine!



We loaded to the max two 40 foot High Cube containers with benevolent items for Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. The Lord's Church in Ivano-Frankivsk will distribute these items to local hospitals in the Name of our Lord.

The totals of the day's work were: 760 items being loaded that had a value of \$168,808.00 and weighed 44,500 POUNDS!

"A generous number of volunteers labored in less than ideal weather to send medical equipment, clothing, and other items of basic human need to a land that most of us will never see and to people we will never meet."