



# UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

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- The developing medical seminar that has phenomenal potential for the Lord's Church!



**Galyna Ivanivna is a medical nurse from the clinic in Mykulychyn, Yaremche District; a kind and good-hearted woman. She has 5,000 people under her medical care.**

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**“A GREEK CATHOLIC PRIEST CAME TO SEE WHAT WE WERE TEACHING “HIS” CHILDREN HAD TO ADMIT THAT CLASSES WERE IN LINE WITH THE SCRIPTURE. HE SAW US TEACH THE SCRIPTURE IN ITS PURITY AND COULD NOT FIND ANY FAULT WITH US. IT WAS AWESOME AS WE SAW GOD’S HAND AND PROTECTION THAT ENCOURAGED US GREATLY. ”**

June 2017 has concluded and here is a brief summary of the amazing developments that the Lord has wrought (John 3:21). This month brother Andrew Lagno (Ivano-Frankivsk) reports on the development of a new church plant. Joining his good reports are reports from Paval, Volodya and Ivan. These reports join to give an encouraging narrative of the Lord's works in Ivano-Frankivsk in June.

Brother Gary Jerkins is in need of medical professionals to be a part of the medical hands-on seminar in March. We are collecting the supplies and will ship these in a container but Gary needs personnel to be involved in the seminar. This will be conducted in Ivano-Frankivsk but reach into 7+ African nations PLUS the nations of Iran and India! If you can assist PLEASE contact me and I will put you in touch with Gary.

Please help by passing this need to medical professionals you know who are needed to go and by helping us pay for shipping the container of medical supplies (thank you to those who saw this need in last month's newsletter and have responded but we are still in need of shipping funds).

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

## GARY WRITES... “BECOMING A GREAT PHYSICIAN, THE CHRIST FACTOR”

Since 1995 I have been blessed with the opportunity to be involved in the Lord's work in Ukraine; medical teams, humanitarian aid, camps and scholarship programs. BUT let me share with you the most exciting project yet! Last year I was approached by a group of African medical students displaced from their medical school in Donetsk when Russia invaded. These aspiring young physicians transferred to the medical school in Ivano-Frankivsk and established an organization whose purpose is to help train and mentor medical students as they plan to return to their respective homeland. Their 15 member planning committee, representing 7 African countries, approached me to help organize a medical team to lead their "MAKING A GREAT PHYSICIAN—THE CHRIST FACTOR" seminar in March 2018. They desire a hands-on conference with didactics and breakout sessions in physical diagnosis, suturing, OR protocols( gowning,

## LETTING THE LIGHT SHINE!

*Maria from Kolomya called us last week. She had brought her daughter to the Maternity Hospital and they had put her daughter in the room we had repaired. Maria said that her daughter was in the best ward she had ever seen in her life. She thanked us for what we had done. I explained to her that our American brethren had helped us repair the ward with their financial support to buy material and we had done the work. She said she and her daughter read the Bible that they found in the room and saw Church phone number in it and called to thank us. She paused and then added, "If all believers were like you what a wonderful place the world would be."*

gloving, sterile technique), CPR, EKG, ultrasound and communication skills. I need a 10-12 person medical team to lead this project. I asked for and received from the planning committee a "think big" wish list of supplies. But what I need most are people—healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, OR techs, etc) willing to be a part of this opportunity. This amazing group is planning for a 100+ person conference! What impresses me most is their willingness to share the Word of God with their fellow classmates and their singular mission is to return to their homeland and provide not only much needed healthcare but most importantly spiritual guidance.

This will be a 10 day trip in mid-March 2018 and will be in the western city of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. This is 1,000 kilometers from areas of unrest. I leave next month for my 40th trip to Ukraine and Lord willing will finalize the dates and venue for this conference. This mission trip may or may not interest you personally but you may know of someone searching for such an opportunity. OR you may be willing to help State side with supplies and equipment. There are lots of details I can provide (travel, supply/equipment) for anyone interested. Thanks for taking the time to read this and feel free to pass this information along to anyone you wish. Blessings --- G. Jerkins

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## ANDREW LAGNO GIVES INSIGHT TO THE LORD PLANTING A NEW CONGREGATION!

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters.

We thank God for this good opportunity to work for Him in Yaremche. Through relief shipments that we receive from John Kachelman we have gained credibility with the administration of the city, hospitals and an out-patient clinic in the nearby Mykulychyn.

During our first trip Marina and I visited hospital in Yaremche and met with Alexander Petrovich, the Chief Doctor of the hospital, who in his turn gave big thanks for the aid that we had provided for them for the past five years. He was especially thankful for the C-arm that they use in surgeries. He introduced us to a medical nurse from the out-patient clinic in Mykulychyn, Yaremche District, by the name of Galyna Ivanivna. The latter turned out to be a kind and good-hearted woman. She, in her turn, introduced us to the medical staff of the hospital and her daughter-in-law Marina, who is also a medical nurse. They jumped in to assist our efforts right away. She knows the local population very well since she has 5,000 people under her medical care.

Brother Ivan went with us on our second trip there. We visited District Hospital then, met with the Chief Doctor and discussed possibilities for our partnership and he agreed to give us a helping hand. Then we visited the area under Galyna Ivanivna's care, met with some families facing hardships in life and gave them rice mixes. Local people are very religious and treat strangers with caution because of different cults that exist in that area. When we found out that the local clinic was out of blood pressure devices we mentioned it in our Sunday worship. It touched many hearts at Church and we collected enough money to buy four blood pressure devices and two nebulizers. Samuel, one of our brethren and a Medical student, gave \$50.00 and Patrice gave up her blood pressure cuff. People were bewildered and grateful to get those blood pressure cuffs on behalf of the Church.

## Summer Teaching Events in Stary Lysets



*“At the beginning of the month there was a children’s Christian camp held there. Our brethren from America headed by Mike Lawson as well as Julia and myself set it all up. Camp was held at secondary school. It was a great blessing to teach lessons on character values with Bible and Biblical stories as our guidance.”*



On our next trip Marina and I got to meet Galyna Ivanivna’s entire family. They were very hospitable and asked questions wondering who we were and why we were helping people there. We explained that the assistance came from American Christians as well our congregation; that we all are believers striving for everyone to know Christ and be saved. We had a lengthy conversation discussing reasons why there are so many different Christian groups and how different is church of Christ from others. We talked for over two hours.

Thank you for your help and prayers. In Christian love, Andrew and Marina

### ***PAVAL TUZNICHENKO REPORTS ON HIS EFFORTS...***

Once again, I am happy to greet you with great love, dear brothers and sisters. In every prayer that I say, I always thank our Lord and Savior for you, for your love, support and prayers that we as well as all churches of Christ need throughout the world. Your care and concern are so encouraging to us and they give us energy to work in God’s vineyard with a greater optimism and assurance. I thank God for putting His children together in such a way that we can enjoy good fellowship with you and be partners in our work. Besides, I would like to report to you on the things done last month.

I am happy to let you know that through our joint effort the repairs in the Maternity Home have come to an end. We have invested a lot of effort and money in this second project and it is all worth it. I want to thank you for your financial support of the repairs that allowed us to carry them out. Together with Ruslan and Volodya we were busy repairing hospital beds, which we took to the repaired ward upon their renovation together with mattresses and bedside tables. I cannot help but try to thank you for those beds and bedside tables. As a result of our joint efforts and with God’s blessing, our mothers-to-be will have good conditions for bed rest and treatments. Staff of the department is thankful to you beyond words.

There is one more thing that I cannot but share with you. We received calls from people whose family members had treatments in the ward we repaired last year. They thanked us and thanked God and His Church for opening hearts to do such a great job. They said they had never seen such nicely repaired rooms in any hospital.

I rejoice that I am able to take part in the life of the Lord’s Church that is filled with work, such as visiting and encouraging people, distribution of humanitarian aid, for which people thank you and thank God who works through His Church in this world.

As always, I pray to God asking Him for spiritual strength to be granted to all that have made their minds to follow Him. Even more fervently do I pray and ask Him to give me more wisdom and love to do my best as I labor in His vineyard. Please, pray with me, my dear brethren, for the Lord to add as many people as possible to His Church, for growth of churches all over the world, for those who have not yet arrived on the right path to follow Christ. Please pray for peace in this country. Please, pray for my family, for my children and their health, for me to be a worthy father and spiritual mentor to them. Please, pray for my sister so that God would open her eyes and her heart and she would follow Him.

I keep you in my prayers all the time. Thank you for your help, love, and

## REPAIRS TO THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL



“I am happy to let you know that through our joint effort the repairs of second ward in the Maternity Home have come to an end. We have invested a lot of effort and money in this project and it is all worth it. I want to thank you for your financial support of the repairs that allowed us to carry them out. Together with Ruslan and Volodya we were busy repairing hospital beds, which we took to the repaired ward upon their renovation together with mattresses and bedside tables. As a result of our joint efforts and with God’s blessing, our mothers-to-be will have good conditions for bed rest and treatments. Staff of the department is thankful to you beyond words.”

support. Wishing you good health, God’s love, and blessings.

With love, your brother in Christ Pavel

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## *VOLODYA DIDUKH REPORTS ON HIS EFFORTS IN STARRY LYSETS...*

Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. I am sending you greetings on behalf of Christians that live in Western Ukraine, in the Region of Ivano-Frankivsk. We rejoice as we thank God for your prayers and fellowship that we enjoy in Christ.

One more month of our lives has passed and I would like to share some news with you and let you know of the things that happened in our lives – some joyful things and things that we were preoccupied with for you to see God’s hand in everything we do.

I would like to begin with news and events in Stary Lysets. At the beginning of the month there was a children’s Christian camp held there. Our brethren from America headed by Mike Lawson as well as Julia and myself set it all up. Camp was held at secondary school. It was a great blessing to teach lessons on character values with Bible and Biblical stories as our guidance.

God blessed us and everything was filled with Christian love and upbuilding. Even a Greek Catholic priest that came to see what we were teaching “his” children had to admit that classes were in line with the Scripture and knowledge of God. He saw us teach the Scripture in its purity and could not find any fault with us. It was awesome as we saw God’s hand and protection that encouraged us greatly. “If God is with us who can be against us?” We are thankful to all brethren that took part in the preparatory work for the camp as well as those who donated funds so that God is glorified in this work and His Kingdom grows.

Julia and I are trying now to figure out how we should follow up on the work that has already been done there to keep in contact with the school and children. We think and plan to open an English Language School to study the language through the Scripture where besides English we would like to teach classes on character training through the Scripture as well. School is out for summer now and all children are on vacation. Thus, we are doing the ground work now so that we can start the school at the beginning of the school year. Please, pray for this project since Satan is sure to oppose it. But we do trust God to help us overcome all obstacles so that His ultimate will is done.

Besides the camp in Stary Lysets, our brethren set up one like that in Ivano-Frankivsk but I was not that involved in its operations although Julia helped with translation and I tried to be of use to the brethren that taught classes. Upon the completion of classes at school we had a retreat over the weekend. We extended invitation to the retreat to school students that wanted to go as well as those that are close to Church. These activities enabled us to plant the Word of God into many hearts. Young people from Ivano-Frankivsk that were invited opened up to classes, the Scripture and fellowship that we had within those two days. We invited them to join us and exchanged contact information to keep in touch with them. We pray now that the Word planted will grow and stay in their hearts and that we will have

## First Assembly in the new construction!



“This month has been marked with special joy as we have finished the laying of the foundation for the new church building and have secured permission for access road that will allow us to use the new warehouse. We are now working on second building that will have larger assembly room plus more rooms for children’s classes.

We pray asking our Heavenly Father for opportunities to have walls and roof built before cold weather sets in so that in winter we could be busy working inside. We had our first worship service in the new building last Sunday, July 2. It is because of the construction and the benevolence work that our congregation is talked about all over the city of Ivano-Frankivsk.”

wisdom to keep in touch with the youth that are leaving school and is entering higher educational schools. Please, pray with us for these things.

Our brother Pasha has already finished repairs of another ward at Maternity Home. Together with other men we prepared hospital beds for the ward. Some beds that we received with shipments were damaged in transit and we had to repair them, which took us two days. And now the room can be furnished with wonderful beds. We thank all Christians that take part collecting and shipping humanitarian aid for us. These shipments give support to the Church, assist with evangelistic work and help the needy. Unfortunately, there are great many people in this country that need help. We thank God and you. We ask God to give back to you everything you invest in this work as we realize that all good works come from Him.

And now I would like to share some personal stuff with you. I am engaged to a wonderful young Christian girl, whose name is Julia. She comes from Eastern Ukraine where she grew up and found Church and Christ. We met when I was enrolled in Bible School in Gorlivka (Donetsk Region). Julia has moved to Ivano-Frankivsk and helps me with everything I do for God. She taught Bible class to older children last Sunday. Both Church and children in particular enjoyed it so we plan to continue. We plan on getting married the 16th of September so, please, pray for us and our future, for the family that we will have to serve God and to spread His Kingdom.

My dad is in a very bad condition right now. He has been on the booze for a lengthy period of time and he refuses to get treatments or any kind of help. Please, pray for him asking God to instill His fear in his heart so that he would repent and change. This situation with my dad is depressing to me and my mom. And we ask God to help change my dad.

Thank you for prayers, support, fellowship and all the good things that we have in Christ. We thank God for your kind hearts and love every time we say a prayer.

With love, your brother in Christ Volodya Didukh

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## ***IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK, UKRAINE...***

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters!

This month has been marked with special joy as we have finished the laying of the foundation for the new church building and have secured permission for access road that will allow us to use the new warehouse.

Thank you, dear brethren, for your prayers and financial support. We planned to complete the work at the end of May but heavy rains threw off our plans and put us a month behind our original schedule. And now all hardships have been overcome and left behind.

We are now working on second building that will have larger assembly room plus more rooms for children’s classes. We pray asking our Heavenly Father for opportunities to have walls and roof built before cold weather sets in so that in winter we could be busy working inside. We had our first worship service in the new building last Sunday, July 2. When our oldest brother Yaroslav saw the foundation and the building he said, “I didn’t expect to see so much construction done. The foundation is massive and

## In the Lord's Name!

"We continue distribution of humanitarian aid all over the Region. Because of the truck that brother Jerry Morgan gifted us we were able to deliver rice mixes to families that live high up in the mountains, 2 hospital beds with mattresses and IV poles to the village of Manyava. Volodymyr Ivanovych, the mayor, was very thankful for the aid. We met a dentist by the name of Vitaly. He showed us his office and his dental unit made in 1964."



there is a warehouse and an assembly room. Now I can see that God does help you."

It is because of the construction and the benevolence work that our congregation is talked about all over the city of Ivano-Frankivsk.

A woman by the name of Maria from Kolomya called us last week. She had brought her daughter to the Prenatal Department of the Maternity Hospital and they had put her daughter in the room that we had repaired. Maria said that her daughter was in the best ward she had ever seen in her life. She thanked us for what we had done. I explained to her that our American brethren had helped us repair the ward with their financial support used to buy material and we had done the work. Maria asked me to pass her heartfelt thanks onto American brethren and to let you know how nice and comfortable the room was. She said she and her daughter read the Bible they found in the room and saw Church phone number in it and thus she called to thank us. She paused and then added, "If all believers were like you what a wonderful place the world would be."

We continue distribution of humanitarian aid all over the Region. Because of the truck that brother Jerry Morgan gifted us with we were able to deliver rice mixes to families that live high up in the mountains and delivered two hospital beds with mattresses and I.V. Poles to a clinic in the village of Manyava. Volodymyr Ivanovych, the mayor, was very thankful for the aid. He showed us around the clinic and spoke about some needs. We met a young dentist by the name of Vitaly. He showed us his office and his dental unit made in 1964. Health care is in great need in that village. There are 5,000 people that the hospital cares for and all doctors have to walk to see their patients as there is not transportation for them, not even bikes. They do have an old Lada but it is out of whack and there are no parts to fix it.

Now we focus on distant mountain areas as we distribute humanitarian aid because people that live there are in greater need both material and spiritual. We give out Bibles with our phone number and address. Our WBI students apply their knowledge preaching with word and deed in those areas.

There were forty-eight present in our assembly last Sunday. We had guests from EEM – eight Americans and their interpreters. They work at children's camp in Western Ukraine teaching Christian character. They came to worship with us and together we had our first assembly in the new building.

Our WBI students have passed their exams and have become sophomores. We pray for our second year. And now we also need to find resources to provide scholarships for Inna and Volodymyr.

Valentina received her bucket from America (sent by the Meridianville church of Christ) and was very happy. She thanked God for it. She says she is so happy to have spiritual brethren all over the world. She looked through the things in the bucket with such a delight! She loved the cat and candy. She promised to write to the family that sent her the bucket.

Thank you, dear brothers and sisters. Thank you for support and prayers.

In Christian love, Ivan and Svitlana