



# UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

August 2014

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**The greatest news of August was that the congregation has been registered!**

*"With our Lord's help we have victory over religious fanatics and have been registered. We received registration papers today. We are the only non-denominational church of Christ in the Region and in the city with the population of almost 300,000 people."*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**"WE CONTINUE THANKING GOD FOR YOUR LOVE. BECAUSE OF YOU OUR FORCED TEMPORARY MOVE WAS NOT AS PAINFUL. WE PRAISE THE LORD THAT WE HAVE SUCH WONDERFUL FAMILY IN CHRIST WHO WILL NOT LEAVE US ALONE EVEN IN THE DARKEST MOMENTS OF OUR LIVES. WE PRAY GOD TO KEEP YOUR COUNTRY SAFE, BLESSING IT WITH PEACE AND PROSPERITY. WE LOVE YOU!"**

The situation in Ukraine has been an all-consuming action item. I am in constant communication with various contacts in Ukraine, Europe and the USA as a private sector strategy is worked out to provide the critical assistance that is needed in that war-torn nation. In recent days Putin's Russia has openly invaded Ukraine's sovereign soil because the pro-Russian Separatists had been overcome by Ukraine's military. With Russians openly fighting in the east more deaths and devastation has become a reality. The traumatic suffering upon Ukraine's innocents is horrific. The callous Russian attitude toward the dignity of human life and the free-will sovereignty of neighboring nations cannot be ignored even by those who are the strongest sympathizers. It seems the rest of the world's governments are sitting back and allowing evil to rule—their inaction will come back to haunt them and they will not escape the same evil from which they blithely close their eyes.

The entire situation portends a great evil presence and impact upon the world. The ramifications of this indifference will not be avoided. The failure to confront and vanquish evil in Europe will fuel the evils in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and South America. Eventually the passivity of the world's leaders regarding Putin will ignite a worldwide blast of evil that will touch all mankind.

The Christian looks to the sovereignty of the Almighty God. Habakkuk's words offer solace to those caught in the upheavals and dastardly machinations. "The **LORD** is in His holy Temple..." *God will* vanquish evil. *God will* render appropriate justice upon those who defy His will and upon those who surrender indifferently to evil and remain silent in word and isolated in their actions. To those who share the vexations of evil's apparent triumph remember...*God WILL!* (Hold hope in Revelation 6:10, 11!)

The tragedy striking Ukraine is once again highlighted in this month's report but there are some most encouraging facts also found. Our brethren are working to share the Lord's compassion. The gospel is being preached. Souls are being saved. God is blessing us with opportunities in other areas of the world.

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

**PICTURES OF THE  
HILLSBORO, TN  
GROUP ARRIVING!**

John Durham,  
Gary Jerkins and  
Rick Montgomery  
arrived to edify the  
Ivano-Frankivsk  
church of Christ



*"Hi John!  
Yesterday at 22.00 with  
Neshvyla ("Nashville")  
brothers in  
Ivano-Frankivsk,  
all good. Are working.  
Иван Сколеба"*



## **IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK**

Greetings dear brothers and sisters!

Our Christian life in the Ukraine is going on and we are thankful to you, our dear brethren, for your prayers and brotherly love. In this current time we need your support more than ever because many are discouraged and despaired to see what is going on in this country. But we believe that the Lord is on our side and that this war will soon be over; and people who have power will understand that there is the One who makes final decisions and directs the path of our life according to His plan.

We are meeting our brothers from America John Durham, Rick Montgomery, Gary Jerkins today as well as interpreters Galina and Ira. We are happy to have opportunity to be together in prayer and fellowship. We are thankful to the elders and the Mission Committee for allowing them to come for a visit.

Children loved Rick Montgomery right away. He brought them bracelets that he had made himself. Today (September 1) brethren went to the school where our children go to. They gave two computers to the school and the Principle was very thankful. He said that our congregation/church of Christ was the first Church to help them. It is very good that our American brethren help us glorify the Lord in Ukraine. We will also visit Social Service that deals with displaced people.

We are also very thankful for humanitarian aid because people are in dire need – prices have gone up, gas has grown very expensive due to the crisis. War has brought about a lot of inconveniences. There are a lot of displaced people who fled and came here without clothes and money. We distribute aid to them and help as much as we can. We have given clothes from shipments to more than 100 people and 27 children. We also help social services.

We pray to God to give us strength and to give wisdom to our government so that they would stop this war and blood shedding. There are no words to describe suffering of people. People are scared to have their pictures taken; they hide and say that either they or their relatives will be taken revenge on.

Julia, a refugee from Donetsk, says that she has two daughters and brother there and they cannot leave the city because the extremists blocked the city and do not allow people to leave. She asks Church to pray for them every time. Many ask for shoes. It has cooled off here and many of them have only summer shoes. We have collected all we could but more and more people come and ask for help.

We continue worshipping God every Sunday, conducting Wednesday Bible classes and prayer/fellowship meetings on Friday.

We are getting our children ready to go to school in September. Thank you very much for clothes that you sent – we used it to help members and their families.

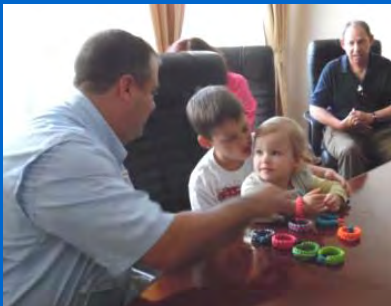
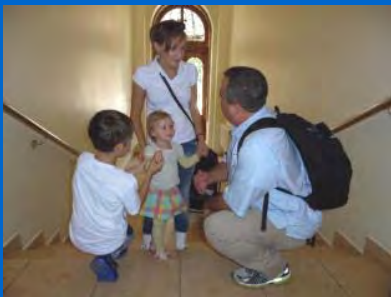
We are worried and want this war to be over as soon as possible. It is heartbreaking to see people suffer so much. We are afraid that all that evil would come to the West and we cannot imagine what we would do then. Please, pray for us and the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk.

With love, Ivan and Svetlana  
С люб. Иван и Светлана

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## VOLODYA AND PAVAL IN KRIVROY ROG, UKRAINE!

*“Children loved Rick Montgomery right away. He brought them bracelets that he had made himself.”*



Greetings, dear brothers and sisters.

I would like to thank you and give you a brief report of the work accomplished in Krivoy Rog. Within the last month brother Vladimir and I visited our sisters Nanalia and Anna in Krivoy Rog. We conducted Sunday worship service there. The topic was “Church: What kind of teaching should we Have in It.” My children attended services as well. They enjoyed singing praise to our Lord. We had tea after services and good fellowship where we discussed different spiritual and life topics. Everybody was very pleased with live fellowship because doing it on Skype is not very convenient.

I also spent some time with my family. I took my sons to the river where we fished and swam. We read children’s Bible in the evening. My sons were very happy that we had such wonderful time together and did not want me to leave. They agreed when I told them that I would not be gone for a long time. I always pray to God asking Him to help me restore my family and would like to ask you to pray with me.

I also talked with my mother and younger sister about God and Scriptures. And I ask God to open their eyes through me and direct them towards salvation. It is sad to see your loved ones lose the most important things in their lives, namely God’s grace and eternal life by His side. I would also like to ask you to pray with me on behalf on my mother and sister so that God would open their hearts.

With love your brother Paval (Tuznichenko)



Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ. I send my greetings to all that know me personally and those who know about me. I always thank God for your prayers and support that you bless us with. I am also thankful for your prayers on behalf of this country as this is something we need badly because prayers and God can solve issues of war and peace.

Our life this month has been very active with both church ministry and benevolent work. God blessed us with a trip to Krivoy Rog and we had wonderful fellowship there. We also had Sunday worship and Lord’s Supper there. We visited the place where Church used to assemble; we found out some information as far as possibility to continue assembling at that place. And, of course, we met and fellowshiped with people who visited assemblies, used to be or still are close to church.

Thanks to God for having allowed us to do this because it inspired both the Krivoy Rog congregation and us. Such work is what helps us to see and understand the power of the Living God.

This month has also been very productive as far as humanitarian work of the congregation goes. We have been able to distribute a lot of humanitarian aid that we received from you. It is a great work and great help to this country and our region. Such work helps us be productive and have a kind of ministry that God expects His children to conduct.

My Mom has had a leg surgery this month. It was very successful. Many of you know her situation, and I would like to thank you for prayers on her behalf. It is a very good and pleasing event to me, that is why I am thankful

## HILLSBORO'S VISIT!



*"We are happy to have opportunity to be together in prayer and fellowship. We are thankful to the elders and the Mission Committee for allowing them to come for a visit."*

to you for your prayers and want to share my joy with you.

We teach Bible classes, conduct services at our church and, thank God, He brings people who seek Him and try to find the truth. It is a great joy and inspiration to us.

I thank God for your prayers and encouragement. May God bless you.

You brother in Christ, Volodya Didukh

## ANDREW FROM SKVYRA, UKRAINE!

Hello dear brothers.

My family and I continue staying in Skvyra, Kyiv region. It started getting colder this week, and we can feel the autumn approaching.

### *Situation in Gorlovka*

Unfortunately, nothing shows that the problem with armed insurgents in Gorlovka is coming to an end. In the last few weeks there was a noticeable growth of pro-Russian insurgents who control the city. They use most of the administrative buildings as military barracks. After a week of peace, DNR army started counterattack and drove the Ukrainian army out. Similar situation can be observed in other parts of Donetsk and Luhansk areas. Starting with August 23, shootings in Gorlovka do not cease; they just become more or less intense. Those people who stayed in the city are in dire situation: all offices in the city are closed, as are all the banks, and all social payments are delayed. Only a small part of the grocery stores are working in Gorlovka, but their shelves are almost empty. Pharmacies are closed; hospitals do not have either doctors or medicines.

As for the general picture of ATO (anti-terrorist operation), every day 10 to 100 military technical units break through Ukrainian borders from Russia. Also they use those areas of Ukrainian-Russian border that are not under Ukrainian army's control to transport arms and trained hired soldiers and regular army troops. This way Putin can stir the conflict as long as possible.

There is much destruction in Gorlovka; there is no water, electricity or gas in many parts of the city. I asked my father who stayed in the occupied city to look after the church building that was taken by armed insurgents. Yesterday, he was there yet again and saw the building from all perspectives. It is not damaged yet; all the windows are intact. There are only few DNR (Donetsk National Republic—the pro-Russian Separatists) soldiers in it. We pray that the Lord will keep our building safe until the city is freed. We are looking forward to the day when we can return to our home.

There are several brothers and sister in Christ who stayed in the city. We called one another daily, but the last 10 days we could not do that, because the cell phone connection was turned off in the city. On behalf of Christians from Gorlovka who are in extremely difficult situation, I want to thank Johnny Mack Young and the Shackle Island Church of Christ for their help. We thank the Lord for the caring, sensitive and selfless hearts of our USA brothers and sisters.

### *Ministry in Skvyra*

I continue God's work in Skvyra. I teach Bible classes on 1 Corinthians during the week. Together with my family I visit Christians at their homes, where we have discussions of spiritual matters and evangelize to those

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members of their families who are not Christians yet.

#### *Ministry in Kyiv*

During my visit to Kyiv last month I have learned about the trouble the Shevchekivska Church of Christ in Kyiv was going through. Its founder and preacher died several years ago. A young man with no experience and feeble doctrinal beliefs started preaching there. Two months ago, he left this church and became a Baptist, leading another 10 people away from the Truth. As a result, the congregation was left with no financial support. Their contributions are barely enough to pay the rent for the place where they meet. This congregation has very good brethren, who are eager to keep it alive, but they do not have anybody with education in Bible or experience of teaching God's word. After I have visited them, they asked me to help them in this difficult for their congregation time, so that I would come on Weekends and preach there until it is time for me to go back to Gorlovka. In their turn they will pay my travel expenses. When I got acquainted with them, I noticed that the majority of the church members consist of married couples. Congregation consists of a bit more than 20 people. It is encouraging to see how seriously and attentively these Christians approach the study of God's Word. The last Sunday two brothers from Kyiv suburbs invited me to visit them. We have talked for many hours until late night, discussing different doctrinal issues and also the possibilities for the Church to get out of this crisis.

Please, tell me if you do not mind that I and my family would help this congregation while there are military actions in Gorlovka.

#### *My family and I*

During the last week, it started getting considerably colder. Even though we love autumn (the golden season as we call it), we are not looking forward to it this year, since leaving Gorlovka and hoping to return soon, we took mostly summer clothing. All postal services in Gorlovka are closed, so sending warm clothes from home is not possible. So unwillingly, we have to add to our wardrobe here some new clothing for this autumn and quite possible for winter.

The beginning of the new school year in towns where ATO takes place is cancelled. According to different prognosis, it may start there either November 1 or even January 1. Thank God, since we are in Central Ukraine, we have an opportunity to send our son Ilya to school as it is usual here in the peaceful time on September 1, and he will attend the school here until our departure. Ilya is worried a bit because all the classes will be taught in Ukrainian and not in Russian. I hope that he will successfully overcome this obstacle.

We continue thanking God for your love and support. Because of you our forced temporary move was not as painful. We praise the Lord that we have such wonderful family in Christ who will not leave us alone even in the darkest moments of our lives. We pray God to keep your country safe, blessing it with peace and prosperity. We love you and appreciate you.

In Christ, Andrew Zhuravlyov—Андрей Журавлев

Previously at the Gorlovka church of Christ but evacuated to Kyiv Region

How easy it is to "pass by on the other side" instead of alleviating the suffering that has fallen upon another—especially if it is far away in Ukraine (Proverbs 22:9)

*“Last month one sister passed away from this community. We arranged prayer meeting at their house to console the husband and sons. I spoke about how God created man and death, judgment etc. Hindus believe that after the death of a person, he again born in this world but not as a man but as monkey or donkey etc. I condemned that false teaching also on that day. After the meeting one young man, name Dhanaraj, met me and asked me some questions about resurrection etc. I explained him and invited him to attend the services. On Wednesday, we had Bible study. After the study, he said he wants to be baptized. I was very glad and baptized him. Please pray for the spiritual growth of this young man.”*

## **VLAD PAZIY SENDS A REPORT ON THE CHURCH IN KRAMATORSK, UKRAINE!**

In July the fifth Ukrainian army entered Kramatorsk and life became better. We still have a lot of militaries and block posts between the towns, also a lot of airplanes and helicopters in the air (we have the biggest military airport in Ukraine) but we can get together as a church freely and it is a big relief; very relieving. We put back the church and ABC school signs. The church members are slowly getting back to Kramatorsk. Some decided to stay in different places due to the circumstances but most of them are coming back.

According to our yearly tradition we had camp Americaine but in Dnepropetrovsk. People from different regions came, about 80 people. From American side Jeff Abrams was the one who came. Special thank you to you Jeff for all your lessons which brought us strength and all kinds of encouragement. You actually put your life at risk coming here, but all went great and safe for you for what we are very thankful to God. Thank you brother for your dedication and friendship. We missed of course the rest of the group from the American side but to stay home this time was very wise decision. Yes, it means that Jeff is crazy, coming to Ukraine at this trouble time, yes he is, but he is crazy in a very good way and we appreciate that very much. Love you, brother!

Central Library church of Christ is worshiping with us now, some of the members are away some attending regularly. The place they rented was not available anymore due to the circumstances, so we are very happy to have them with us.

Sasha Rodichev (the preacher in Dnepropetrovsk) and his wife, Helen took an active part helping with the camp, like finding location and preparing the activities (crafts, games, lessons). Thank you Sasha and Helen for your hard work!

### ***Bible classes:***

Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. we study 1, 2 Timothy.

Thursday at 5:00 p.m. continue study the book of Jeremiah, chapter 52.

Sunday worship

At 10:00 a.m.

At 5:00 p.m.

### ***Konstantinovka.***

The war situation did not touch this place. One difficulty for me as for coming there was pro Russian's block posts.

Wednesday Bible classes at 10:00 a.m. we study the book of Titus.

We continue to take turns with Vitaly going to Konstantinovka. Two weeks ago Ernesto from Konstantinovka got baptized. He is a friend of Lily. He has been attending the worship every time he had the opportunity and we are very happy for him.

### ***Humanitarian help:***

Some organizations are asking for a help and some of them are: orphanage, shelter for those who give people from the trouble regions a place to stay. We are trying to help with what we can. You can read and see the pictures about that in my next report

FACES OF THOSE  
WHO LOVE YOU IN  
IVANO-FRANKIVSK



## OUR DEAR BROTHER IMMADI SENDS A REPORT ON THE LORD'S WORK IN INDIA!

My dear loving brother David and sister Gennie,

Greetings in the merciful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

How are you sir? How is sister Gennie? Both of you are in our daily prayers. We always thank God for giving us wonderful couple who fear the Lord and serve Him. We thank God for giving both of you very big hearts which are filled with love and compassion. We sincerely thank you for your kind sacrificial helps. We always thank you for your kind alms.

Sir, I and my son Sam are trying our best to spread the Truth. Most of the people in India, speak Hindi language. Our Government also trying to replace English by Hindi. I am seeking every opportunity to preach in Hindi speaking states. I had been to Uttar Pradesh State and Chattisgarh also. Since my Sam is taking care of the work in our state, I could concentrate more on Hindi states. On 27<sup>th</sup> August I am planning to go to Chattisgarh State. This time I spend at least five days there. In September, I am planning to go to Varanasi a big city in U.P. state on 11th August. Please pray for my efforts.

I informed in the past about some people who were converted to Truth from Koya community of Hindu religion. These people worship many gods and tell palm history. They bluff the people saying that they can tell the future for the sake of money. Some are saved and living faithfully. Out of them two became preachers also. Last month one sister passed away from this community. Her name is Kalavathy. Her husband is Parameshwar. We arranged prayer meeting at their house to console the husband and sons. I spoke about how God created man and death, judgment etc. Hindus believe that after the death of a person, he again born in this world but not as a man but as monkey or donkey etc. I condemned that false teaching also on that day. After the meeting one young man, name Dhanaraj, met me and asked me some questions about resurrection etc. He belongs to that Koya community. I explained him and invited him to attend the services.

He was attending now and then. I was also visiting his house. On Wednesday, we had Bible study. He also attended. After the study, he said he wants to be baptized. I was very glad and baptized him. I encouraged him to invite his friends for the services. Please pray for the spiritual growth of this young man. I send few pictures of baptisms soon.

I once again thank you for taking care of this work. We are praying for you. Kindly pray for us and for the work here.

Closing with love, Yours in His service,  
Immadi

August 26 we loaded two containers going to Ukraine. One container had 42,500 pounds of rice going to Korosten. Another was filled with 27,563 pounds of shampoo, soap, baby wash, personal hygiene supplies, and surgical supplies going to Zaporozhye.

- ✓ Total value of the containers: \$350,011.00 (all donated to us)
- ✓ Total cost of shipping two containers: \$13,925.00 (the amount we paid)

***This means that the ratio of dollar spent to dollar provided is 1:25—  
for every dollar donated we were able to turn it into \$25 of deliverable relief items!***