

#### **UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS**

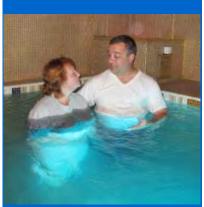
John L. Kachelman, Jr.

September 2014

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#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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EACH DAY IT SEEMS THERE ARE WOUNDED OR DEAD THAT
COME FROM THE WAR WITH RUSSIA AND THOSE FLEEING
ARE MORE THAN WE CAN COUNT. WE DO WHAT WE CAN
TO SHOW THE LOVE AND COMPASSION OF LORD AND
ALMIGHTY GOD!"

The month of September for UKARINE MISSIONS was filled with activities that were focused on helping those in Ukraine struggling against the Russian aggression. The daily briefings, received each morning, revealed that Russia has perfected the diplomacy of double-speak and double-face! The commitments agreed to by Putin and the western governments are exactly what Russia wanted when it began the war by seizing Crimea and then invading the regions of Donetsk and Lugansk.

The situation in Ukraine remains as tenuous as it has since Russia's invasion. The terror that Russia has instigated by supporting the anarchists has driven 1.7 MILLION people out of the east! These have scattered to western Ukraine and to surrounding nations.

The situation in Ukraine has been bad but with the approaching winter the bad is about to become worse! Many of those displaced have no adequate clothing, shelter or food. Many are housed in "summer camp" quarters that are inadequate in the summer but will be intolerable in the cruel winter.

Responding to this crisis has been our focus during September. During the month we have shipped seven containers of food, winter clothing, personal hygiene items, linens, shoes and furnishings to these locations in Ukraine: Korosten, Zaporozhye, Kryvy Rih (or also sometimes spelled Krivy Rog), and Ivano-Frankivsk. With the current US administration there has been a cut off of funding of humanitarian aid into Ukraine and a shift to ship to the nations controlled by Islam's worldview. So each of these seven relief containers has been paid by the donations from brethren! This fact has not escaped the notice of significant people who have complimented the Lord's Church on its willingness to respond and its organization that encourages such an amazing action to an urgent need. Of course that opens a discussion on how this structure was designed and the beauty of the simplicity of the Lord's Church!

We have had many individuals and congregations join to help us secure funding for shipping these containers. We will continue shipping containers to help those in need. We have permission from Ukraine's government and the necessary network within Ukraine to accomplish the task. We are striving to do as much good as possible as this opens opportunities for the Lord's Church to make a lasting impact upon western Ukraine.

# THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN IVANO-FRANKIVSK, UKRAINE!







One of the results of Russia's ruthlessness has been the scattering of Christians throughout western Ukraine. This has presented us with an opportunity to begin congregations in a number of locations. In the western "capitol" of Lviv there is now a group of Christians and they want to start a congregation there. Some of the refuges from the war in Donetsk have relocated in Starry Lisets and we have an opportunity to start a congregation in that town where the Church's influence has been dominate for a number of years (this is the location where the Mayor has dedicated the "Village Day" to us on previous trips). The list of locations where we have the opportunity to establish a congregation is endless. Because of the work that Ivan and the brethren in Ivano-Frankivsk have done with the shipments of benevolent items we have endless opportunities...we just need the workers willing to enter the harvest!

From the reports I receive from Ivan I understand that since March the Church has been very busy in assisting those in need and the requests have increased because more and more (even those in significant government positions) have come to understand what the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk has done in the last six years!

I want to emphasize that we are continuing to ship urgently needed benevolent items into Ukraine. So if you want to join us in this historic effort please do not hesitate! We also are seeking congregations to help provide funding costs and collect items. The average cost of shipping a container is a little over \$7,000.00 (depending from where in the USA it is loaded).

The basic summary of what we have accomplished during the last month is very encouraging:

- ✓ A total of SEVEN 40 foot cargo containers shipped
- √ Thus far we have received (deposited)—\$60,008.41
- ✓ Thus far we have spent on shipping—\$49,418.00
- ✓ Thus far we have shipped a total weight of relief items to Ukraine— 184.809
- ✓ Thus far we have shipped a total value of—\$1,066,791.00

This reports that for every \$1.00 donated we were able to generated \$21+ of benevolent items that were sent to be distributed in the name of the Lord and His Church! The first containers loaded should be arriving in Ukraine on 25 October and will be immediately distributed.

I leave for Ukraine on 29 September and will return on 25 October. During this trip I will be teaching the *Epistle to the Colossians* in the newly registered Ivano-Frankivsk church of Christ! Thank you for your prayers as we fought the Devil and his dark colleagues over the last five years seeking legal registration. During this trip I will also travel to a number of locations to check on our shipments and assure they are being used as intended. Several meetings are already arranged that should have a significant impact upon our efforts to spread the gospel and strengthen faithful congregations of the Lord's Church. If you are receiving this report via email then you are on the mail list for reports that I will send back while on the trip.

During this trip I will be joined by my friend and brother in the Lord Michael Lawson from Lenoir City, TN! For a number of years Mike has worked in the city of Dzerzhinsk (Donetsk Oblast, eastern Ukraine). With the Russian aggression it is impossible for Mike to go on his usual tour. Thankfully he is willing to partner with me and his company will help us accomplish *double* the work! Mike's usual interpreter (Olga) was among those driven out of

## JOHN, THIS IS DISTRIBUTION IN KOSIV CENTRAL DISTRICT HOSPITAL.







Donetsk and is among the displaced in the west. She and her husband moved to Ivano-Frankivsk and are worshipping with the church of Christ there. Ivan and the brethren are assisting Vitaly and Olga and their two daughters find housing and other needs. Those who receive John Durham's updates have seen pictures of Vitaly, Olga and their two daughters.

During the mission trip I will be working in these cities: Kyiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kryvy Rih, Sumy, Uman, Korosten, Zhytomir, and Zaporozhye. Hopefully the first containers will arrive while Mike and I are in-country and we can help unload these.

This month's newsletter has reports from Ivan (Ivano-Frankivsk) and Paval (Kryvy Rih). There is also a report from Immadi in India with encouraging news of the gospel's power in that nation.

Thank you for your interest, payers and financial support that makes the contents of this report (and the additional email reports) possible!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

#### IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK

Dear brothers and sisters!

Lord has blessed us with a visit by our Hillsboro brethren Rick and Gary as well as brother John Durham. We have been encouraged and our spirit has been strengthened. We needed it so bad at such a difficult time that Ukraine is facing now.

Now that we give much time to refugees and displaced people, to new people that keep coming for help and support, we especially need our brethren's encouragement.

This month, Lord has blessed our congregation with one more sister. Her name is Julia. She was baptized, Rick baptized her. Julia came from Donetsk with her mother Nina. They ran away from under shelling and did not have time to take even essentials.

When Julia lived in Donetsk some talked to her about the Lord, faith and salvation but she did not want to listen at all. Her mother had been immersed but did not attend the last few years.

They came to Ivano-Frankivsk and told us what they had to go through and how they prayed to the Lord about salvation. They saw how Church received them, they saw God in their lives, they received help from Christians, and both Julia and Nina thanked Church for help and care, they also started studying the Bible seriously.

Since more than 2,000.00 refugees came to Ivano-Frankivsk, this whole month has been filled with meeting people from the warzone and helping them. We helped them as much as we could.

Vitaly and Olga, a young family with two daughters, have also received help and have greatly thanked Church.

Many young people were drafted from Ivano-Frankivsk and many were killed. Families are left without a breadwinner, parents bury their perished children. People become very bitter. We try to tell people that that life outside God's law and ignorance towards God's Word have brought about such severe consequences, that Jesus Christ is the only One to give

#### News of the Lord's Work in Various areas of West Ukraine!

Pavel now works in Krivov Rog. He meets new people, teaches Bible classes for children and adults. We are trying to find a place for worship. We need to find a place that will be in a convenient area so that everybody could come. Volodya continues preaching in his home village outside of Ivano-Frankivsk as he seeks to persuade those he knows to follow gospel. Volodva is also preaching in Starry Lisets twice month. There are two Christians in Lisets who were displaced from Donetsk by war. All Brothers try to preach the Gospel, and they also face Catholic

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opposition.

peace, love and blessings.

We have had Bible classes according to the schedule.

11:00 - 13:00 - Sunday worship

18:00-19:00 – Wednesday Bible class, and joint prayer session on Friday where we pray for the lost souls that haven't reconciled with God through Jesus Christ.

John Durham teaches English through the Bible on Monday and Tuesday.

Pavel now works in Krivoy Rog. He meets new people, teaches Bible classes for children and adults. We are trying to find a place for worship now, because many have hard time traveling to the other end of the city. We need to find a place that will be in a convenient area so that everybody could come. Volodya continues preaching in his village and meet people in Stary Lisets. There are two Christians there already (displaced from Donetsk). Brothers try to preach the Gospel, and they also face Catholic opposition.

We would like to thank all brothers and sisters for support, for the brethren from Hillsboro that came for a visit and encouraged us so much. We are glad to be a part of God's family and we thank God for you as you give you time and money to support us.

October will be especially tense because Social Services plan a huge program for the displaced where a large number of people will be moved from the East to the West.

We would like to ask you to pray for us and our work. We look forward to having brother John Kachelman and brother Michael Lawson there.

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

#### PAVAL IN KRIVOY ROG, UKRAINE!

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters!

As usual I would like to thank you give you a short report on work done. I spent half of the month in Ivano-Frankivsk, helping with Church work and distribution of humanitarian aid. I also participated in Sunday services, preached a sermon "Whose Example Should We Follow."

I moved to Krivoy Rog on September 15 to expand, Lord willing, His church. I pray to God asking Him to bless me in this ministry and to open people's heart to accept His commandments. I would like to ask you to pray about it with me, asking God to help me with my spiritual growth so that I would be strong to work in Lord's vineyard. Since moving here I have done some evangelizing, have given away children's Biblical coloring books and Bibles for adults (see attached pictures)

I took children for a picnic and taught a class on Kindness. After the class, we played ball, fishes and made shish-kebab. Children liked it very much and they said they would like to attend Children's Bible classes. A few days later, I taught them another lesson "Honesty."

Unfortunately, at this point we have to assemble outside but I pray to the Lord and ask Him to help us solve the meeting place issue because there

#### Paval in Krivy Rog, Ukraine







adults as well who could study Scriptures.

Little by little, I'm able to prove to my family that salvation is possible only with Christ and my words touch their hearts. Please, pray for my family. I also have some joyful news – a friend of mine decided to accept Christ's teachings and be immersed for forgiveness of sins so there will be a new addition to church of Christ. I will send pictures with my next report.

I hope and pray that the Lord will open as many hearts as possible and I would like to ask you to pray about that with me. Church of Christ must grow. That is why we accepted the charge to spread the word of God to all people and to tell them about His endless love.

I wish you good health, God's love and blessings.

In Christian love,

Your brother in Christ Pavel (Tuznichenko)

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

How are you? You are in our daily prayers. I always thank God for you. We never forget you in our lives. The preachers here are conveying their hearty thanks. Sir, whenever I think of you my heart becomes heavy with gratitude. Thank you very much for your love. I know only saying thank you is not sufficient for your love. But I can only convey my thanks, kindly accept please.

I am visiting north India also. Since Sam is helping me lot in God's work, I am able to visit other states also. Next month I am planning to visit Bihar state, it is far away from here. Two and half days journey in train.

Christianity is very less in north India and hard core Hindus also there. Please pray for my trip and also for the safety please.

The work here in our state is also growing. Government has started industrial belt close to Jadcherla. Gollapally is a small village six miles away from Jadcherla. There government started industrial belt. Many industries are running there now. So many new people from different places came here to work there. Most of them are staying in Jadcherla and going to their factories from here.

One young man, named Prashant has taken a room for rent near to our church building and working in that place. He was a denominational christian.

One Sunday he attended the worship services with us, since his accommodation is near to our church building. I have the habit of taking the address and mobile phone number of the new comers. Nowadays mobile phones are very common in India. Even the scavengers who sweep the roads have mobile phones.

Later I visited his house and read the Bible and prayed for him.

After some weeks, he asked me, uncle, why don't you use instrumental music. I told him it is un-scriptural. He said David used and danced also. I explained him that David was under Old Testament. I explained him the differences between New and Old Testament. Gradually I taught about Church and baptism.

### TEACHING AND FELLOWSHIP!







He agreed and attending regularly. Then I asked him to take baptism. He said "I have already taken baptism" I said it is not correct baptism and we had a big discussion. After few weeks, he said yes I did not take right baptism. Last week he is baptized.

This young man, hails from Prakasham district of Andhra state. I asked him to take me to his parents so that I can teach to them. He gladly accepted and promised me to take to his place in November.

Sir, please pray for the parents of the young man, so that they can hear the word of God with good hearts. I send few pictures of baptism soon.

I once again thank you for your love for us. We are daily remembering you in our daily prayers. Kindly remember us and this work in your prayers.

Closing with love, Yours, Immadi

## NEWS ON HOW THE LORD'S CHURCH IS ASSISTING THOSE TRAUMATIZED BY RUSSIA'S EVIL ACTS!

Greetings John!

There are a lot of displaced people in Ivano-Frankivsk and the region. It is difficult to rent a flat, because not many want to rent out to a family with children. There are concerns that those with Russian sympathy will come into west Ukraine and begin anarchy and trouble here as they have done in Donetsk and Lugansk.

Thanks to humanitarian aid that has been shipped in first of this year we distribute on behalf of churches of Christ. The refugees from the East can get it from us. Vitaly and Olga asked us for help yesterday. They have two girls-3 and 4.5 years old. They fled having just T-shirts on their backs as they could not take any clothes with them due of the war in Donetsk. We took them to the warehouse storage and they found some clothes and were very thankful for help. Because of help from our American brethren in sending containers up to 17 September there have been 126 adults and 37 children to receive clothes and relief items from us.

We try to get more photographs but people who have been displaced by war and fled for safety are scared and afraid to say anything because many still have relatives living in the warzone. They think Russian anarchists in east will take revenge on those relatives still living there. The majority come without clothes and money.

One hospital has taken 2,500.00 sheets from us. A lot of wounded soldiers come back from war. Each day it seems there are wounded or dead that come from the war with Russia and those fleeing are more than we can count. We do what we can to show the love and compassion of Lord and Almighty God.

Thank you, brothers and sisters, for your help and prayers.

"This young man, hails from Prakasham district. I asked him to take me to his parents so that I can teach to them. He gladly accepted and promised me to take to his place ... please pray for the parents of the young man, so that they can hear the word of God with good hearts. I send few pictures of baptism soon."