



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

November 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

- News from the Lord's Church in Ukraine

Shoebox gifts by Emma & England



I'm so excited to do this! It makes my heart happy to do this! (Emma)



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“AMERICAN BRETHREN HAVE BEEN A GOOD EXAMPLE OF FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS TO US FOR MANY YEARS NOW. CHURCH OF CHRIST HAS NO BOUNDARIES BECAUSE LORD HIMSELF GUIDES HER AND KEEPS HER SAFE. IT ENCOURAGES AND GIVES INNER ASSURANCE OF UNITY THAT THE GOSPEL OFFERS US.”

The month of November was focused upon our brethren in Ukraine and how Russia's invasion and occupation of Ukraine's sovereign territory is impacting their lives. While in Ukraine last month I visited a number of locations where those displaced by Russia's war have been placed. Upon returning from the visit arrangements were set in motion to ship as much relief commodities as possible. Since September we have shipped sixteen containers and have three more scheduled and in the documentation process for a total of NINETEEN containers since September and a total of FORTY-FOUR for the entire year to date! This is the most containers we have ever shipped into Ukraine during a twelve month period. The amazing fact with these numbers is that nineteen containers have been shipped without any government funding. Prior to the end of the government's fiscal year we were told that all funding assistance from the USA for shipments going into the former Soviet Union would be terminated in May. We sent a plea to you brethren to help us with shipping costs that would allow us to send urgently needed relief supplies to Ukraine's war traumatized victims. The Lord's Church responded wonderfully! This wonderful response came as pleas for relief from Ukraine fell on deaf ears of the current USA administration. Christians heard and responded in wonderful ways.

Updates of our benevolent efforts have been posted and I encourage those who have not read them to go to the blog site at <http://www.kachelman.com/ukraine/blog/#sthash.7TBnloKv.dpbs> and read the updates posted there. I know you will be amazed at the incredible amount of good that has been accomplished by so many brethren cooperating to demonstrate the Lord's compassion to those traumatized by the world's evil. Thank you to all who continue to assist in these efforts.

The war's evil in Ukraine is being used by God. Doors of opportunity are opening for the Church to demonstrate God's love and compassion. Through the container shipments we have transported tons and tons of food, medical supplies, clothing, and furniture for those in need. By utilizing the Lord's Church to assist in distribution of these shipments we are making an impact that brings glory to God. I am receiving a number of letters expressing gratitude for what has been shipped and all thank God and His Church for those whose compassion has moved them to help people so far away.

THE
CHURCH OF CHRIST
IVANO-FRANKIVSK,
UKRAINE!



We help refugees and hospitals. We gave peanut butter to widows with children and each family received a jar that weighs about 3 kilograms. Children had never had peanut butter before and were very happy and asked a lot of questions about America. We told them that children in American schools and churches of Christ give food, clothes and other things to help Ukraine. Valentina, the mother of five children, called yesterday and said that her children collected their clothes that they outgrew and wanted us to send them to those in need. They were very impressed to learn about American children who collected aid for Ukraine.

Thank you to all who continue to assist the efforts that are reported in this month's newsletter. We continue to solicit funds to help us continue shipping benevolent commodities that spotlight the Lord's Church in the most favorable way.

As the new budgets are being considered for 2015 I ask that congregations consider how much they can set aside to assist our efforts. I will be glad to come and discuss these efforts!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters! We always thank God in our prayers for our joint work with you in His Kingdom.

Brother John Durham finished teaching Hebrews in November as well as series of lessons talking about growth of God's local Church. Members of the congregation studied those lessons very carefully. All of us are very thankful to God for this opportunity to spend time with John Durham. Time he spent with the church was encouraging to all of us.

Dima started attending our congregation in August. John Durham invited him. When Dima first visited he was reserved and self-contained and even harsh at times. We understood that there were reasons for such a behavior and we tried to surround him with attention and patience. Once after Sunday worship Dima told me that he was very disappointed in Christians in other congregation and was about to quit going to Church. For three months, Dima watched our Christians, watched our relations and our lives and then he cheered up, opened up, changed and became sociable, friendly and started participating in the life of the Church. We try to encourage him as much as we can because he also comes from Donetsk where war is still going on.

Humanitarian aid sent by brethren and coordinated by John Kachelman and Kathy Cadden allows us to meet some of people's needs. We help refugees and hospitals. We gave peanut butter to widows with children and each family received a jar that weighs about 3 kilograms. Children had never had peanut butter before and were very happy and asked a lot of questions about America. We told them that children in American schools and churches of Christ give food, clothes and other things to help Ukraine. Valentina, the mother of five children, called yesterday and said that her children collected their clothes that they outgrew and wanted us to send them to those in need. They were very impressed to learn about American children who collected aid for Ukraine. Thank you, dear Kathy, for your work. Sometimes it does not take much to change someone's outlook of life.

American brethren have been a good example of faithful Christians to us for many years now. Church of Christ has no boundaries because Lord Himself guides her and keeps her safe. It encourages and gives inner assurance of unity that the Gospel offers us.

This month our congregation has helped 14 hospitals with hospital linens and furniture. We try to preach the Gospel and give away Bibles with our address and phone number. We have helped the Maternity Home for several years not only with material things but we also have given Bibles for each ward so that young mothers could read them; we have given adult and

THE CHURCH IN IVANO-FRANKIVSK



children's Bibles to the staff there. Being in one of the hospitals I met an Orthodox Priest who came to collect money from the patients. When he saw our Bibles he said it was not allowed to read the Bible on your own because Orthodox Church is the only legal church and has the right to interpret the Bible. People at the hospital resented his words and said that he was going around collecting money while those people he mocked (the Lord's Church) not only gave Bibles to them but they also gave beds, bedside tables, linens and had been doing that for a long time. Priest was very angry at me and started threatening me saying that I was working on "his territory" and he said he would not let me get by with it.

We have much work to do both in the Church and outside the Church. Young people that came from Donetsk – Dima, Vitaly and Olya with their children Masha and Christina – all of them need special encouragement and help because they do not have any social connections in this area and their children have problems understanding the Ukrainian language (even though everybody understands Russian here, their children do not understand Ukrainian). A young couple, Stas and Anya, have come to us. They have started attending Bible classes and try to be of use to the Church helping collect clothes and food for refugees and widows with children.

Our assemblies take place in accordance with our old schedule. We have a warm meeting place and we always remember and thank God for your help in finding and renting this place. Weather has cooled off and night temperatures are as low as -5 C°.

Please, pray for our young brothers, Volodya and Pasha, preachers from Krivoy Rig, Starry Lisets and Cherniyiv. There are many places now that are open for us to establish congregation in villages but we have no one capable of going who will preach Truth and stand for gospel. We held a 3-day seminar on Structure and Leadership of the Local Church, where we touched on all stages from preaching the Gospel to church registration within Ukrainian reality.

Please, pray for our family as well so that God would give us wisdom in our ministry and keep us from evil.

In Christian love, Ivan and Svetlana
С христианской. люб. Иван и Светлана

PAVAL IN KRIVROY ROG, UKRAINE!

I am glad to greet you again, my dear brothers and sisters!

I never stop thanking God for having opened your hearts as you support us and pray for us all the time with such a love. And thanks to your support churches of Christ in Ukraine are able to survive and develop. I would like to share my report on the work done this month with you.

I continue teaching children's classes on Character. We have studied such topics as "Sympathy" and "Trustworthiness." We have reviewed the material studied before to consolidate our knowledge. I am thankful to God for directing me onto this path where I can labor in His vineyard and plant God's seeds in the hearts of these children, which I hope will grow and mature.

We have started detailed studies of the Bible with adults. We have begun with Genesis and I pray to the Lord asking Him to open the hearts of these people so that they would understand the Holy Scripture.

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I have preached the following sermons at Sunday assemblies: "Church that Strives to Fulfill her Purpose" and "How We Spend Our Time." We have had a lot of fellowship since it is very important and helps people to realize they are not alone and to know that Church will encourage them when they face problems and disappointments.

I would like to ask you to pray for my family, for the growth of Church in Krivoy Rog and all throughout Ukraine, for those people that have not found the right path yet and do not follow Christ; for peace in this country, for this pointless war to finally end. Our congregation is praying to the Lord asking Him to bless you in all you do, to strengthen your health and spiritual growth.

I went to Ivano-Frankivsk November 15 to participate in a seminar. Topic of the seminar is "Structure and Leadership of the Local Church," where we talk about all the steps beginning with evangelistic campaigns to church registration within Ukrainian reality. It is a very interesting seminar especially to me at this stage of Church growth in Krivoy Rog where I am a preacher. I gained a lot of new information and plan to use it in my work. I will go back at the end of the month to continue my ministry.

I always pray for all of you and wish strong health, God's love and blessings to you.

With love your brother Pavel (Tuznichenko)
с любовью ваш брат Павел

VOLODYA SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD!

NOTE: Here is a very encouraging report that validates the work that we do. Because of our efforts there has opened up two different locations in which we are being asked to establish a congregation of the Lord's Church. Not only are we being invited but the administrations in these locations are offering us locations (rent-free) for our assemblies! We have sent Pavel to Krivy Rig and now Volodya is in Starry Lysets and just as we get these locations covered we are given the opportunity to go into Cherniyiv! All of these opportunities have developed because of the benevolent shipments and free distribution in the name of the Lord and His Church!

Read Volodya's report below and reflect upon the application of the Lord's counsel: *Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shineth unto all that are in the house. Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16).*

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters! Greetings to you from our congregation in Ivano-Frankivsk and my family (mother and father). I hope that you and your families and Church are well. I am fine and have started working in Starry Lysets.

This month flew by very fast as always. And the more you think about it the more you see that the Lord gives us a very short time on earth and the main purpose of this life is to get to eternity with God. But despite this fast pace of life we try to keep up with it doing good deeds and preaching Christ.

This month brother Ivan and I met with the mayor of Stary Lysets many times to discuss the possibility of a meeting place for Church there. We have worked together with the village and its administration for a long time.

A CHILDREN'S SHELTER SENDS APPRECIATION!



*Greetings dear John and
whole Churches of Christ
Mission-Team!*

*On behalf of our team
we are sending you
warmest greetings with
Thanksgiving Day! We
hope that you celebrate
it in the circle of family,
friends and loved ones.*

*We have received
photos from the loading
- thank you very much!*

*Have a wonderful
holidays!*

*Warmest wishes,
Anastasiya Kyrylova*



Thanks to the Father for opening the heart of the local mayor as he gave us a place to meet. Local government of this village is open to us and is not indifferent to our work since we have good relations thanks to humanitarian aid that American brothers and sisters have sent and other type of help that they received and we hope will continue receiving from us. This results because of the work of Lord's Church in the USA, to brothers John Kachelman, Ron Swang and many others, and thanks to the work of the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation.

The humanitarian aid that you collect in the States and that we distribute here in Ukraine helps to establish close and friendly relations with both individuals and whole communities. Such history of our work and connections with the society gives us serious advantages and possibilities as far as our work and preaching Christ.

All of the benevolent efforts have had a positive impact and so the decision was made to give us a meeting place for Church assemblies and benevolent work with needy people.

Mayor of Stary Lisets gave us a meeting place consisting of two rooms in the downtown area close to the administration. These rooms can easily sit up to twenty people. Unfortunately, we have not been able to start using this place because it needs repairs and there is no heating there. We are looking for money to do repairs now and we try to decide how to heat the place so that the heating would not cost too much.

There are two young people living in Stary Lysets who come to Ivano-Frankivsk for Bible classes and Sunday services regularly. These young people came from the East, from Donetsk. We helped them to settle down in Stary Lysets and it was the Mayor of Stary Lysets that helped them find a place to live. All of that is God working His will because He is the only One who can soften people's hearts. That is why we glorify Him, because He took care of those people and they can see Him working in their lives; and we in our turn seek to plant the Word of Truth in their hearts.

Last week a man turned to us for help through the Mayor of Stary Lysets. This man's mother is sick and confined to bed. We gave him a mattress and sheets for her because those things are most needed and necessary for someone like that. He was surprised to see that someone was doing good deeds unselfishly, and I told him about Christian relations between people and what true Christianity is. I would like to thank you for taking an active part in collecting and shipping humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Good deeds, by the Church and such deeds seen by the world are the key to effective preaching of Christ.

I hope God will give increase to the seeds planted because everything is in His hands.

Last week brother Ivan conducted a seminar talking about "Structure and Leadership of the Local Church." We discussed all issues from preaching the Gospel to Church registration taking into consideration Ukrainian mindset and culture. Such seminars help our work and give us an opportunity to share experience. Thanks to our Father for giving us such experienced brothers and for free companionship with them. I hope that we will use all the information we received and it will be beneficial to our work in God's vineyard.

And there is yet more good news to report. Moreover, deputies from

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA!

From: Giorgi Atashvili
Subject: Thanksgiving day-
Georgia

Dear John!

Happy Thanksgiving Day!

May God save and bless the
churches of Christ, the US
of America and Georgia!

Sincerely, yours, Giorgi

AUSTRALIA

From: Baz & Sue
Subject: donation from
Australia

Hi John,

I am a member of a small
church of Christ in
Queensland, Australia.

As we are in need of
brothers to preach, Andrew
Bowens has been preaching
for our congregation on a
monthly basis via Skype.

In gratitude for this we
would like to give a
donation of \$200
(Australian) to your mission
work to assist Ukraine
relief efforts.

Could you please advise the
best way to transfer this to
you...international bank
draft? Electronic transfer?

In Him, Barry Tickle
Treasurer Gold Coast
Church of Christ

Cherniyiv, which is ten kilometers away from Starry Lysets, are willing to give us a meeting place for our work and ministry. Thus, we will be able to cover the whole district preaching the simplicity of salvation to people. This open door is added to work of Paval in Krivvy Rig and you see that much evangelism is active and it is all because of God's mercy and your help. It has taken us some time to establish these contacts with the local government and we are thankful to God for opening doors to us through these people. Repairs of these meeting places will be our next step and we are working on that. I hope that God will bless this work.

Last Saturday, I visited with my parents. As you know, my mother is a Christian; as for my father, he has not submitted to the Word yet. He has a drinking problem and he is on the booze from time to time. He is not drinking right now and last Saturday we worked in the woods together preparing logs for winter. I used that opportunity to spend time with him and encourage him some. I would like to ask you to pray for his soul, and that God would grant me opportunities to spend time with him. Because my father can save his soul and live a full life only if he is in God. I am thankful to you for your prayers on his behalf and would like to ask you to continue because God is the only One who can work out everything.

I would also ask you to pray for me so that God would give me wisdom and strength to be faithful and good worker in His vineyard. I am thankful for John introducing me to Jerry and Buddy and for their support. We have met and discussed plans for our work in Stary Lysets, exchanged contact information and had wonderful fellowship. Their work all over the world inspired me even more to serve and work in God's vineyard. These are remarkable people.

Thank you for everything. At this time Ukraine is in great need of God's mercy and help. Especially in western Ukraine we are overwhelmed with difficulties and requests to help begin early in day and last even to when we try to go to sleep. Please thank American brothers and sisters for all they do to help in these trials. Please pray for us and we are praying for you.

Thank you for your support and prayers that you send to me through Jerry and Buddy! I would like to greet all brothers and sisters in Christ. I hope the work we are about to start will be a success and will bring glory to our Lord and yield fruit for His Kingdom.

Many blessings to you. May our Father bless you by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. I am thankful to God for you!

In Christian love, Volodya (Didukh)

З любов'ю, Володя

A THANK YOU FOR MEDICAL HELP!

Greetings, John and brethren! I would like to thank you for your care about me. Thanks to your care I am back to normal and am about to get down to work. My knee surgery went well. There were some side-effects from anesthesia but it was normal and they are gone now. Sutures were removed this Monday and I started rehabilitation exercises. As of today, I do not even limp. Thank God, everything went successfully. Thank you once again for your help with my medical treatment.