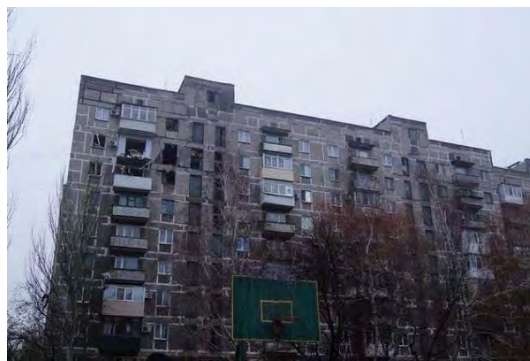


Hello dear brothers,

Winter came in place of fall, and it is snowy and quite frosty outside. My family and I stay in Skvyra, Kyiv region. Everything is the same here. People go to work, walk in the parks and get married. Being here, it is difficult to believe sometimes that in other parts of our country there is a war going on, many thousands of people die there, and those who survive have to live in extreme poverty.

1. Gorlovka.

Unfortunately, the situation in Gorlovka got worse in November. For several months now, both Ukrainian and DNR armies are fortifying their positions. Neither of sides makes advancements. However, they use heavy artillery. Since Gorlovka is a front-line town, there are daily shootings in different parts of town, and that destroys infrastructure and leads to deaths among civilians. Our fellow Christians who stayed in Gorlovka tell that DNR shoots at Ukrainian army positions from living quarters. Often the answer follows. The formations of DNR insurgents are strong and big in numbers. They are armed with weapons from Russia. Ukrainian experts state that the war will not end for as long as Russia is helping those insurgents. In summer mass media infirmed that there are weeks until the war actions cease, but now many Ukrainian politicians state that it will take years to solve this conflict.



As for the life in occupied Gorlovka, there are no working offices or places in town, and people do not get neither their salaries, nor government aids. Recently Ukraine blocked all bank accounts of the people and organizations that are on the occupied territory. Elderly people have to provide a lot of paper work to get their Ukrainian pension now. Not every person is able to gather that paperwork and deliver it to the towns that are under Ukrainian control. DNR does not get any payments delivered and does not even allow for Ukrainian humanitarian aids aimed to help citizens of Gorlovka to enter the town. There have been noted many deaths from starvation in the town. The elderly lady we knew committed suicide in despair. In many places, including Gorlovka, which are under DNR's control, people start revolting because of hunger. Armed insurgents try to make them go away, threatening them with weapons and shooting in the air. Yet those people are driven by hunger and suffering, so they do not fear anything anymore. Our sisters in Christ tell us that it is not uncommon for a person walking down the street to faint because of hunger.

We are extremely grateful to Aaron and Brittany Morrison and Ray Frizzells family who send financial aid to help the suffering Christians of Gorlovka. I have distributed the aid among brothers and sisters who stayed in Gorlovka and those left it for a while. I call Christians in Gorlovka every day. Each time they thank you for your brotherly care and love in Christ. They say that if it were not for that help they would be probably dying of hunger right now, if not already dead. Their relatives who have also been impressed by that sincere care that you express send you their heartfelt thanks.

I'm trying to convince our sisters in Christ to leave the occupied town and move to a safer region for a while. I promised to help them and aid them in any way I can. Unfortunately, they are too tied to their homes and belongings, and despite the imminent danger to their lives, they decided to stay in Gorlovka for now.

I'm thankful for your prayers for my parents' health. Thanks God my mother feels much better now. Besides one postal service started working in Gorlovka, and it gave us an opportunity to send medication there.

In this month, I helped a family of BVBIU graduate from Gorlovka, Alexey Mitskutis move to Bila Tserkva in Kyiv region. Now they live in a comfortable two-room apartment. Alexey's wife is pregnant. She is happy that all troubles and fears are left behind, and that she will be carrying the baby in safe and peaceful area. There are three Christian families from Gorlovka who live in Bila Tserkva.

2. Ministry in Kiev region.

Once a month, my family and I visit Bila Tserkva, where I preach on Sunday. After that, we have a wonderful time of fellowship with Christians from Gorlovka and Bila Tserkva. Every trip, we get to visit our brethren from Gorlovka at the places where they live now. These meetings are a real celebration both for us and for them. During our last visit, there was a baptism of a lady, Tamara, after the service.





The preacher of Bila Tserkva Church of Christ records my sermon and posts them on YouTube for those Christians who couldn't be at the service on Sunday for various reasons. I'm sending you the links to these sermons.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPxQ6YLbYyo&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVenrObj0IM&feature=youtu.be>

Most often, I get to preach in Shevchenkivska church of Christ in Kyiv on Sundays. As usually, I start with a class on Leadership (from BV program), after that I preach during the service. Brothers and sisters accept me quite well. During the week, I keep in touch with them via phone calls and Skype. We have regular meetings of the men of the congregation, where we discuss different questions about their ministry, their growth and the future of the congregation.



I also help the preacher from Skvyra, Andrey Pomaz. I usually preach at Skvyra Church of Christ on the first Sunday of every month. Every week I get to teach a Bible class on 2 Corinthians there. Local Christians are very friendly and loving. They are always supportive of us in the situation when we have temporarily moved to their town.



3. Institute.

I called Dennis Sopolnik. I thanked him for his prayers for my parents. I also informed him that since I don't have to go to Gorlovka right now, I would love to teach any course to the students which he would want me to teach, according to the needs of the school.

Upon your request, I have already sent all the paperwork on the school and church building, together with the official church stamp, to Dennis Sopolnik in Ternopil. He has successfully received it.

The congregation in Kyiv where I come to preach used to spread valuable Christian literature among the churches of Christ all over Ukraine. Right now that work is not being done anymore, but they have some books in storage that would be of great help to BVBIU students, since after our building in Gorlovka was seized, all the books stayed there. I participated in sorting the books with the brethren from the congregation, and they promised to give some books for the needs of our Bible Institute.



We are constantly thanking God for your moral and financial support. We thank you for not leaving my family and me alone in this dire situation, but continue helping us. I believe God will bless you abundantly as well.



In Christ,
Andrew.

Hello dear brothers, families and churches.

I want to share with you some news of the events that happened in Ukraine, Bible institute and Ternopil Church of Christ.

The year 2014 became a time of change, test and hope. We still personally feel the pain and sorrow of what is going on in our country. Unfortunately, the military actions continue taking place in the eastern part of our country. Gorlovka is still on the occupied territory, and we can't return there. The building of the institute and the church has been made into the headquarters of the terrorists, and it's a wishful thinking that this conflict will end any time soon. We continue praying for peace. Many families are left with no place and no means to live. And there are thousands of them... A month ago, we sent help to those who were in dire need of it (food, replacing broken widows etc.). I know many American brethren continue helping those who went through all this suffering, and it is very important and needed of course. We thank those who participate in this ministry.

Institute Church of Christ.

As far as I know, we are the only congregation that was formed in Western Ukraine because of the military actions in the East. Of course all new beginnings require additional work, and we try to remind and invite people of our neighborhood to come to Sunday services. Our brother in Christ and BVBIU graduate, Bogdan Chigvintsev tries to go out, staying with a Christian literature stand in front of our building at least once a week. Yes, many people know about us already. We have made contacts with people working at nearby shops, pharmacies and post-office. In the next few days, we will hang a big banner that will inform people about the church that meets at this place. As Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 3:6-7, we continue working diligently, but it is the Lord Who gives the growth.



Our church gathered a good team that consists of students, individual Christians and several families. We try to spend as much time as possible studying God's word and having fellowship. We have mid-week Bible classes both at the institute and at homes. Recently, we celebrated fall birthdays and baptisms, and it was wonderful time of fellowship. The average attendance of the Sunday service is about 20-22 people.



Bible Institute.

In November, there was an addition to our program: our brother in Christ, Klim Krisanov joined the first-year course. His father is our second-year student. Their family is from Dnipropetrovsk, and that is the city where BVBIU graduate Alexander Rodichev preaches now. Currently we have 9 students total in our program. There were only Ukrainian teachers having classes in this month. First-year students had such courses: Godhead and Angels (Vitaliy Rodichev) and Exodus-

Deuteronomy (Eugen Tebel). Second-year students had an opportunity to study 1-2 Thessalonians (Dennis Sopelnik) and Acts (Vladimir Pazyi).

On November 29, the institute held annual youth conference in the fall. This year we had fewer visitors due to our location. The topic of the conference was "God's Will in Our Life". However, those who attended our even received additional knowledge and experienced lots of positive emotions.

The institute will be having classes until December 19, then the students will have some time for research work and winter break.



We continue publishing our monthly journal "Sound Life". Now we are sending in electronically to all available e-mail addresses all over Ukraine and Russia. The journal contains articles of our American brothers, but we have grown our local authors as well. BVBIU secretary Oksana and staff translator Julia continue translating books and needed teaching materials for the school. As a result of our building being seized, we lost some part of our library and teaching materials, and now we try to add what we are lacking.

Church, BVBIU students and staff send you their greetings and gratitude for your prayers and financial support. We appreciate your help and care.

Your brother and coworker,

Dennis Sopelnik.

Good News from David Smith (Pleasant Valley church of Christ, Little Rock, AR) on getting shipments into the Lord's Church in Gonaives, Haiti!

We have had the joy of working with brother David Smith in shipping benevolent items into Haiti. Through these shipments there have been a number of new congregations established and the Christians have been able to make a significant impact in the community! Here is news from a recent shipment transported by the U.S. air Force.

-----Original Message-----

From: David E Smith

Subject: ARRIVAL IN PORT AU PRINCE

We are so very thankful for the Denton program and for their delivery of these valuable shoes (our first shipment!!!). We will start the distribution process—to hundreds of happy children. You guys are great!



Thank you so very much for the help in getting our 2700 pairs of shoes to Haiti. I did not know until further conversation with Gueston Pacius that this contribution was such an incredible help to these children (average cost of USED shoes in Gonaives—\$30/pair).



We need help in getting our tractor and trailer to Haiti—our goal is January 21. I know that that will require an expedited effort, but I am asking for this because of the unique nature of our need. Our inexperience has delayed the preparation of the humanitarian aid transportation application (our farmers were in the middle of harvest, and they needed some assistance in getting the comprehensive measurements and weights).

Our farmers are key to the operation of the tractors as well as the teaching of the local people—operation and maintenance. We have a critical situation since our old used tractor's transmission has made the current tractor inoperable. Our farmers, because of their harvesting and planting responsibilities, can only come in early February. A remote mountain community has no drinking water. Villagers travel 3 ½ hours round trip each day to get water. The road to the village must be widened and repaired in order for our drilling rig to get there. Several other building and farm projects badly need to be completed in February.

Consequently, if there is any way to give priority to our request for shipping of this tractor and trailer, we would be overwhelmed with thanksgiving. Hundreds of people will benefit from your continued wonderful service.

Thank you in advance for your help.

David E. Smith, MD
Haiti Christian Development Project
10900 Rodney Parham Road
Little Rock, AR 72212