



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

May 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

- Reports from our brethren in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternipol, and Stary Lysets



MARIYKA SAID, "FOR A WEEK I MEDITATED ON WHAT I HAD HEARD AND IT WAS AS IF MY EYES OPENED AND I UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLICAL BAPTISM VERSUS TRADITIONAL ONE."

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"I USED TO THINK THAT GOD WAS AN EVIL CREATURE ALWAYS BUSY PUNISHING PEOPLE BUT NOW I HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT HE LOVES PEOPLE AND DOESN'T WANT US TO DIE." WHAT YOU DO IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US AND PEOPLE SEE, SENSE AND UNDERSTAND IT BECAUSE AMERICAN CHRISTIANS CARE FOR UKRAINIANS. "

How much has your Christianity personally cost you? Think about the cost difference between "conviction" and "convenience." The exclamation of Paul offers you an inspired benchmark for your personal evaluation, "And I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls" (2 Corinthians 12:15).

May 2015 has flown by as if a blur. It was a month filled full to overflowing! During May I travelled to Arkansas, Tennessee and Alabama within the first three days of the month and then the remainder of the month saw me touch Georgia and the Netherlands as I was on my way to points all over Ukraine (I think out of 31 days in May I was travelling 28 and due to time differences some days I travelled twice on the same day)! During this time we loaded SIX containers that are currently only their way into Port Odessa and then throughout the nation. Numerous lessons were preached beginning with Dalraida's Mission Day just prior to my leaving and ending with discussions about restoration principles necessary to follow only the Bible with a number in Ukraine.

Do not forget the "support personnel"! Every time a military operation is undertaken the action may focus on a small squad, but that is not all involved. The actual number involved is phenomenal. That is similar to the reports you read in these newsletters. Each action may have 1-2 out front and in focus but do not think these do the task by themselves. They have countless support behind the scenes. THANK YOU for your efforts!



On Wednesday before I was to return I received word that Bekah had gone to Vanderbilt Hospital and soon after she arrived grand #7 made her appearance—Kinnley Cate Coggins!

The return from Ukraine has not slowed things down. I will be in Searcy for only a few days and then I will be on the road again making reporting stops on our efforts.

There is an urgency to get the construction began on the property that has been given to the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation. Be sure to read Ivan's report on efforts being made to take this property away and give it to the Orthodox Church. If we begin construction this evil deed cannot happen! We NEED your help! Please pray for God's assistance and help us contact

**IMMADI SENDS NEWS
AND PICS FROM
INDIA!**



*My dear loving brother
David and sister
Gennie,
I am enclosing few
pictures of baptisms.
Please pray for
new souls.
Closing with love,
Yours in His service,
Immadi*



those individuals and congregations that can help. I, and others familiar with the work and history of the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk, are willing to make personal visits to discuss this emergency situation.

During the month of May I was often reminded of the difficult situations that face our brethren. Looking at their stresses and difficulties makes the blurred events that I lived seemed less poignant. While many are concerned about being inconvenienced and troubled, I saw brothers and sisters who had long forgotten what it was to enjoy “convenience” in daily living. At times it seems that too many are very content to live within their comfort zone and sit within the security of their pew and seriously question the whys of those who will not remain sedate in their energies to fulfill the Lord’s command to “GO and DO!”

There are always excuses for not doing; always cynicism verbalized for being inconvenienced. It is this attitude that offers a practical commentary on our Lord’s words “many are called but few are chosen.”

The Apostle Paul’s words expressed the reality of discipleship requiring one to sacrifice self’s conveniences and comforts: “Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day have I been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of rivers, in perils of robbers, in perils from my countrymen, in perils from the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in labor and travail, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Besides those things that are without, there is that which presseth upon me daily, anxiety for all the churches” (2 Corinthians 11:25-28).

Have you ever asked why Paul surrendered conveniences? His explanation is simple “I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls” (2 Corinthians 12:15).

I believe Paul would honestly say, “I did not think I would be required to do these things. But these are here and here I am—what else can I do but accept and endure?”

Christians are called not to conveniences but to conviction and commitment. When called to sacrifice conveniences and sacrifice what they imagine should be life, too many ask “Why me?” instead of asking “Why NOT me?” What is it that makes one think he is exempt from the inconveniences of life? The good Lord warned us that following Him would result in our making choices to accept the inconvenient reality of Christian consecration, commitment, and conviction (Carefully read this warning in the context of the inconvenient truth that Christians are call NOT to conveniences but to conviction and commitment Matthew 10:16-38—too many fail to accept and actualize this eternal truth and thus present grudging service and critical encouragement to those who do recognize it).

Christians are called not to conveniences but to conviction and commitment. This is the message that has been silenced in our hearts. Christians cry for conveniences in their religious devotion and in their daily lives and such draws them away from salvation’s blessings. It is this danger that the mythological Sirens presented—it did not work for the Greeks and has been totally ignored by those living today.

Christians are called not to conveniences but to conviction and commitment. This requires a reverence and not revelry as we assemble to

"We were very happy and thankful to God for His grace towards our young congregation. Our congregation grows and we thank God and always in our prayers do we give Him our heartfelt thanks for you, dear brothers and sisters, for your faith and your good example of Christianity and commitment to God."

praise and worship the Almighty God. It seems that some today are intent upon replacing God's commands with Self's conveniences. The assembly is planned with an order that disrupts the holy reverence befitting the Almighty.

Christians are called not to conveniences but to conviction and commitment. The comfort of your pew, of things being "normal," of personal "needs" demanding attention...all of these and more pull us into the world and away from consecration. Tragically the Siren song deludes many and they are drawn to focus on Self instead of the Savior. And the Lord asks, "For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?" (Matthew 16:26)

Perhaps one of the greatest illustrations of the commitment to God and refusal to allow convenience to control his attitude and choices is presented in Hebrews 11:25 when Inspiration spoke these words about Moses, "choosing rather to share ill treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

Too many today are willing to exchange the pleasures of the moment (and recall that even a lifetime is viewed as a "moment" on the eternal timeline) for the blessings of eternity.

They want convenience. They want comfort.

During May I visited and communicated with brothers and sisters who are committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and not to personal conveniences and comforts. These were brethren who serve God in faithful congregations in the USA and in Ukraine. It is indeed a joy to be in their midst; to hear their confidence in the Lord to supply what is needed for the work of the gospel; to see them sacrifice Self and take up their cross daily to follow Christ.

In this month's newsletter you will read of brethren who are striving to serve God regardless of inconveniences. Some have fled homes and possessions because of Russia's war. Others live in the midst of poverty and illness. Others face personal decisions that will lead to severing relationships with the ungodly. But all share in common the sentiment expressed by young Samuel, "Speak Lord for Thy servant is listening."

Read the reports from your brethren and take courage from them so you will remain steadfast, unmovable and always abounding in the work of the Lord! (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Be stubbornly determined that your sole objective in this life is to serve the Lord and not yourself!

What has your Christianity cost you personally? (Read again 2 Corinthians 12:15). Is your Christianity based upon accommodation to Self or humble acceptance to the Almighty's call to deny self, pick up your cross and follow Him?

This is a challenge even to those who think they are serving. They are active yet they have redefined God's expectations so they can have conveniences and comforts in religion. They serve as the Satan's envoys to urge others not to be committed and involved (See Matthew 7:21-23).

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

TOO MANY TODAY ARE WILLING TO EXCHANGE THE PLEASURES OF THE MOMENT FOR THE BLESSINGS OF ETERNITY. THEY WANT CONVENIENCE.

TANYA ZOZULINA REFLECTS ON OUR RELIEF SHIPMENTS IMPACT!

"I have already mentioned family buckets. You probably know that buckets all have a sticker 'churches of Christ—a family where everybody is loved.' That sticker made many people wonder and open to Church; open to hearing truth about God. There is a young woman at Church in Ivano-Frankivsk that came to Church because of that sticker on her family bucket. She is our sister now! This sure is one of the ways to preach about God and His Church. These buckets are packed with such love and care that it touches people's hearts and makes them wonder and want to know more about these loving and caring people."

Dearest brethren, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I pray for church in America as well as in all other countries as our brethren face hardships regardless of where they are. At some places they really suffer and have to fight against Satan physically. We all fight him every day trying to make right choices and live according to God's will but there are situations when Satan's attacks us from all sides at the same time – physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. Such happens when calamities strike nations. It is horrible when natural calamities occur and you feel hopeless trying to fight the elements of the nature as you realize that you cannot reason with nature, you cannot explain or defend yourself.

But even more heartbreaking and frightening it is when nations strive to destroy nations. And it might seem that, well, they are people they should understand if you give them logics and arguments but the reality proves that people do not always want to hear what you have to say or what you think or what bothers you. They have their minds set up. Unfortunately, this is exactly what's going on in my country.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been affected by war. Some of them lost everything they had, some of them lost their loved ones or friends, some did not lose their homes (they were not destroyed) but had to leave them and they do not know if they will ever be able to go back. Much heartbreak, fear, despair, hurt, anger, hopeless and helpless situations these are the things people face now. Our country was not prepared for such a rush of people, for war in general. And reality is grave because nobody knows when it is going to end, what else is there in store for us... what else is lurking in wait...

In such difficult times we see and appreciate even more difference between those that seek to destroy you and those who seek to build you up; those that want to take what belongs to you and those that seek to give you from their own; those who could care less for the welfare and prosperity of your country and those that encourage and do what they can to help ensure that prosperity and welfare.

And we are very thankful to you for helping us survive through these horrible times with your prayers and humanitarian aid that is being collected by you, dear brethren, and sent here. You were helping us when our country was trying to build itself up and you are helping us now when this young and inexperienced nation is being strangled by someone who is much stronger and bigger.

There are no words to express how much your help means to people who had to flee warzone, who were so scared by bombing and shelling that they ran for their lives leaving everything behind them. And then coming to a new place they had to start all over with nothing in their hands.

Your help to such traumatized people brings them back to life because many of them could not have survived without that help.

Your help encourages people and gives them strength and desire for a new start helping to free their hearts of despair.

THE LORD'S CHURCH IVANO-FRANKIVSK



Your help sends message to those discouraged and frightened, "We care for you. Don't give up!" What else can be more encouraging?!

When John was here in May we visited a few distribution centers and sites in Zaporizhzhya, Zhytomyr, Korosten and Olevsk and an IDP camp close to Odessa. Some of the help is given to the families of those killed in the war. Soldiers come to take things for their families and it is so touching to see them pick things for their children or wives. Your shipments help our wounded who are in hospitals. The wounded are human beings suffering pain and they need help because our hospitals are inadequate to give all necessary medical assistance. The hospitals were inadequate before war started and even more so now with war dragging on and on, sucking life off the nation. This is taking its toll in every aspect of our lives. Please, please, continue praying for us...

We still have disabled and needy people, whose very complicated life has become even more complicated due to war. I hear a lot of good comments on family buckets as it was a great idea because buckets have all essentials and people still can use buckets. I hear that many people are amazed how good clothes/ shoes and other items are as they expected something worn and torn. *The Church in Ivano-Frankivsk takes care of 22 displaced people with their families. They all wear clothes and shoes that you sent and are thankful to you beyond words!*

The children love toys, of course. I watched some of them come with their parents, play with different ones and decide which one to take. Their parents do not let them take many because they know other children could use those toys. It was so touching to see that.

Seeing people's eyes fill with gratitude, seeing despair and hopelessness give way to hope and joy is so special and emotional. I can still see those eyes once dark with pain light up with gratitude and hope.

We do appreciate beyond words all the efforts that you put into shipping containers. We pray for you and thank God for you. Shipments not only help in physical and social ways. They help bring people to God.

I have already mentioned family buckets. You probably know that buckets all have a sticker "churches of Christ – a family where everybody is loved." That sticker made many people wonder and open to Church; open to hearing truth about God. There is a young woman at Church in Ivano-Frankivsk that came to Church because of that sticker on her family bucket. She is our sister now! This sure is one of the ways to preach about God and His Church.

These buckets are packed with such love and care that it touches people's hearts and makes them wonder and want to know more about these loving and caring people.

Over forty containers of humanitarian aid have been shipped to Ukraine through the coordination by churches of Christ since last September. Some of these containers are in transit and have very good furniture that can be used in different institutions. Some more food containers are coming as well as containers with general items. All of this shows that you continue working hard to supply Ukraine with urgently needed items! This reveals your love.

Thank you very much on behalf of all Ukrainians and especially internally displaced people (I am one myself).



But even more thankful am I to you, my dear brethren, for such a great way of preaching God to people that live thousands of miles away from you!

We love you and pray to God asking Him to bless you with love and care that you bless us with, to give peace and joy to your generous hearts, to take care of all needs that you might have and to be your guiding star and stronghold all through your lives as you have given of yourselves generously!

I cannot but mention a few verses from the Epistle to Philemon. Paul addresses one person but I am sending this message to all of you, my dear beloved brethren!

“I thank my God, making mention of thee in my prayers, hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all the saints; that the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you for Christ Jesus. For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother...” (Philemon 4-7).

And one more:

“And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God” (2nd Corinthians 8:5).

Tatyana Zozulina
Татьяна Зозулина

IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK!

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters!

We always thank God for our spiritual family, for your help and prayers and for our joint labor in the Kingdom of our loving Heavenly Father.

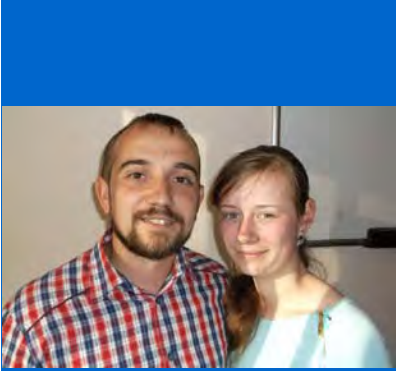
The month of May was very busy for our congregation. We studied the Bible – the Colossians Epistle. Brother John taught Bible classes and revealed problems of early Church and the purpose of the epistle to us and spoke about practical application of the epistle in our Christian life nowadays. He did a very good job.

John spent a whole week with the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk and visited with many brothers and sisters. Lessons and fellowship strengthened faith of many Christians in this Church.

It was so good to have the letters from American brethren that John read to us. Some brothers and sisters wept and thanked God for the Dalraida and Hillsboro brethren because thanks to their support these brethren heard about God who loves people for the first time.

Sister Galina says, “I used to think that God was an evil creature always busy punishing people but now I have understood that He loves people and doesn’t want us to die.”

What you do is very important to us and people see, sense and understand it because American Christians care for Ukrainians and help us at this time of hardships that Ukraine is facing. Many are amazed at your courage because you are not afraid to come here when there is war in the country.



Here's another example. Young girl named Mariyka has been coming to Church for six months now and at first she could not understand why she had to be baptized again when she was baptized as a child. After classes on Colossians taught by John, Mariyka for the first time understood how important it was to be immersed when John explained Colossians 2:12.

Mariyka said, "For a week I meditated on what I had heard and it was as if my eyes opened and I understood the importance of biblical baptism versus traditional one."

Mariyka works at a library and reads a lot and says that all the literature available talks only about infant baptism and thus she was sure that her parents gave her the right type of baptism.



And Mariyka was immersed according to Bible after study and meditation on Colossian teaching.

We were very happy and thankful to God for His grace towards our young congregation. Our congregation grows and we thank God and always in our prayers do we give Him our heartfelt thanks for you, dear brothers and sisters, for your faith and your good example of Christianity and commitment to God.



We also continue helping refugees. We are very thankful to brother Jerry who visited us and helped us financially. We buy food – butter, flour, sugar, noodles, rice – and give to people. We help single mothers with clothes and detergents, we distribute family buckets that you collected for us and sent with humanitarian shipments that John coordinates. We sent seven tons of soup mixes to the warzone to help people.

We give clothes and food to refugees and help hospitals. Because of these labors Church is well known in this Region. Some people come to Bible classes and ask for individual studies as they have many questions and are afraid lest their relatives should be angry with them. They say they ask Priests but Priests refuse them saying they do not need to know such answers.



Wife of an Orthodox priest now comes to Church. Now her husband calls her a protestant and heretic because she attends our Bible classes. John met and talked with her and you can ask him about her situation. The Orthodox religions and fanatics cause us a lot of troubles. They even threaten me and other Christians from our congregation. They are afraid that people would stop attending their churches and come to church of Christ.

We continue assembling on Lepkogo Str. Our attendance was 42 without counting children last Sunday. We are crammed there and we pray to God asking Him to help us build our meeting place.

We have all the construction paperwork and blueprint done but now the government's stipulation is that if we do not start building on that land they will give it up to build an Orthodox cathedral upon a motion from the Religious Department here. I received an official statement from the Religious Department on that fact. This Department or, to be more exact, its Head, has always been ambivalent to church of Christ because she is Orthodox with utter fanatical aggressiveness and some spiteful jealousy towards us. She herself took Orthodox priests there and showed them the land where judging by her words an Orthodox cathedral should be built instead of a "sect's meeting place."



Dear brothers and sisters, we beg you for help on behalf of our congregation. It is vital that we put in fence, run electricity, water and lay foundation now. If we do it nobody will be able to take the land away from us. The estimate for the above works is \$67,000.00.

Our congregation grows both spiritually and in numbers. Please, pray for us. Ukraine is trying to integrate into Europe, due to which land will become very expensive. If we lose the land we will never be able to buy anything like it and in such a place.

We thank everybody for prayers and help.

With love,

Ivan and Svetlana

С люб. Во Христе Иван и Светлана

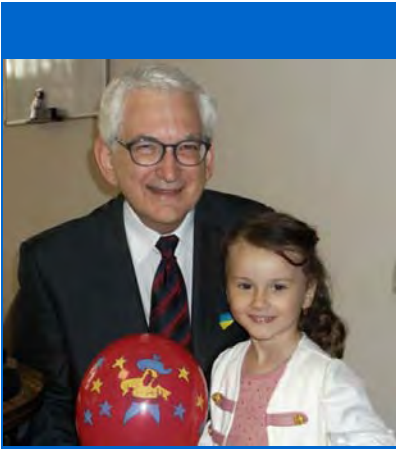
VOLODYA SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD!

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in Christ! I am sending you greetings from Western Ukraine on behalf of Ivano-Frankivsk church of Christ. I would also like to greet you on behalf of my family. Last month was full of God's blessings. We always pray for you and thank God for the fellowship that we enjoy.

Previous month was full of events. First of all, I would like to tell you about the work in Stary Lysets. Our country is getting ready for an administrative reform. According to the reform we would have a new administrative division and new administrative centers. According to the reform and by the initiative of the mayor of the village, Stary Lysets has to become a new administrative center for surrounding villages. That is, the village will have a strong impact on the development and betterment of the surrounding villages and adjoining areas. At first glance it might seem that it has nothing to do with the Church but I hope that through this change God will open doors for our work in surrounding areas, and we will become closer not only to the citizens of Stary Lysets but to those also who live in villages bordering it. That is why I pray to God asking Him to give us wisdom to do what needs to be done in this situation and to show us all benefits for His Kingdom that might result from this reform.

This month I also picked out some furniture items for the assembly place in St Lysets from humanitarian shipments that you sent us. Since we do not own a vehicle, we had to hire a truck to move furniture. But thank God everything is done now. This month, I plan to fix electricity – this is an old building and we have to do it to avoid problems and danger of short circuits. I took a few family buckets while moving furniture and now I plan to arrange distribution of aid to needy people. I hope that the Lord will bless this work and it will be beneficial to His Kingdom.

Brother Stas and Sister Anya, a young Christian couple that lived in St. Lysets, moved to Ivano-Frankivsk this month. There were several factors that contributed to the move. First of all, since they are refugees they are entitled to free lodging but this month owner of the house where they lived told them that they were planning to sell the house because they also were pressed for money. That is why this young couple had to look for a place to live. Since Stas works in Ivano-Frankivsk they decided to live closer to his working place if they were to pay for lodging. That is why Stas and Anya



moved.

We helped them to move, rented a van and moved all the things that they needed and what they had already managed to gain while living in Western Ukraine. This young family continues attending Bible classes and growing spiritually. We pray for them and ask you to give us your prayer support so that this family would grow in the Lord and bring forth fruit for God.

I visited my parents in the village of Viktoriv several times this month. We are going through gardening time for potatoes and vegetables so those trips were helpful from the point of view of farming.

My Dad is on the booze some again. But thankfully he is getting over it now. I try to encourage him as much as I can. And I also pray to the Father asking Him to open my Dad's eyes to the predicament he is in. This one family problem is weights heavy on me. My mother is a Christian but Dad's behavior and drinking discourages her and prevents her from growing spiritually and attending Church as she wants to. I pray and ask Father to correct the situation and to help my Dad obey the Lord. I know that you pray for this situation as well and beg you to continue praying for him. I appreciate it very much.

We did a great amount of work with the group of IDP's which we help sustain. First of all, I would like to thank you for containers with humanitarian aid and especially those that give funds to support refugees and those that need help. Thanks to this support we are able to help and take care of about 20 refugees with their families and children on a regular basis. They are very touched and open to us for such help since we do it at with stability. They tell us that the majority of those that help do it only once and it is only at Church that they find sincere concern and stability. Thus, we distributed clothes that you sent us, food that we bought several times and at some cases when there was a dire need we even gave money. Taking such care of people while preaching the Gospel to them has already brought forth fruit and Church in Ivano-Frankivsk continues growing.

Another girl from the East, named Lena, showed interest in being baptized. I hope it will happen in the nearest future. That is why we are thankful to you for supporting this work and would like to encourage you to continue. This work is pleasing to God and allows people to see the true love of God and choose life in accordance with His will.

I would like to state that plentiful and good fruit resulted from John Kachelman's visit who is our brother in Christ and a very good friend. Brother John spent more than a whole week with us and we could continue studying the Colossians epistle. Systematic and consistent study of Scriptures is crucial to our Church since there are many new converts who do not know Scriptures well enough. That is why brother John's visit was a real blessing for the church in Ivano-Frankivsk. Together with us John visited distribution sites and met with people that received humanitarian aid from us. People are very thankful for aid because our country is facing a humanitarian crisis. That is why we would like to thank you for collecting humanitarian aid for this country and to let you know that your work results in much good and joy that people experience here in Ukraine. We thank you for John's trip because fellowship with our brother is always a blessing to us.

And at the end I would like to share good news with you. I wrote you before about my girlfriend Mariyka. We have known each other for half a



year already. She comes from the town of Kalush, which is 30 kilometers away from Ivano-Frankivsk, and she lives there with her parents and little brother. She works at a library in Ivano-Frankivsk and it was there that we met. Her mother works at a school cafeteria and her father is a welder at a plant. Her brother goes to school and is finishing his 9th grade this year upon which he is planning to go to college.

Her father has a drinking problem as well, that is why their life is not always nice and peaceful.

When I first met Mariyka she had a lot of questions to God and was trying to understand why there was so much pain and sorrow in the world. She started attending Bible classes, Sunday assemblies and she began to understand that all problems and grief that we, people, face come from sin.

Within this month Mariyka made her mind to be immersed, to gain freedom from sin and become a child of God. So last Sunday we had an immersion after worship and Mariyka became a child of God.

It is joyful news to all of us and especially to me as she became a very dear person to me and we started dating within this half a year. She attends Bible classes now and studies Scriptures and I, in my turn, try to encourage her to do so. Please, pray for her spiritual growth and for me so that God would give me strength and ability to be a good Christian example for her. So that she would be able to grow and bring forth fruit in our Father's Kingdom.

A group of brothers and sisters from the USA came to Ivano-Frankivsk last week. These are brother Mike, two brothers named Bill and few other brothers and sisters that set up a children's camp in one of the schools in Ivano-Frankivsk. This visit became a blessing for this congregation as well because brothers out of their desire to minister offered to teach Bible classes on family relations and how to build your family according to God's plan. It is an urgent topic for us since there are a lot of young people and young families in our Church. Our local Church will be strong and fruitful if we build our families in the right way.

Thank you for supporting brothers who work with children and for making it possible for us to hear their lessons on family matters. This is what we need all the time. Thank you.

Thank you for prayers and support that you give us. We are thankful to God for your help and pray asking Him to bless you a hundredfold. I hope this news will be uplifting to you.

With love, your brother Volodya Didukh
З любовою ваш брат Володя Дідух

NEWS FROM DENNIS SOPELNIK IN TERNIPOL!

Dear brothers, families and churches.

It's been a year since the building in Gorlovka was seized. Unfortunately, Russian aggression is still there. The military actions are still taking place, and it seems there will be yet another military campaign in summer. We continue training ministers for God's kingdom. This year we had another group of students graduating from BVBIU. We celebrated this wonderful event in Ternopil, where we had been located for the past year. We had

DISTRIBUTION IN THE NAME OF THE LORD



three graduates this year: Sergey Vorobyov, Sergey Chubenko and Vladimir Polomoshnov. Each one of them started their studies in Gorlovka, and now they have received diplomas holding their Bachelor's degree in Biblical studies. Yet we know that this is only the beginning of their personal spiritual growth.

Sergey Chubenko and his family return to their hometown Smila, Cherkassy region. Sergey will be an assistant preacher, and he will be getting more experience there. We pray for them to start a new church in a while. His wife Lyudmila will be teaching Bible classes for kids and helping with ministry for ladies. The church in Smila is glad to receive such help.

Vladimir Polomoshnov returned to his hometown Ochakiv, Mykolaiv region. There are no CoC congregations in this town. Vladimir plans to start a new congregation there, and he will try to visit and help a congregation in Odessa, which is closer to him.

Our brother in Christ Sergey Vorobyov is in the most difficult situation. He used to live and work in Donetsk before the military actions. As of right now, his house is destroyed, and he is homeless. He is looking for an opportunity to serve at any congregation in any part of Ukraine that will need his assistance. I ask you to pray for him and his future.

It is time for summer break at the institute. The students received an assignment for the summer to preach and teach at local congregations, helping their leaders. The classes will resume in September. During this period, I usually visit different congregations and looking for new students for the next school year. Also we might change the location for our school, it might be a town, which is located closer to Kiev and the airport. We want to try to make travelling for our Ukrainian and American teachers easier. It will also be more convenient for our students.

We have several prospective students who are willing to study in our program. This time it will be students from different areas of Ukraine. May God bless them in their desire, gives them opportunity and strengthens their families in this wise decision.

We continue helping refugees from Donetsk area. This time we forwarded humanitarian aid sent from France. Unfortunately, there are more people who are in need of this help. Many people are running out of money that they've been saving for emergency. We are grateful for all who are participating in this.

In May, we had American brothers in Christ, Jim Sherman and Steve Housley. Jim taught second-year courses on James and Preacher and his work. Steve taught first-year courses on John and John's epistles. They have also taught Bible classes in Kramatorsk. We are grateful for their work and ministry.

We thank everyone who supports Bear Valley Bible institute in Ukraine. With your help and prayers, we plan to have seven more ministers graduating next year. Wars start and wars end, but the kingdom of God will not be destroyed ever.

Your brother in Christ,
Sopelnik Dennis



NEWS FROM ANDRE ZHURAVLYOV FROM KYIV AND GORLOVKA!

Hello dear brothers.

Despite the treaty about ceasing the fire, Gorlovka is still one of the hot spots. After several days of peace, there is always another period of hard artillery firing at the town. In such days, the casualties are not only among the military, but also among the civilians, both adults and children.

Gorlovka Christians often have to hide from the shelling in basements and bomb shelters. I still have services and Bible classes with them via cell phone. I try to encourage and edify those Christians who left the town via Skype.

On May 25, it has been a year since the day when armed insurgents took over the building of the Church and BVBIU. We have many wonderful memories connected to that building: baptisms, different ministries, conferences, lectureships and wonderful cooperation of BVBIU students and staff. We hope that there will be time when situation changes, and it will be safe again in Gorlovka, and we could do the work for the Lord safely.

Unfortunately, the prognosis for the occupied territories is getting gloomier. The head of the DNR, Zakharchenko stated that they “will be fighting harshly against all denominations, and for that reason they will pass several laws very soon.” Among the religions that will be allowed by their laws will be only “Russian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Islam and Judaism.” Such actions are rebellion against God, His will and His Church. We keep praying for the Lord to stop this madness.

Every day during our phone calls, brothers and sisters in Gorlovka say how hard it is for them, how they miss us and how they long to see us again. We applied to receive travel documents that would allow us to enter the occupied territory. If the Lord is willing, we plan to visit Gorlovka at the end of the summer.

I continue preaching and teaching Bible classes at Shevchenkivska church of Christ in Kiev. Recently, with God’s help, we have managed to return to the Church our brother in Christ Alexey who lived in Donetsk before the military actions have started. Now he lives in Kiev. For several months, I have been encouraging him to return to Christ.

I still teach Bible classes on the book of Revelation in Skvyra. We visit local Christians. I use such visits mainly to preach the gospel to the non-Christian members of their families.

Working with many Christians, I strive also to teach the word of God to my family first. I talk to my son Ilya about the importance of the baptism and further life in Christ. Since he was born, he has been with us to all services, Bible classes and Church events. I see now he is getting ready to obey the gospel in near future. I pray for him to make that decision as soon as possible.

We keep thanking God for your care and Christian love. Thank you for the financial and moral support and for your prayers for us.

In Christ, Andrew Zhuravlyov