



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

June 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

- Reports from our brethren in Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv, Zaporizhzhya, Kriviy Rog, Skvira, Gorlovka and Stary Lysets



"June was a joyful month for us because the Lord added one more soul to His Church. It was Khrystyna, Vasily and Uliana's daughter."

CONTACT INFORMATION

John L. Kachelman, Jr.
Ukraine Missions
College church of Christ
2934 East Moore Street
Searcy, Arkansas 72143
Cell: 901-626-4538
john@kachelman.com

"WITHIN THE LAST TWO MONTHS WE HAVE HAD SIX BAPTISMS HERE, WHICH IS SO WONDERFUL! GOD HAS BLESSED US IN MANY WONDERFUL WAYS AND GROWTH IN NUMBERS IS ONE OF THOSE GREAT WAYS. IT IS SUCH A JOY TO HAVE NEW BRETHREN AND TO REALIZE THAT A FEW MORE SOULS ARE SAVED AND HEADED TO HEAVEN WITH US. "

The year 2015 is half over—incredible!

This month's newsletter contains a number of encouraging reports that I have received from various brethren. In a recent report that I sent out to the mail list I reported that in June there were 16 immersed into the Lord from three of the locations where we work in Ukraine. These fruits come from the power of the gospel's message—we sow and water and God gives the increase! These visible responses are very encouraging to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine as it validates their efforts in some very difficult times.

This also validates our efforts and the objectives of our mission—utilizing the kindness of benevolence to sow the gospel's seed. Not a "benevolent work" only but an evangelistic work seeking to fulfill the Great Commission working through the Lord's Church.

This month very well illustrates the biblical church growth system—preaching and teaching the gospel word!

Tragically many have decided...

...they have a "better idea" than that which God commanded as to how to grow the Lord's Church—they see it as entertainment not education.

...that morality is not an issue (unless one advocates that immorality is a sin).

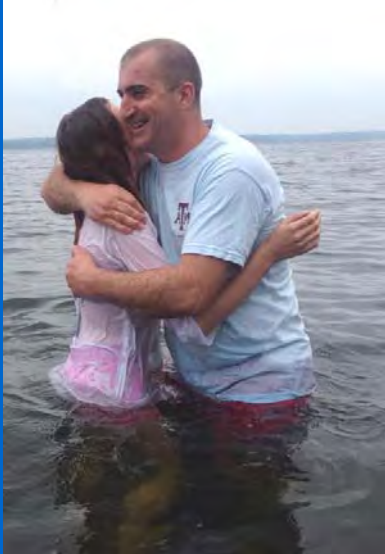
...the gospel is attractive only if it is hid behind some non-descript "church" and the exclusive features of New Testament Christianity are moot.

The tragedy is that too many have mimicked the error of ancient Israel which Moses warned them to avoid, "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil" (Exodus 23:2).

Sadly too many who claim to be "Christians" have turned away from God's Truth and have become assimilated into culture's evil and have muted the clarion call of Inspiration to "be separate" (2 Corinthians 6:17, 18 *"Wherefore Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, And touch no unclean thing; And I will receive you, And will be to you a Father, And ye shall be to me sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty"*).

Even though the summertime is generally thought to be less involved than

ZAPORIZHZHYA REJOICES IN TWO IMMERSIONS!



"Good evening! We would like to share good news from Zaporizhzhya with you. We've had 2 baptisms in the Zaporizhzhya congregation in June. Two young girls, Zhenya and Nadya, were immersed. Both of them are natives from Zaporizhzhya. We continue feeding IDP's from the East and Crimea as well as helping them with clothes. Number of refugees to Zaporizhzhya has grown and church here would appreciate any help you can give these people."

the rest of the year our efforts stateside continue consuming all time and energy. There is no "summer drop" for us! We continue to collect supplies to send; continue to communicate with brethren overseas about their needs and discuss how we can join with them in furthering the gospel; continue to visit and report to supporters and seek new support so our funding can be constant; continue to communicate the wonderful results and impact that come as the Lord opens doors of opportunity for us to seize.

In June we loaded two containers out of Judsonia, AR with these totals.

- ✓ 11 June shipped 20,874 pounds valued at \$284,825.00
- ✓ 16 June shipped 21,089 pounds valued at \$195,900.00

Here are the 2015 totals thus far that the Lord's Church has shipped into Ukraine to assist with relief efforts...

- ✓ Total containers thus far in 2015 24 containers loaded and shipped
- ✓ Total pounds sent into Ukraine 483,390!
- ✓ Total value of commodities shipped \$3,368,454.00!

I continue to schedule appointments to report and speak with congregations on our efforts. In June I had a wonderful opportunity of visiting with two congregations in Tennessee (Fountain Head and Bethpage). The visit, opportunity to speak and joining with these in worship was a wonderful blessing!

Upcoming appointments for me will be visiting with the Meridianville church of Christ for their "mission's weekend" in August and speaking on the St. Louis Lectureship in September. In between these appointments will be scheduled a number of other visits.

Thank you for your interest, support, and prayers!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK!

Greetings dear brothers and sisters!

I always thank God for our joint work for Him.

June was a joyful month for us because the Lord added one more soul to His Church. It was Khrystyna, Vasily and Uliana's daughter. Khrystyna is 15 years old and has grown up at church. She is very inquisitive and studies her Bible. She faced a lot of trials within the last seven months as Satan wanted to lure her into living according to the world. Also at this age hormones run high and teenagers have hard time controlling them. It was even more difficult for Khrystyna because her Mom was not there. Khrystyna's parents are in America now and Khrystyna lives with Marina and Andrew.

Thank God, Andrew and Marina put out much effort and patience to show and explain through their own lives the consequences of life without God.

And she repented and was immersed. Now she attends all Bible lessons. She has changed and became an obedient girl.

Lord changes our lives regardless of age. Now that we watch families that obeyed Christ we see how much their lives changed. We have had six baptisms within the last two months. Church grows in numbers and we thank God for you, for all the many efforts you put out to providing both

WONDERFUL NEWS FROM MARIUPOL, UKRAINE!

"John! Talked with Vadim, preacher from Mariupol. They had 12!!!!!!!!!!!!!! baptisms today! Vadim has sent pics and I'll forward them to you and Jim."



material and spiritual help for this church.

Thank you for your letters and advice. What you and the elders do for us and our congregation here in Ukraine is very important to us. We were able to secure our state registration thanks to your support. Our congregation has legal rights now and that is very important and helpful in many aspects. We have been able to register the land under Church's name, we are allowed to preach at public places and give away humanitarian aid in the name of Church.

All of these opportunities contribute to our credibility with the Western Ukrainian community where Catholicism is a domineering religion and 80% of people affiliate with it. Many have learned about us within these years and they have seen the difference between the dead Catholic Church and the living church of Christ. After all the trials that we have gone through, our brethren who still attend, present a consolidated and strong core of faithful Christians.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are also thankful to you for humanitarian aid that brother John Kachelman ships here.

With recent shipments of humanitarian aid we helped four secondary schools in June. We gave them desks and cabinets. School Principals were very thankful and asked us to pass their heartfelt thanks to American brethren for providing that aid. As a result of this aid that we received we now have access to schools to distribute Christian literature and to both teach and invite children to Bible classes!

It is a blessing to us to know that our brothers and sisters send help to refugees. In the Church here, we collect money monthly to buy food and other essentials for people from the East. We help 22 people regularly, 8 out of them receive 500 gr. and 250 - 300 gr. worth of food. The other 14 receive only food and clothes that you ship here. Had it not been for your help they would not have survived. Some of them wanted to commit suicide. But when they saw how sincere we were in helping them, five of them started attending Church and six were baptized in six months. We are in dire need of your help, dear brothers and sisters. Big thanks to all that help us!

We continue assembling from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sundays. Our attendance is 28 – 36 people plus children.

We conduct our Wednesday Bible class from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Usually 15 to 18 people attend.

We also have Bible study classes for IDP's (internally displaced peoples) on Mondays and Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. At these times it is usual for 12-16 adults and up to 8 children attend.

Our congregation is growing and as we look into future we want to make sure that our children and grandchildren know what church of Christ is. Our strength is in the truth of the Lord, not in a building.

But we do need a meeting place here in the Western Ukraine because we have outgrown our current place and rent is high. Time will come when we become self-supportive. Thank God that He has provided us a plot of land that was given free but now we are pressed to begin construction or else we lose this property. That is why now we need a strong "material" foundation that we will not be able to build without your help.



Brothers and sisters we need that jump start so that we would have a place to assemble, to invite people to, and to teach classes. We are poor now and we cannot possibly collect enough money even for the first phase of the construction. Members do what they can and give; they help refugees as much as they can; and have given as much money as they can to the construction. They are willing to be laborers in building as further donation to the construction.

We have such a backbone of those who have gone through many trials and have seen the power of the Lord at work. That is why I think, Lord willing, our cause will be blessed, even though Satan is opposed to us here and everywhere God's People work.

We are looking forward to having our Hillsboro brethren here. Thank you to these brothers and sisters for the flannel-graph teaching they shipped in one of the containers. Children enjoy Bible stories and now they remember Bible characters and stories better.

Thank you, dear brothers and sisters, for your prayers and our joint labor in the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father.

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



"Our congregation is growing and as we look into future we want to make sure that our children and grandchildren know what church of Christ is. Our strength is in the truth of the Lord"

TANYA ZOZULINA REFLECTS ON THE SPRING MISSION TRIP!

Greetings, dear brethren! I am sending you well wishes and love from Ivano-Frankivsk, Western Ukraine, where I have found my shelter from the separatist madness that has overcome Donetsk, the city that I used to think of as my hometown. At this point I do not know if I will ever be able to call Donetsk my home again. Last time I was there in December it did not look and feel as if I was "back home." It was a strange place. It is sad to experience such estrangement but it was not the place that I loved and cherished any more when I saw it last. I hope and pray that everything will be back and restored but even if it does it will take years and years to rebuild everything that has been so ruthlessly destroyed. And even longer will it take to heal the deep psychological trauma caused by propaganda that is being used to fuel hatred and fear.

But thankfully I have not had time for complaining, desperation or self-pitying as there has been a lot of work, even more than usual, I should say. And this has been a real blessing (well, work is almost always a blessing) as it has not allowed any time for those negative feelings and thoughts. Plus with John Kachelman's trip things got even busier and crazier. But it was a great trip, as always. New doors were opened, new avenues found, new friends made, more people helped. Trip was crammed with visits and meetings. There is no way to address all of them so I will just share some thoughts with you.





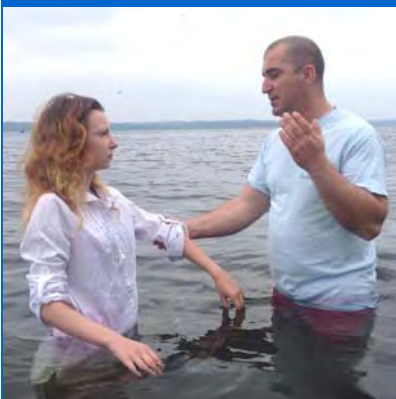
I would like to start with a “new” place that John was invited to visit for the first time. It was the fine city of Odessa. I was very excited to be going there because Odessa has its own unique flavor and I was always drawn to the city. There is a lot to see and enjoy there. And Yuriy and Kate, representatives of the consignee in Odessa, were able to squeeze a few sites to see into our busy-busy schedule. Time spent there was as unique as the city itself – amazing opportunities every day that were not pre-planned. One day we went to Kuialnyk, which is an area within the city with lots of Resort/Recreation facilities. We planned to see how IDP’s there lived but wound up at a conference discussing how to adjust facilities where disabled IDP’s lived to their immediate needs. After that conference we met with representatives of some disabled organizations and the next thing I knew John and Yuriy were invited to a news program on Odessa Regional TV to speak about humanitarian aid and plans for future.

We did visit some disabled IDP families and while I was thankful they had a roof over their heads it hurt so much to see how unfit those facilities were for ones who lived there at that time. Plus summer was approaching and they would have to move out somewhere because Resorts and Recreation Centers would want their customers there. So what we heard and saw was a real tragedy.



Another IDP camp had a more optimistic aura. I need to qualify the above statement right away. I am not comparing these two camps because you just cannot compare the life of a disabled person who really depends on others and that has to leave home, with the life of someone who can use arms, legs, brains, you name it, and take care of themselves.

This other camp was outside Odessa and people staying there were busy setting up their homes. They had a huge common dining area where cooks worked and they treated us to one of the best oatmeals I have ever had in my life. They had their stock and were building more barns. Life there was very active and people we met there did not look all that hopeless and helpless. They were trying to do something themselves not wanting to live off somebody else or depend on someone else to take care of their needs. They do need a lot of help still and welcome everything but they do not sit and pity themselves. Unfortunately, I hear of too many situations when people take help for granted and think that everybody owes them big time (but when you ask them why they think everybody is obligated to them they cannot give any valid reason except “because...”). It especially hurts me when I hear such things from those who moved out of Donetsk and the area.



This camp got some of our family buckets and they were very thankful for them. It is always so encouraging to see people who do not want to give up and give in to despair.

There are six containers filled with furniture, from Rutgers University, that are in transit to Odessa. These are some of the shipments that John coordinates. The furniture pieces will be used to help both camps especially the one with disabled IDP’s. The city has found a building to move the disabled camp into but it is all but bare walls so they need lots of furniture and our containers will come so handy. When John was offered those six containers of furniture he told me he did not know what to do with all of it but God already had in mind what to do with it and He provided. Big thanks to those who donated furniture, loaded it and shipped to Ukraine!

The rest of the places were the usual ones where humanitarian aid is sent

THE LORD'S CHURCH STARY-LISETS



"I had several opportunities to help and spend time with needy families and adopted children in Stary Lysets. This resulted thanks to family buckets in particular that you sent us. It was my first time to meet such families and people in that village. I understood that many of them are in dire need of real support and good companionship. That is because many of those families are deep in sin."



and where John visits with the brethren to teach, encourage and fellowship. Of course, I cannot but mention time spent with our Ivano-Frankivsk brethren. Now that it is my home congregation I can enjoy being with these fine brethren much more often, which is always so refreshing, uplifting and just enjoyable. Within the last two months we have had six baptisms here, which is so wonderful! God has blessed us in many wonderful ways and growth in numbers is one of those great ways. It is such a joy to have new brethren and to realize that a few more souls are saved and headed to heaven with us. While it is so exciting it has also presented inconveniences because we have outgrown our facility and are crowded in that little room now (I call this one "little" but there was a time when a smaller room seemed very big) so there is a serious need for a larger meeting place as now we can hardly find any room for visitors.

So, please, pray that God will provide and that we will be able to have our own place built on the Church's property. We can start small and then add more sections to the construction that eventually might grow into that nice and spacious building that is on our blueprint.

John's visit drew our attention to this even more as there were not only Christians to hear him teach and preach but some of the displaced people that Church helps and friends and families of the members. Room was crowded. Since then we have had one more baptism and one more is due sometime soon.

John continued teaching from Colossians and the lessons were well-received and helped many to understand the importance and benefits of having the Supreme Savior in their lives.

Mariyka, Volodya's girlfriend, says that John's lessons made her think and realize that she needed to have the biblical baptism so that she also could have the Supreme Savior. Brethren here really love John and are thankful for him, for his commitment to helping them despite Satan's discouraging efforts to destroy Lord's cause. We see him as a wonderful brother who really loves and cares. He has done so much for this congregation and he has never been indifferent or pursuing his own interests but always fighting for the brethren (and urging brethren to fight for the Lord), for Church's recognition in this Catholic/Orthodox community.

Having said that, I need to admit that all the trials that the brethren went through strengthened them and taught them to be a loving and caring family, taught them to be sympathetic to needs and problems of others, taught them to persevere and trust the Lord in everything. What wonderful brethren they are and even though they still face problems, and they still have issues in their lives but they are learning steadfastly to trust the Lord more and more.

Truly, John has played a vital role in this maturity and so did Ivan Skoleba, nurturing, helping, encouraging, caring, showing brotherly love and concern, living the word they preach and teach. I think both of them can address the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk with the words of 2nd Corinthians 3:2, 3, "You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts..." And the first part of 2nd Corinthians 12:15, "And I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls..."

There are no words to thank adequately all of you for your support. Words

THE GOSPEL AT WORK IN KRIVY-ROG

"I am thankful to you for humanitarian aid that you send to Ukraine. We were able to conduct an evangelistic campaign thanks to that aid and support from the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk. We gave away family buckets to people as well as soup mixes, Bibles, and biblical coloring books for children. People who received those things were so happy and thankful that their joy carried over to us."



fail when you think what it could be like had it not been for your help and support. Because without John's perseverance, zeal and love to God and His Church it all could have been a lost cause. John and Ivan Skoleba are a great team spreading God's Kingdom.

Thank you for helping support work in Ivano-Frankivsk! Your good works are great treasures stored up in heaven that will never perish and that urge us to do better as well. Just like Scriptures say in Ephesians 2:10, "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Thank you, dear brethren, for all you do to encourage us, to sustain us, to nurture us, to make us feel loved and not all alone in this world of sin!

"Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. Because of the proof given by this ministry they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the Gospel of Christ, and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, while they also by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2nd Corinthians 9:10-15). What else is there to add to these inspired words?

You are in our daily prayers, our hearts are open to you, and we thank God for all of you. May He bless all of you, beloved brethren, beyond your dreams and imaginations for all the good you have done to saints and others.

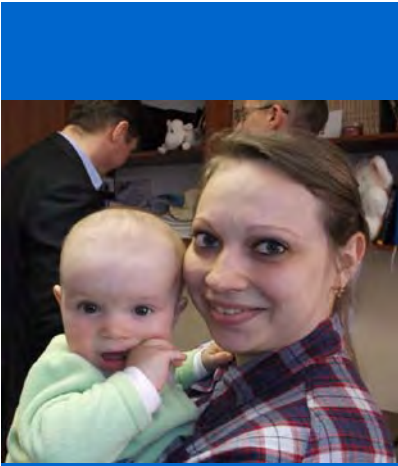
In Christian love,
Tatyana Zozulina
Татьяна Зозулина

"It is a blessing to us to know that our brothers and sisters send help to refugees. In the Church here, we collect money monthly to buy food and other essentials for people from the East...Had it not been for your help they would not have survived. Some of them wanted to commit suicide. But when they saw how sincere we were in helping them, five of them started attending Church and six were baptized in six months."

VOLODYA SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD!

Greetings to brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. I greet you on behalf of West Ukrainian Christians, namely, those from Ivano-Frankivsk. I am also sending you greetings on behalf of my family – father, mother, brother and his family. We always thank God in our prayers for communication and fellowship that we have with you in Christ.

Our physical life goes on and on and we lived through another month. Thus, I would like to share with you some of the news and events from the last month.



“Our dear American brothers and sisters, thank you for support and encouragement that you show us. We came from Donetsk and we thank you for your prayers for peace in this country. May the Lord bless you for your sacrificial hearts, and may He also bless John for his labor in God's vineyard.
With the love of God,
Your sisters in Christ
Larisa, Natash and Eva.”



First of all, I would like to share some news from Stary Lysets with you. The month was not as busy as the previous one, but certain changes did take place and I would like to tell you about them and ask you to pray with me. First of all, those changes were associated with Orthodox Churches. As you know, there are two of them in Stary Lysets. One of them faced changes last month. An old priest was replaced with a new person. I have not met personally the one that has just been appointed to that position and I do not know if we will get on well. I will, of course, do all I can to be at peace with everybody. But I have no clue as to how this new person will treat me, because I represent a “sect” in the eyes of traditional churches. Thus I would ask you to support me with your prayers so that the Lord would open the heart of that new person and would give him common sense and right attitude to the Word of God. I do not want conflicts and misunderstanding to result. I appreciate it and hope you will support me in this.

Also, I had several opportunities to help and spend time with needy families and adopted children that live in Stary Lysets. This resulted thanks to humanitarian aid and to family buckets in particular that you sent us. It was my first time to meet such families and people in that village. I understood that many of them are in dire need of real support and good companionship. That is because many of those families are deep in sin. Some give into drinking, others – to fornication. Thus children that grow up in such families do not know anything different and imitate their parents. That is why spending time with those families is of great importance. I understand that it is utterly difficult to change minds of those people. However, I think we need to show a different life to them, an alternative, and if not them, then maybe children from such families would want that different life, which is life with God. I pray for this and give everything to God because I cannot change those people on my own but everything is possible with God. Thus, may His will be done.

Lord willing, I plan to visit some children institutions this month, maybe a shelter in the town of Lysets. Lysets borders Stary Lysets. And I think it would be good to make contacts and help orphans and children from problem families in that little town. I am a bit nervous about this because it happens quite often here that administrations of such institutions defraud children of the majority of aid they receive. That is why I pray to God asking Him for wisdom to do what is right so that this work would glorify Him and would help children and needy people. I would like to ask you to share in my prayers. I know that God has all knowledge and I pray and ask Him to help me.

My brother has come from Poland this month (he works there) and now he is with his family. I visited them several times. We talked about importance of family and relations with God. My brother is facing work situation now where he has to be away from his family and it is taking its toll on the family relations and upbringing of their child. This situation greatly worries me. My brother seems to understand it as well but he cannot see all possible consequences of such a life. I hope that God will open his eyes to reality. And he does understand that his relations with God are important and that his family is important.

I continue teaching Bible classes on the Book of Acts at the Ivano-Frankivsk Church. We are in chapter 18 right now. And this last Wednesday we talked about the importance of teaching our children how to earn their living working honestly with their hands. Apostle Paul himself is a good

**GORLOVKA—“WE
ARE LOOKING
FORWARD TO THE
TIME WHEN PEACE
AND ORDER
RETURNS TO
EASTERN UKRAINE”**



example of this. Even though he was a highly educated person he still could work with his hands and could earn his living no matter what. It is an urgent topic for our people because under the influence of the Soviet Union many people thought that if you had higher education you should not work with your hands. Thus many people nowadays still think like that. I know that the Lord will change those people if they submit to Him. But we have to be very careful to not allow our Christian children such attitude to life because it is not pleasing to the Father.

We continue working on humanitarian aid distribution as well. We distributed a lot of school furniture this month that you and brother John had collected for us. Schools and kindergartens of this region were our priority distribution points. I am sorry that I cannot send any distribution pictures now but I will try to let you know how people use those things and how much our society benefits from this aid. I hope it will encourage and support you in your work. Please, know that this is a great way to support and help us.

Mariyka, my girlfriend, that was baptized last month, continues maturing spiritually. She attends Bible classes and Sunday assemblies (thank God for this). But now she is facing trials. Her father has given in to drinking again. I try to be an encouragement and good example to her in everything. But at this time I would like to ask you to pray for her and her spiritual growth. She started facing trials from the very time she became a Christian but the Lord shows His power and presence to her. All praise be to Him.

I thank you for your prayers, fellowship and support that you give us. Once again, I am sending you greetings on behalf of my family and all Christians here. We thank you and God for all good works and prayers. May God bless you and your families, your lives and your work.

Volodya Didukh, Your brother in Christ
Ваш брат у Христі Володя Дідух

***NEWS FROM ANDRE ZHURAVLYOV FROM KYIV,
SKVIRA AND GORLOVKA!***

Hello dear brothers.

This month was filled with the work for the Lord. We put most effort into evangelizing. Therefore, many people heard about Christ and His Church in Kyiv and Skvira.

1. Situation and work in Gorlovka

Gorlovka is still one of the most dangerous spots on ATO maps. The town suffers from heavy artillery shootings every day. As a result, there are more victims and more destruction. It is relatively peaceful during the day, but every night the town is shaken with forceful sounds of explosions and sound of firearms shooting. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are emotionally drained, and they are in great need of spiritual support and fellowship. I get in touch via phone calls with the Christians who stayed in Gorlovka every day. We all play for this nightmare to be over soon.

As for the economical situation, the government of Ukraine is implementing harsh economical blockade of the occupied territory so that the insurgents would capitulate sooner. Due to that, DNR leaders are ready to discuss the return of the occupied territory under Ukrainian control.

"It is summer vacation time at the institute and the period of evangelizing practice for the students. Students received assignments: to preach, teach Bible classes, evangelize on the streets and visit those who got sick or left the congregation."



"We have started evangelistic work on streets of Kyiv. We use the same methods we used in Gorlovka: we take a table with Bibles and Christian literature. Passers-by often stop to participate in discussions and take the books we offer."



However, they want to do it in a way that would benefit them. Undoubtedly, it is going towards capitulation of insurgents, yet it would take some time.

I still contact Christians in Gorlovka on Wednesdays and Sundays, as I used to do, so that they would have an opportunity to hear Bible classes and participate in worship. We are looking forward to the time when peace and order returns to eastern Ukraine, and we will be able to serve the Lord without any obstacles and fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord the way it was before.

2. Work in Kyiv and Skvira

While visiting Kyiv, I still teach Bible classes and preach on Sundays. In this month, I have started a course of lectures on angels on request of the church members. According to their words, they have learned a lot about angels from the word of God. Besides that we have started a regular evangelistic work on the streets of Kyiv. We use the same methods we used in Gorlovka: we take out a table with Bibles and Christian literature. Passers-by often stop to participate in discussions and take the books we offer. The only problem of this congregation is that they rent a place for worship at the building of the institute that went bankrupt. This building is always guarded, and there is no free access there. Even on Sundays we have to wait for the guards to open the door. Yura Romanov (a first-year BVBIU student) returned after the end of the school year in Ternopil in June. He is very active in evangelizing, and he teaches Bible classes in those days when we do not come to Kyiv.

In this month, we have visited sick and home-ridden Christians in Kyiv and Skvira, having discussions with them about the Bible.

In Skvira, I teach Bible classes for Christians on Revelation every Wednesday. I also preach on those Sundays when I do not go to Kyiv. Last week, we had VBS with the help of local preacher Andrew, his wife Inessa and my family. City authorities allowed us to use for that purpose a camp for children from under-risk families and families with many children. We have taught Bible classes, dividing children into three age groups. Then there were interesting games, quizzes and crafts. There were 45 children in the camp. We gave them Bibles and sweets as prizes. It was a wonderful time. Both we and the children were greatly encouraged. After the VBS was over, children submitted filled-out blanks with their contacts. We plan to have another VBS at the end of summer vacation period in August and introduce them to weekly Bible classes for children.

Thank you for your letters and prayers. We are especially grateful for all brothers and sisters who provide financial support of our work in such difficult time for us.

In Christ, Andrew Zhuravlyov (Андрей Журавлёв)

NEWS FROM DENNIS SOPELNIK—THE BEAR VALLEY BIBLICAL INSTITUTE MOVES TO DNEPROPETROVSK!

Hello dear brothers, families and churches.

Thank you for your prayers and the help that you offer for the work of the institute and for my family. Last month we ended our school year in Ternopil. And most likely we will start a new school year in a different city. We've had

MORE FROM MARIUPOL



time to think what place would be the best for the institute.

When considering different locations we had several criteria in mind: 1. It should be a big city with convenient transport connections; 2. There should be a sound church of Christ congregation there; 3. It should be convenient for Ukrainian teachers to travel to; 4. It should be convenient for American teachers to travel to (international airport); 5. It should be city with no language barriers for both Ukrainian and Russian speakers; 6. It should be safe for students and workers of the institute. I've sought counsel from both American and Ukrainian brethren, and we prayed for the future of the institute. As a result, we all had but one option, which was agreeable for everyone – the city of Dnepropetrovsk. There is a church of Christ congregation there, where BVBIU graduate, Alexander Rodichev, preaches. The congregation in Dnepropetrovsk is willing to provide us with a place to have classes and school events. I'm asking you to pray for our plans and the future of the institute.

The situation in Ukraine is still unstable. Unfortunately, the towns near the frontline suffer from shootings. Gorlovka is one of them. There are bomb explosions and shootings in town every day, and many people cannot get back to their homes. The only good thing is that the borders are the way they were decided in Minsk in February. Ukrainian army strengthened their positions all around that territory, and it seems it won't be easy for Russian army to move as easily as they did last year.

It is summer vacation time at the institute and the period of evangelizing practice for the students. Students received assignments for each summer month: they have to preach, teach Bible classes, evangelize on the streets and visit those who got sick or left the congregation.

My family and I are in Kramatorsk at our parents, and we witnessed how church of Christ in Kramatorsk distributed humanitarian aid among the refugees. I have also preached at Slavyansk church of Christ last Sunday. It's so nice to be back to my hometown and have fellowships with brothers and sisters that we haven't seen for so long. The atmosphere in Kramatorsk is peaceful. There are many soldiers and military machines on the streets. Right now there is a VBS at the Kramatorsk church of Christ, which is the usual camp that Jeff Abrams and his team does. We are grateful for his ministry.

We plan to move to Dnepropetrovsk in July. I will have to move the institute's and my personal belongings there in the time remaining. I will have to find a place for the students to live and continue looking for the new students for this school year. I'm asking you to pray for our plans to work out.

My family, our students and teaching staff sends you their greetings. We thank every person who prays for us and supports us financially. I know God has prepared the best for us.

Your brother and coworker for the Lord's cause,
Dennis Sopolnik (Денис Сопельник)

NEWS FROM PAVAL TUZNICHENKO IN KRIVY ROG!

I am happy to greet you with great love again, my dear brothers and sisters. I always thank God in my prayers for having opened hearts of all the

“Within the last two months we have had six baptisms here...God has blessed us in many ways and growth in numbers is one of those great ways. It is such a joy to have new brethren and to realize that a few more souls are saved and headed to heaven with us.

While it is so exciting it has also presented inconveniences because we have outgrown our facility and are crowded ...there is a serious need for a larger meeting place as now we can hardly find any room for visitors.

So, please, pray that God will provide and that we will be able to have our own place built on the Church's property. We can start small and then add more sections to the construction that eventually might grow into that nice and spacious building that is on our blueprint.”

people who support and pray for us all the time with such understanding and sympathy.

I am thankful to you for humanitarian aid that you send to Ukraine. We were able to conduct an evangelistic campaign thanks to that aid and support from the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk. We gave away family buckets to people as well as soup mixes, Bibles, and biblical coloring books for children. People who received those things were so happy and thankful that their joy carried over to us. They also promised to come to classes to learn more about the Word of God.

We gave several boxes of blankets that you sent, soup mixes and children's coloring books to one of the children's shelters as well. The joy of teachers there knew no bounds. And at first they could not believe that they were getting all things free of charge and that there were people helping our country that much. In talking with the Headmistress we found out that children's institutions in this country are in a rather pitiful situation and their needs are many. At the end of our conversation, I told her that we would help them as much as we could with the Lord and your support and that they need to thank God for everything as He is the One to open both your and our hearts to care and help others.

We were able to have several outdoor classes with children due to good enjoyable weather. Time we spent together was so wonderful that words cannot describe it. I ask the Lord to bless our classes so that the atmosphere would remain the same.

Dear brethren, I would like for you to pray with me asking the Lord to open the hearts of my Mom and my sister so that they would let the Lord into their hearts and be baptized and saved. Please, pray with me and my efforts toward all those people that do not follow Christ yet, but would like to do so. Please, pray for my ministry in Krivy Rog asking God to give me wisdom, mercy and sympathy to be a worthy minister in His vineyard.

I spent some time in Ivano-Frankivsk. I need those trips to gain experience, to be nurtured spiritually so that I would not wear out but become wiser with more experience to continue walking with conviction the path to which the Lord has directed me. I especially enjoyed classes on Colossians that John Kachelman taught. It is very essential to me to attend such classes at this time of my ministry. I am very thankful to you for helping such wonderful brothers as John visit us in Ukraine and share their experience.

We always pray for all of you. We thank you for your help and love, for supporting us in such a tough period that this country is going through. I wish good health, God's love and blessings for all of you!

With love, Pavel, your brother in Christ
с любовью ваш брат Павел

“Gorlovka...suffers from heavy artillery shootings every day...there are more victims and more destruction. It is relatively peaceful during the day, but every night the town is shaken with forceful sounds of explosions and firearms. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are emotionally drained, and they are in need of spiritual support and fellowship.”