



# UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

September 2015

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Ivano-Frankivsk , Kryvy Rig, Starry Lisets



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**"CHURCH IS GAINING CREDIBILITY IN WESTERN UKRAINE AND WE PRAY TO GOD ASKING HIM TO HELP US CEASE THIS OPPORTUNITY AND MAKE THE BEST OF THIS TIME WHEN MANY HEARTS ARE OPEN TO ACCEPT CHRIST. "**

The 2015 Fall mission trip to Ukraine will begin Monday 28 September as I depart from Little Rock, AR and arrive in Kyiv the following day. During this trip I am scheduled to visit and speak in these cities and in surrounding villages—Kyiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Zaporozhye, Kherson, Kramatorsk, and Zhitomyr. In addition to visiting and encouraging our brethren I will be following up on container shipments and distributions that we have made in an effort to alleviate the suffering of Ukrainians because of Russia's invasion and occupation that has now entered the second year.

As usual I will be sending back trip reports as often as possible to communicate how the trip is progressing and the amazing opportunities that are opened before us.

It is very possible that I will be in-country when some of the containers arrive and will be present for the unloading. There are some containers that are hung up because the Consignee did not do his job. Thankfully we have some in Ukraine who are positioned to assist us with this situation and prayerfully we will be able to resolve the problem. We have already redirected the containers and removed the delinquent Consignee.

I will also be looking at the construction of the meeting place and am eager to see how that is developing. Our efforts continue to secure funding that will allow us to complete the first stage of construction and thus insure that the property cannot be stolen by the Greek Catholic Church. I have received word that it is hoped the construction will be completed by the first "frost" (snow) and that means it is possible for it to be soon! But we all know how construction goes and how estimated deadlines are missed.

During my time with the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk I will be teaching on modern idolatry. I will teach the series *"Making God in our Image"* and discuss how modern culture has encouraged mankind to fashion a "god" that is comfortable and convenient instead of the God that demands commitment and sanctification.

Too many seek a comfortable and convenient religion of ritual and methodology that is actually a rote religion devoid of the spirit and truth of the heart that God demands. Such is expressed in extremism—one is either ruled by a dictated methodology that is devoid of true commitment to God and controlled by specific commands of men or one is dictated by a liberalism that removes all dictates and norms to permit a "freedom" that goes too far. This is the situation described by Joel 2:12, 13. *"Yet even now, saith Jehovah, turn ye unto me with all your heart...and rend your heart, and*

**A JOYFUL  
IMMERSION ADDS TO  
THE LORD'S CHURCH  
IN IVANO-  
FRANKIVSK!**



Valentina says, "Nobody in my life has ever treated me with such care. Thank you for making me feel part of the family." It is so good to see God add people to His Church.



*not your garments, and turn unto Jehovah your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness, and repenteth him of the evil."*

Such is an egregious and damnable error as it allows people to practice a form religion that is NOT the revealed pattern commanded by God. It is comfortable and convenient and makes one "feel" right with God, but it is a commitment to form and not a commitment to the Lord's commands—they rend their garments (outwardly) but fail to rend their hearts (true understanding and devoted service to God). For those beguiled by this error all is focused on the outward. The outward is definitely a critical element in our relationship with God but the outward without the inward devotion translates into "whited sepulchers" (Matthew 23:2-18).

I find it interesting that in a sermon series I presented in Elizabethtown, KY, in the late 1980's, discussed this concern. In recent years I found that series posted and cited in several web sites (one of several is <http://hwy9.chofchrist.org/paganism.html>).

The danger of reformatting the God of the Bible into a "god" of our choice is illustrated by this comment: *There is a new "kid" on the world view block called "neotheism." While claiming to be in the camp of theism, proponents of this view make several significant changes in the nature of the theistic God in the direction of process theology or panentheism. They claim, among other things, that God can change His mind and that He does not have an infallible knowledge of the future. Since a number of noted evangelical thinkers espouse neotheism, it poses a significant threat to the orthodox understanding of God...*

Below are the reports from brethren in Ukraine. This newsletter is being sent earlier than usual because of my departure for Ukraine.

Thank you for your commitment to brethren in distant locations!

Upon my return from this mission trip I will be scheduling reporting and speaking on our efforts. If I can come and speak please send me a note quickly as the schedule usually fills up quickly!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

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## ***IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK!***

Greetings dear brothers and sisters!

Our earthly life flies by fast and another month has passed as one day. The month of September has been especially stressful and strenuous to us because the construction of the church building takes much time and praying. We have finished trenches and foundation for the fence and plan to put in fencing. In the process of earthwork to lay foundation workers came across an old rusty pipe that had to be replaced so that we would not have to do it later on. Our Christians are happy and give thanks to God for our future meeting place. We plan and get ready to have a good Bible School attached to Church. All trials that we have faced temper us and make us even stronger. We see that God is with us making us strong. Many brothers and sisters try to help as much as they can. Some cook for workers, some provide materials, timber, sand, whatever they can help with.

*"It is impossible to describe faces of people discouraged and disappointed in life and other people. When we help such they often say, 'What do you want from us for it?' Many find it very difficult to believe that there is the love of the Lord that is reflected in our deeds and sacrifices for the sake of others. True Christianity is evident in hardships and difficult times as such times reveal what everybody is really made of."*

We are thankful to brother Jerry and those brothers and sisters that helped him buy a truck for us. We use it to haul construction materials and to help our members. We helped Marina and Andrew move to their flat last week. It was nice to see all brothers and sisters as one helping them to move their things. Marina and Andrew thanked Church for help on Sunday. People change and learn to understand and treasure unity in Christ.

We would like to thank all brethren that have given to help displaced people. We help most needy families on a monthly basis both with money and food boxes. They thank us with tears in their eyes amazed at the fact that church does it. Some read Bible more and come to classes now.

We rejoice in telling you that 80-year old Valentina Petrovna was baptized this Sunday, 27 September! This is Vitaly's mother and she is also a refugee from the East. Valentina says, "Nobody in my life has ever treated me with such care. Thank you for making me feel part of the family." It is so good to see God add people to His Church. Thanks to all of you for what you give us.

Thanks to the Dalraida, Hillsboro and all brethren that send us financial support. Your help and prayers enable us to preach the Gospel in Ivano-Frankivsk and the whole Region as we prove it with our deeds and lives.

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Church is gaining credibility in Western Ukraine and we pray to God asking Him to help us cease this opportunity and make the best of this time when many hearts are open to accept Christ. Love and encouragement are things they need for the seed of the Gospel to sprout in their hearts.

We are getting ready to host our guests from Hillsboro. We pray to God and ask Him to allow our brethren to use their talents to do as much as they can here for us so that we would be mutually enriched with our Lord's grace and joy of fellowship.

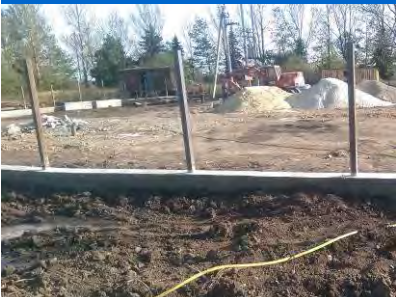
We continue assembling on 20B Legkogo Street.

We conduct worship services and partake of the Lord's Supper every Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our midweek Bible class is on Wed from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. We have a prayer class on Friday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

We have completed studies on the Acts of the Apostles and continue teaching and preaching from Mark.

We also look forward to having our brother John Kachelman with Bible classes for our members and for the Bible School that will resume October 5. Brother John's classes are very important to us as he reveals and explains very well those issues that are urgent to our young congregation. Some of our young families would like to have in-depth Bible classes. We are in great need of wise and experienced brothers and sisters who could give spiritual support and answer many questions pertaining to Christian life. We need practical advice in many aspects of life.

## CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES!



Dear brothers and sisters, the situation in this country is very particular. You know that we are facing an undeclared war. Prices have gone up on everything – gas, electricity, food.

Many cannot afford buying some things, all of us have to scrape and save. It would be such a tremendous help to us if you could put together more family buckets with soaps, shampoos, matches, towels, underwear, socks, and disinfectants for our Christians and for those we help and visit.

We are thankful for our unity in Christ. We love you, Ivan and Svetlana  
Спасибо вам за единство во Христе. Любим вас. Иван и Светлана

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## *VOLODYA DIDUKH SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD!*

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters! I am sending you greetings from Western Ukraine on behalf of church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk and on behalf of my family.

God is full of grace to bless us with fellowship and community in Christ Jesus. We always thank Him for you and your service in His vineyard as well as your prayers and support that you give us.

I would like to share some news of this month with you and maybe plans for the month to come. Time flies fast and we often fail to fulfill everything we plan. But we thank God who gives us wisdom to understand that our true life is in heaven. While our task here is to grow spiritually and reflect the light that Christ brought into this world.

As for more global news from this country and the situation in the East, I do not even know what to say. Everything is the same. The situation is neither improving nor worsening considerably. It gives you an impression that our politicians want to freeze the conflict to last for many years. It is all very sad, of course, and the majority of people have gained a neutral outlook. It is somewhat scary of course, when people get used to news concerning dead and wounded, new shelling, etc. But it is at such times that God weighs people. And it is at such times that people make their choices between God and the world. It is natural for the human being to put off making serious decisions and solving important issues – to put off difficult issues and to try as hard as he can to avoid them. Same is true for people's relationship with God as they often put off entering the covenant with Him. Such a predicament as our country is facing now makes people remember God and call on Him more often, which is good. As for me personally, I stopped watching political news, which has made my life less stressful. I have understood that I have to at least try to do the work and ministry that are needed every day. That is why I thank God for every day of my life.

I have worked furnishing the room that was given to me in Stary Lisets. I have repaired it a little; have put in some furniture and plan to put a sign there so that people would see where support and encouragement can be found. While doing that I realize that all of these things will be a waste if God does not show and bring people that really want to know Him. Because I have not seen any visible results as long as I have been working here. I pray to God asking Him to show me if there's anything I do wrong or if I don't

*People that live in this area are very religious. But unfortunately their religiousness has nothing to do with the Word of God. They understand church as a cathedral with domes and crosses, a priest wearing a long robe having a solemn look, and they take Jesus Christ as someone who is far away in heaven.*

*The main focus is on traditions and superstitions, and this focus is so strong that people do not want to listen to anything else. It is often discouraging.*

work as hard as I should. I would like to ask you to support me praying for this as well because it is very important to me since at times I feel as if I work in vain.

People that live in this area are very religious. But unfortunately their religiousness has nothing to do with the Word of God. They understand church as a cathedral with domes and crosses, minister – as a priest wearing a long robe having a solemn look, and they take Jesus Christ as someone who is far away in heaven. The main focus is on traditions and superstitions, and this focus is so strong that people do not want to listen to anything else. It is often discouraging. What helps at such moments is the understanding that the Word of God is never wasted and always fulfils the purpose for which God sends it.

This month I have had an opportunity to help our brother Andrew. He and his family rented a flat while he was repairing their own place. I helped him a little to finish up repairs and to move his family to their new home. And even though they have not completely settled in and there is still a lot of work in front of them, they have their own place to live for which they don't have to pay rent.

Dwayne and Annette Dutka have visited with us this month. Dwayne came here before with brother Jerry Morgan. This time he has brought his wife Annette with him. It was a good encouragement to us as we had some good fellowship with them. Together with brother Dwayne we visited two children's homes. Brother Dwayne helped one of them to purchase supplies for computer repairs, and he helped the other one to purchase linens for children's beds for pre-school kids. It was a very tangible help and encouragement, for which we thank God as well as brother Dwayne for having a heart open to the needs of children and others that are in dire straits. We are aware that there are needy people in the USA as well, that is why we are very thankful to you for being so sacrificial and providing aid to Ukraine.

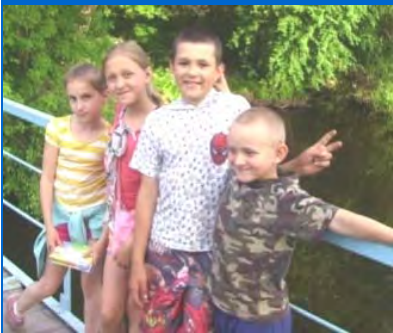
Construction of our meeting complex for church to assemble continues. Some construction works are done every day. Different questions arise as well as issues that we need to solve all the time. We always pray to God asking Him to give wisdom to both us and those people that work there. Because God has all the wisdom and only His blessing can assure our success.

We are getting ready and looking forward to have our Hillsboro brethren here. We ask God to grant them safe flights and we pray that this campaign and their ministry in Ukraine would give glory to God and bring forth fruits in His Kingdom. We are thankful to brothers and sisters that will sacrifice their time to come to be with us. It is very important to us. Such fellowship is always uplifting to us. That is why we thank God and you for this upcoming opportunity to have fellowship and study the Word of God.

Thank you for prayer support and care that we always feel. We thank God for fellowship in Christ that we have here on earth and for the hope for eternity. May God bless your works and your ministry in His vineyard.

With love, Your brother Volodya Didukh  
З любов'ю ваш брат Володя Дідух

## CHILDREN IN KRIVY RIG



## *PAVAL TUZNICHENKO REPORTS ON THE LORD'S WORK IN KRIVY RIG!*

I am happy to greet you again, my dear brothers and sisters. May peace, love and grace be with you always. I am very thankful to you for your love and prayers at such a difficult time for us and this country. We need your prayers as they encourage us. In the course of my work in Krivy Rig from dealing with different people I have come to the conclusion that the majority of people seek to be helped, some demand help, some are used to living off aid and if they do not get it are upset and hurt; but there are also such that are always thankful to all of you and to the Lord for taking care of them and for opening our hearts to find our heavenly treasures, for not seeking only material things.

Indeed, we know that our greatest reward is to be with our Heavenly Father. May He bless all of us and give us strength not to turn away from the path leading to that reward.

In the course of my work in Krivy Rig and it has been a year already (how fast time flies!) different things happened, both good and not too good. I had great plans when I first started preaching but just like with any other beginning I realize now that you need to be realistic making plans especially when you deal with saving human souls. Of course, just as anyone else I would like for all of my family to be immersed and follow Christ but it is hard to do in this country where Orthodoxy and Catholicism are so strong. But I do not let my hope fade away and pray every day asking the Lord to bless me as I follow the plans that I made before.

There is another thing I would like to share with you. Angelina, one of the girls from the children's group, suffered two horrible losses. Her father died about a month ago. He was in another country earning money to provide for the family and he fell and damaged his back. A few weeks later he passed away. It was a horrible loss for her and her Mom, but it was not the end of her suffering. Angelina's mother passed away about a week ago, trying to find closure in drugs. Unfortunately, loss of dear ones is an inseparable part of our lives. When Angelina's father passed away I had hard time trying to explain to her why the Lord took him while he was earning provision for his family. It is much more complicated to explain such things to a child than to an adult. Unfortunately, I was not there when Angelina's mother passed away and I could not give her much needed support. But I am thankful to God that she has an elder brother, with whom she lives and who is taking care of her at present. He is all for her to study the Bible because he is a believer himself. I have a request to you to pray with us for Angelina's spiritual state, for the Lord to strengthen her and never leave her. It breaks my heart to see her suffer so much after seeing joy in her eyes and her smile (I will have her pic for you). You understand how much it hurts to see children suffer. They need all the love they can have from the people who take care of them.

I would like to ask you to pray for my children. These are some of the changes that I see in them – they pray before meals, sing psalms, they listen carefully in class, behave, treat others well. I can see the Lord's influence on them through me. I wish my parents had taught me these things when I was growing up but I learnt the hard way through pain and

## OUR BRETHREN'S LOYALTY TO GOD...

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*I wish my parents had taught me these things when I was growing up but I learnt the hard way through pain and loss.*

*I ask you to pray so that my family would reunite and so that I could bring up my children as true Christians.*

*And, again, I would like to ask you to pray for the growth of the church in Krivy Rig.*

loss. You know the situation with my family and I ask you to pray with me so that my family would reunite and so that I could bring up my children as true Christians. And, again, I would like to ask you to pray for the growth of the church in Krivy Rig.

I always pray for you, thank you for your help and love, for your support. I wish you good health, God's love and blessings.

With love, Your brother Pavel (с любовью ваш брат Павел)

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## Totals of benevolent items shipped in the Name of the Lord YTD 2015

- Total Containers Shipped: 31 (40 foot High Cube)
- Total Pounds Loaded and Shipped: 599,507 pounds
- Total Value of 2015 Shipments YTD: \$3,778,937.00
- Total Cost to for shipping YTD 2015: \$81,400.00

**THANK YOU** to all brethren who have helped us send these containers! **THANK YOU** to all who continue to send money that allows us to schedule more shipments! We have 4 more containers scheduled to load but no shipping bookings yet as we are waiting on funding. The cost to value shipping ratio is truly amazing. But even more amazing is the impact that the Lord's Church is having in Ukraine and in other locations where we are sending these containers. And this is only true because of the wonderful compassion and commitment and sacrifice of the Lord's People to the biblical pattern! **THANK YOU!**

## The church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine September 2015

