



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

December 2015

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“ANOTHER MONTH OF OUR LIFE HAS PASSED AND IT IS NOT JUST A MONTH BUT IT IS THE LAST MONTH OF 2015 THAT HAS FLOWN MUCH TOO FAST. I WOULD LOVE TO SHARE ALL NEWS WITH YOU, TO TELL AND REMIND YOU OF SOME EVENTS THAT THE LORD HAS BLESSED US WITH THIS YEAR. ”

The end of December brings an end to one of the year's of western civilization that will be known in history as chronicling momentous shifts in morality, political degradation, anarchy's progress across the civilized nations, and evil's misdeeds on a global footprint. Those whose hearts are set upon this earth close the year with anxiety and a troubled soul. But we are not as those without hope.

As exasperating as the fruits of evil were in 2015 we hold to the assurance that the Lord God Almighty reigns in victorious splendor. I had the opportunity to preach at the Gurley, AL congregation December 27 and focused on the reminder of Habakkuk's lesson learned...The Almighty God is the almighty Sovereign of heaven and earth. God is in control and His message to troubled hearts is wait patiently *“Because I am doing something in your days—You would not believe if you were told”* (Habakkuk 1:5).

As a result of the assurance of the Almighty's sovereign control we close the tumultuous year 2015 on a positive note!

One of the greatest challenges of 2015 was presented when the Ivano-Frankivsk brethren were faced with the ultimatum of beginning construction on the plot of land that had been gifted to them or lose it to the Greek Catholic Church. The prospect seemed to be a “mountain we could not climb.” But God's sovereign will intervened and we began construction in July and it is progressing well (but has stopped due to funding issues—see later in this newsletter).

Another “mountain” we faced at the beginning of 2015 was the funding of containers shipping benevolent commodities that are distributed in the Lord's Name. The USA government served notice that May 2014 was the end of any funding assistance by the Department of State programs that we have used. That appeared to signal the end of our benevolent transportation efforts to the Lord's Church throughout the world. But at the end of December we had shipped 35 containers that were paid by the Lord's Church!

I am astounded by the end of the year 2015 summary:

- Total containers shipped in 2015: 35
- Total pounds sent in 2015: 694,401lbs
- Total value shipped: \$4,518,462.00
- Total cost of shipping in 2015: \$98,310.00

**THEY REHEARSED
ALL THINGS THAT
GOD HAD DONE WITH
THEM, AND THAT HE
HAD OPENED A DOOR
OF FAITH"
(ACTS 14:27)**



"This is photo was made in Konstantinovka, from left to right Helen, she is daughter of Alvina & Victor who are members of Church, and she was baptized in September, next her son Ivan, he was baptized two years earlier. Helen and Ivan live in Izum Kharcov region, maybe one day we can have Church there. In Christ Vladimir" (far right)

The reports in this month's newsletter continue to offer facts showing that our efforts to ship benevolent items, and have them distributed in the name of the Lord and His Church, have a significant impact. I express a grateful *Thank you* to the Christians and congregations that have joined us in this year's efforts!

Just as this newsletter was being written I have learned that Ivan is coming to report to supporting congregations. I hope you are able to visit and hear from him the amazing developments of the Lord's church in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine! He has most of the trip planned but can still add some stops if requested. If you would like him to visit and speak at your congregation please contact me or the Dalraida church of Christ that oversees his work (call 334-868-1900).

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

HOLIDAY GIFTS TO THE INNOCENTS DISPLACED BY RUSSIA'S INVASION AND OCCUPATION...

The pain and suffering inflicted by Russia's evil invasion and occupation of eastern Ukraine results in traumatic wounds that cut deep into the soul and spirit. This tragedy is evident in the faces of those on the frontlines; in the writhing agony of those torn apart by Russian artillery's shrapnel tearing the body apart; in the basements where huddled groups seek safety. You do not have to be on the frontlines to know the trauma that has crippled Ukraine for the last two years. The operations of Ukraine against Russian invasion and occupation is termed "Anti Terrorist Operations" (abbreviated ATO). It is a fact that Russia is the world's largest and most powerful sponsor of terrorism!

Perhaps the most touching evidence of how Russia's evil has terrorized Ukraine is the situation of the innocent children. These were forced to flee from their homes. They had to leave everything that had given them security. They continue to be terrorized by bad dreams and imaginations of evil actions. I have looked at the drawings of these children of Russia's terrorism and have see the dread and fear and tears. Their homes were bombed and burned. Most lost parents. All lost their innocence—their childhood is forever gone.

In previous reports I have documented a number of situations that were faced by these children. These are situations that are wished upon no child.

God will hold accountable the individuals and nations that destroy the children. *"He will judge the poor of the people, He will save the children of the needy, And will break in pieces the oppressor"* (Psalm 72:4).

Christians are commanded to help those bruised and battered by the evils of this earth. Christians need to remember Job's godly character and imitate his actions, *"I delivered the poor who cried for help, And the orphan who had no helper...I made the widow's heart sing for joy...I was eyes to the blind And feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy, And I investigated the case which I did not know...I broke the jaws of the wicked and snatched the prey from his teeth"* (Job 29:12-17).

Our efforts in Ukraine offer help to the defenseless in the Lord's Name.

“I have met another person this month. His name is Sergie and he has a disabled son. His son is 24 and has been bedridden for several years due to severe head trauma (he was beaten up ruthlessly in a street fights). The family lives in Ivano-Frankivsk not far from the school that I went to. They learnt about our work and ministry from Anatoly Romanovich, the mayor of Stary Lysets. We invited Sergiy to our warehouse and helped as much as we could. We gave him several packs of diapers and a mattress to aid him in taking care of his son. Sergiy was very thankful and invited us to visit his son. So I am planning to do it. I hope the Lord will bless me to stay in contact with this family and help them.”

One of the ways this was done in December was to give the displaced children New Year's gifts. In the Soviet Union there was no gift giving at Christmas but giving gifts was done at the New Year.

During his rule (1929–1953), dictator Joseph Stalin declared New Year's Day as a national family holiday instead of Christmas and replaced the Christmas tree with the New Year's tree in 1935. To this Stalin added three personalities from Russian folklore: Grandfather Frost, the Snow Maiden and New Year's Boy. Stalin's atheism thus offered secular equivalents to Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child, groups comprising Grandfather Frost, Snow Maiden, and New Year's Boy. It is an interesting study as to how Russian atheism manipulated its population with myths and superstitions. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, although New Year's celebrations have continued to dominate the holidays, Russians have incorporated the “Eastern Catholic Christmas” into the season.

At the end of December there was a New Year's gathering planned to offer love and compassion to those displaced by Russia's evil invasion and occupation. Because of the war many mothers and children have been displaced and several are attending the Ivano-Frankivsk church of Christ. The congregation prepared one bags of “treats” for the children and most of these held items that you had helped ship. There were not mountains of wrapped gifts or stockings packed full to overflowing...there was one bag. But that single bag brought delightful smiles and a momentary respite from life's traumas. Here are a few of the photos of the children you helped to find a smile in a world of sorrows...



These are sisters (Olya and Rita). They lived in the city of Donetsk and their grandmother lived in Donetsk Oblast. When Russian armed Separatists began the murders and terror in Donetsk this family fled to Ivano-Frankivsk. Their mother was a Christian and their grandmother was immersed in October!

When Russia invaded and annexed the Crimean Peninsula in May 2014 thousands of Ukrainians fled north for safety. A father and his daughters came to Ivano-Frankivsk. The mother in the family was pro-Russian and said

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently"
(1 Peter 1:22)



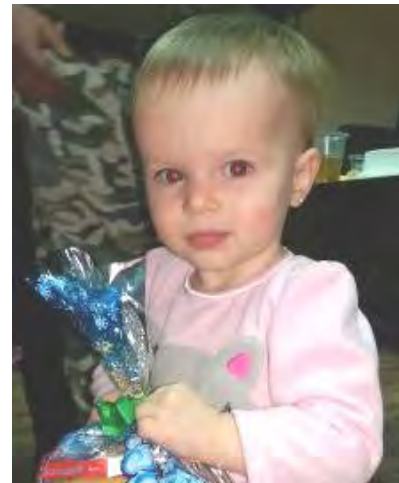
"We work with a young family now. It is Olexy and Julia. Julia would like to be baptized and comes to Bible classes regularly. Julia wants to understand what the Bible teaches to make sure she does what she is supposed to. Her parents are Orthodox and tell her that the baptism she had when a child having water poured on her is enough. That is why she and her husband asked us for additional classes on baptism."



she was staying in Crimea and abandoning her family to live with Russian army men. So Alexy came to Ivano-Frankivsk with his young daughters—broken and discouraged and depressed. God brought Alexy into contact with the Ivano-Frankivsk Church and Alexy and his daughter found renewal. At the left is "Nastya" the oldest daughter with her New Year's gift. (Ivan spoke about this family in his August report.)

Here is sweet little Eva!

Eva is from Donetsk city and fled to Ivano-Frankivsk when Russian supported Separatists began to instigate their ungodly evils in that eastern region. Eva's family are dedicated Christians and they have often been in our reports. Little Eva is the youngest in the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation and since her arrival has begun walking and talking!



THANK YOU for your compassion and partnership that has allowed us to *"deliver the poor who cried for help, and the orphan who had no helper...and make the widow's heart sing for joy..."*

OUR BRETHREN IN UKRAINE SENDS THANKS FOR OUR HELP WITH CONSTRUCTION

Construction for the building in Ivano-Frankivsk began in July but it had to be discontinued in December because of a lack of funds and the freezing weather conditions in the Carpathian Mountain range. At the end of December I received additional donations for the construction and sent word to our brethren in Ivano-Frankivsk about these gifts. Here is their reply.

"Please, give brethren our great thanks for their help. It is a great encouragement to us that strengthens our faith and unity in the faith, and understanding that we work for one cause, for our Heavenly Father, no matter what countries we live in. Thank you, dear brothers and sisters, for your faithfulness to the Lord and assurance that our work that we started together in Ukraine is pleasing to God, despite all the hardships that we have had to go through.

"We will suspend construction beginning January 10 due to bad freezing weather and absence of funds to continue. Contractor cannot keep his people on the site and tells us that they will continue when we collect more money.

"A great amount has been done - the property is secured, fenced in, gravel has been put in, old pipelines have been replaced with

THE CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES...

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"We now try to decide how to guard the site till we resume construction. We will need to do that till spring when frozen climate is finished. We will either have to hire contractor's guards, guard ourselves or put in video surveillance. We are thinking now about the best and cheapest option. But we do need to guard the property to make sure nothing is stolen. This is where stand with the construction at this point. I love you, my brothers and sisters, and thank God for you. Ivan"

"Greetings dear Brother John! It's great news on more construction funds! We're very thankful to the love so many have on behalf of this congregation. And we're thankful to all Christians that are not indifferent and respond to our pleas as far as construction and realization of the dream to have our own meeting place go. May the Lord bless you, your family and all of those that care for us! Thanks. Volodya"

During my visit in October I was given this letter below thanking you for the donations that have allowed the construction project to begin. Your brethren are very thankful for your donations that will allow them to have a building. This building provides a legitimacy to the congregation that removes them from the stigma of being seen as a "religious cult" that rents a meeting place. It also provides them a location where people can receive the benevolent items shipped in containers that further identifies them as a legitimate "Church" in the community's eyes. Distribution has been at a rented warehouse site but after this first phase is completed people will come and receive the commodities at the "Church" offering further identification with the Lord and His People.

"Dear brothers and sisters, our congregation is sincerely thankful to you for your support and help with the beginning of the construction of a meeting place for the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk. It has become a great inspiration to all Christians. We have felt and seen that we have brothers and sisters who are always there to help at difficult times.

"Construction of our own church building is a great and joyful event to us. It will help us to gain strong credibility with people in the West and to bring more fruit in God's vineyard.

"We understand that it is only the beginning and there are many problems in store for us both financial and physical. We as a congregation are doing everything we can to help with this construction. We have special contribution for building; we assist in moving materials and doing anything else we can to save money. But we remain in desperate need for funds to help with construction. This is why we ask you to continue praying for us and helping us if possible.

"Please help us find more brethren who will help us complete this building. We know that as soon as the building is built that we will have many who will come to assemblies because they will be coming to a public building.

"With love, Brothers and sisters from Ivano-Frankivsk"

IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK!

Greetings dear brothers and sisters!

We wish you great God's blessings and peace, both inside and outside, in the New Year. We pray that we'll continue preaching the Gospel together with you more and more so that people would learn about God's grace of spiritual revival through Christ.

2015 was filled with joy and trials. We rejoiced to have six more souls that were baptized and added to the Lord's Church. We were also filled with joy to have such good fellowship with brethren from America, to attend Bible classes that brothers John Kachelman, John Durham, Mike Green and Jerry Morgan taught. We are thankful for sisters Teresa, Susan, Joy, Susan and Betty, who taught classes for children and women.

We thank you for your help with the construction of the church building which we need so badly and we are especially thankful to each soul that gives towards construction costs. We realize that we cannot do this in Ukraine on our own, that is why we thank God for His great wisdom and unity in His Church, which He gave us, for mutual goals and understanding of how important it is to spread Lord's Kingdom.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are grateful to you for shipping humanitarian aid. Because of these shipments we have access to many organizations where we can preach the Gospel. Children's home, schools, hospitals and other institutions received a lot of humanitarian aid from churches of Christ in 2015.

Our economic situation is very tough now, prices have increased and war is still in place. Due to these hardships many people ask Church for help, take Bibles and listen to the Gospel. Teachers and doctors come to worship services and often tell us that they like it here because we help them understand Bible better. They often ask us about Church and tell others about us. We gave away over 180 adult and 120 children's Bibles last year plus other literature. Evangelistic work goes on in Stary Lysets and Kryvy Rig. We thank and glorify God and thank you, dear brothers and sisters, for your faith and sacrificial hearts.

We plan to keep up this good work next year, Lord willing. We pray and ask Him to bless our plans and anticipations as far as construction goes so that we could finish what we started and move to the new building.

We work with a young family now. It is Olexy and Julia. Julia would like to be baptized and comes to Bible classes regularly. Julia wants to understand what the Bible teaches to make sure she does what she is supposed to. Her parents are Orthodox and tell her that the baptism she had when a child having water poured on her is enough. That is why she and her husband asked us for additional classes on baptism.

Please, pray for doctor Igor Vitovsky's family. He had a heart attack and died before New Year's Day. We do not know when the funeral will be yet. Igor was an ophthalmologist, and some of you knew him. He was a friend of Gary Jerkins. Igor had come to our warehouse to take some chairs for his office a few days before he passed away.

Our life is short and we do not know when Lord is going to take us from this world. Igor would come to Church some but it is sad that he was never



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baptized.

Please, pray for my family as well, especially for the children – Anya, Ruslan and Masha. Please, pray for our ministry as we face some rough times when Satan attacks us through local religious fanatics.

In Christian love, Ivan and Svitlana
С любовью во Христе. Иван и Светлана.

VOLODYA DIDUKH SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD!

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. I am happy to greet you from Ivano-Frankivsk again. I am sending you greetings on behalf of church in Ivano-Frankivsk, my family, Mariyka, her brother Michael and their mother Tetiana. We rejoice and glorify our Father for your prayers, fellowship and unity that we enjoy in Christ Jesus.

Another month of our life has passed and it is not just a month but it is the last month of 2015 that has flown much too fast. I would love to share all news with you, to tell and remind you of some events that the Lord has blessed us with this year.

First of all, I would like to let you know how things have been going in Stry Lysets this year. God has blessed me to become much closer to the people in Stry Lysets. I have made new contacts; have met with relatives of Anatoly, the mayor, with his sister who is bedridden. I have also met a family of three orphans and their grandmother. I have made friends with the staff of the out-patient department as well as the administration of the village. I have tried to help everybody as much as I can and thus have become a friend to many. I have talked about God and Christ to many of them and I hope the Lord will bless me with good results and will surely give growth to the seed planted.

Thanks to the help from brethren and your support I have been able to do some repairs to the room the mayor let us use for Church and benevolent work. Some American brothers, John Durham and Ron Swang in particular, saw the work and everything that had been done. And now I constantly pray to the Lord asking Him to send my way those people that seek Him so that the planting of the seed of God’s word would bring forth fruit.

This year has been abundant in fellowshiping with people that moved from the East, from the zone of military conflict. That work began as we first distributed family buckets sent by you. Many people came and much seed of the Word of God was planted then. And within this year Lord has shown the true worth of these people and has given growth to His seed planted in them. Thus in Ivano-Frankivsk we have baptized four displaced from the East, namely Stas and Anya, Inna and then Valentina, who is the oldest member, was baptized not long ago. We thank God for blessing this ministry as we can see its fruit. It is a great encouragement and motivation to continue. We are thankful to you for your support and help in this ministry and for humanitarian shipments that you send here as we would not have done as much good to glorify God had it not been for you. We send you heartfelt thanks for your kindness and concern for Ukraine.

This year has been filled with different efforts associated with the

BILA TSERKVA, UKRAINE EVANGELIZING



We have placed the tent in the busiest place... People were showing a great interest... They asked many questions and were interested in the church address and the times for the services and meetings. There were many brothers and sisters in Christ in our team, there was a group of people around each one of them... There are some results of this evangelizing already. A young man came to an evening Bible class that very day.



construction of our assembly place. God has blessed us this year and construction has started with your help and support. It is a milestone to us because we sought to do that for several years. And finally construction is in progress.

I have met another person this month. His name is Sergie and he has a disabled son. His son is 24 and has been bedridden for several years due to severe head trauma (he was beaten up ruthlessly in a street fights). The family lives in Ivano-Frankivsk not far from the school that I went to. They learnt about our work and ministry from Anatoly Romanovich, the mayor of Stry Lysets. We invited Sergiy to our warehouse and helped as much as we could. We gave him several packs of diapers and a mattress to aid him in taking care of his son. Sergiy was very thankful and invited us to visit his son. So I am planning to do it. I hope the Lord will bless me to stay in contact with this family and help them.

We have had some good fruitful time with Olexy and his wife Julia. They are a young family that started attending Bible classes and worship services not long ago. Olexy works in the garage where he repairs cars. He helped me to repair my car once and we spend much time together. I have learnt from Olexy about his negative feelings towards church that he used to have. He knew an Orthodox Priest who did not present a good example and became a serious stumbling block to him. He indulged in making fun of the sins that people confessed to him. This made Olexy shy away from any church. But it happened so that Olexy had met brother Andrew and the Word of God had been planted by God's will. And now Olexy attends worship services and Bible classes, which sure will bring forth fruit.

I had a great visit to the village of Ugornyky. We have helped this village from humanitarian aid a lot. We gave them lots of furniture that you shipped here as humanitarian aid. That furniture was given to the school, teachers and director. And children were thankful for such gifts and help, which was even more important. They thanked everybody participating in this work and collecting the aid. We were very pleased to see that things you sent were useful and in demand. We felt a part of a great team that is engaged in such a valuable work. Thank you for this.

And, at the end, I would like to share some personal news with you. All of you that read reports should know very well that my family, my father in particular, suffers from alcohol abuse. It is a heavy burden for the family and a yoke that often slows me down and does not allow my mother to develop spiritually as she should. My father has had another drinking spree this month which has forced me to make certain decisions and actions. My mother and father live on the land that used to belong to father's mother. Upon their marriage my parents built a house, a chalet and furnished everything for their life together. At the same time my grandfather, Mom's Dad, gave me the flat where I have lived until now. My great-grandmother lives with my parents out in the country. She is an elderly woman born in 1923 who survived famines, wars, exiles, etc. This year she has not been able to go outside the house but she still thinks clearly. But my father when on the booze has a very bad habit of treating my Mom with contempt (at times he becomes violent) and at that he often treats my great-grandmother with disdain rather than due respect. He always stresses that my mother and grandmother live in his house and on his land. It has been like this for many years but this last time the situation reached such tension that I realized that my Mom could not bear this burden any more. I decided to

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move out of the flat that her father, my grandfather, gave me to help my Mom get out of that tight corner she had found herself in so that she could make her own decisions and make up her mind as far as her relationship with my Dad goes. Thus, I have rented a flat and moved in it this month. It is something that I have to get used to because I have always had my own place to live and now the situation has changed and I have to rent an apartment. But I hope the Lord will bless me with understanding and right choices as to how we can bring my Dad back to his senses. Please, pray for me and this situation. It is hard to describe what I feel and what is going on but I pray that God will use it all for our benefit.

Thank you for prayers, communication and support. May God bless you.

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

PAVAL TUZNICHENKO REPORTS ON THE LORD’S WORK IN KRYVY RIG!

I am happy to greet you, my dear brothers and sisters, with great love again. I always thank our Lord for opening your hearts to support us and pray for us all the time with such love, understanding and sympathy. It is thanks to your love we can continue teaching classes and help other people. I pray to the Lord asking Him to always bless you for the help that you provide for us and all churches of Christ in Ukraine.

I would also like to report to you on the work done last month. We continued studying the Holy Scripture in our children’s classes and made handcrafts for New Year’s and Christmas. And I am very pleased to see that children have started inviting their friends and so our group grows little by little. I thank the Lord for having directed me onto this path where I work in His vineyard and can plant God’s seeds in these children, which I hope will grow and produce. We have cookies and soft drinks at the end of each class. Children like it and are always glad to come.

We started studying Psalms with adults. We address some questions that they have as we have an opportunity. We try to have as much fellowship with one another as possible for our spiritual growth. We try to help and encourage one another as much as possible.

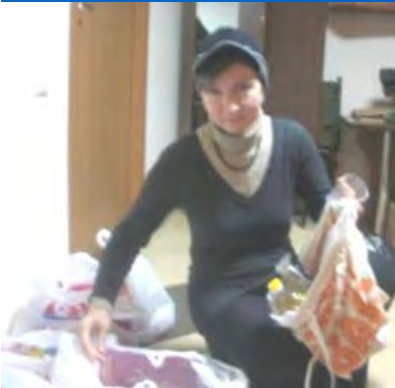
My dear brothers and sisters! Please, pray with me for those people that made their minds to take on Christ. We know that Satan is alert and always tries to interfere with the growth of the church. However, I also know that our Savior will never abandon His children and if one has decided to follow the Lord he/she will be helped by Him. Please, pray with me for my family, my children, my relatives and friends. And I would like to ask you once again to pray for the growth of the Church in Kryvy Rig.

I wish you a Happy New Year, Merry Christmas, good health, perseverance in Christ, and abundant God’s blessings.

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

“Every Wednesday the students and I go out on the streets of the town to evangelize. As I have mentioned before, the major objective for this ministry is to spread the true doctrine about Jesus”

**BENEVOLENCE IN
THE NAME OF THE
LORD...**



VLADIMIR & OKSANA PAZIY REPORTS FROM KRAMATORSK, UKRAINE!

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ! We are happy to send you some news from Ukraine, Eastern part of it.

Kramatorsk

September—October visits

We had guests in Kramatorsk: George Spurlock, Jeff Abrams, Ken Murthy, John Kachelman and Terry Harmon. As always great to have some brethren here to help, especially during the fighting on our territory.

Thank you George for coming and visiting us. We enjoyed it. Thank you for your sermon.

John Kachelman visited hospitals and local representatives of humanitarian help in Kramatorsk. Some items (blankets, t-shirts, clothes) were distributed among the people mostly refugees by the church of Christ in downtown area. The Boarding school got some clothes.

Fall Retreat

Another great time together we spent in Svatogorsk with Jeff and Ken and brothers and sisters from local congregation. Jeff and Ken have been coming to Ukraine since 1993 so to spent time with them was a special blessing. About 120 people joined the meeting.

We were very happy to see Terry Harmon after 6-7 years. Terry taught couple of classes in ABC. Spent a special evening with him.

Early November

Had a seminar on "Ecumenism" and brethren from Kiev, Kharkov and West part of Ukraine were the speakers. About 60 people visited the meeting.

Schedule changes

We have changed every first Friday of each month on every first Sunday afternoon when the church get together for fellowshiping. So Sunday after church seems like a better time for that, more people have the opportunity to stay. As for other days of the week the schedule is the same:

- ✓ Tuesday 18:00 New Testament
- ✓ Thursday 18:00 Old Testament
- ✓ Friday 18:00 Women's meeting
- ✓ Sunday 10:00 worship; 11:30 Bible class.

Konstantinovka

Sunday— Bible class 9:00; worship 10:00

Wednesday—10:00 Bible class

Wednesday and Saturday— ABC Bible classes with Kate.

If you have any questions, please ask.

In Christ, Paziy's

ANDREW ZHURAVLYOV SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD!

Hello dear brothers, sisters and families. The last month of the passing



year was filled with the work for the Lord.

Ministry to Christians in Gorlovka

Though there was made a decision about full cease fire in Minsk during the meetings of the contact group (there were representatives of Ukraine, Russia and DNR Russian insurgents), the military actions never stopped even for a day. On the contrary, there was a marked growth of its intensity. During December DNR Russian insurgents were able to broaden the territory under their control, by gaining some more populated small towns.

They were also shooting multiple times at Ukrainian road blocks that let people out from the frontline area, including Gorlovka. There were victims from civilians.

It is difficult for our brothers and sisters in Gorlovka to get used to shootings and constant danger to their life again. I try to encourage them every day with phone calls and Bible classes via cell phone connection. They tell me how they are suffering and how they long to see me every day. I understand their need for personal support and face-to-face communication. Thus, I want to visit them again in between teaching courses at BVBIU. Together with my family I pray for the military actions to cease by then.

In the middle of the month I was able to send the wheelchair to Gorlovka for our sister in Christ, Raisa Smalyuga. Dennis helped with that, bringing it to Artyomovsk; a preacher from Artyomovsk brought it to block post, and a Christian lady Zoya Grigoryeva brought it to Gorlovka to Raisa. We thank God that Raisa who has been bedridden for several months now can move around her apartment.



Ministry in Kyiv region

In the second half of December we started evangelizing work in Kyiv and Bila Tserkva, using those tents that were made for this purpose. It was that case when the results were even better than the expectations, especially in the case of Bila Tserkva. We have placed the tent in the busiest place, right in front of the entrance to the popular mall. People were showing a great interest in our activity. They asked many questions and were interested in the church address and the times for the services and meetings. Though there were many brothers and sisters in Christ in our team, there was a group of people around each one of them, and they wanted to talk and get some Christian literature. There are some results of this evangelizing already. A young man came to an evening Bible class that very day. Seeing such interest in people, we had an idea to preach right on the street next time. For this purpose we might need to get a microphone with speakers on batteries.

This month I have taught Bible classes on Wednesdays in Bila Tserkva and chapels for the students.

I have also taught Bible classes and preached in Shevchekivska church of Christ in Kyiv.

On December 12, in Bila Tserkva there was a meeting of preachers and active ministers of the churches in Kyiv region, BVBIU teachers and students. The aim was to show the importance of unity among the church of Christ members that is based on the Word of God. I was one of the four speakers. The topic for my lesson was "The Authority of the Holy



DELIVERING A WHEELCHAIR...

"We finally got an opportunity to transport wheelchairs into Donetsk area to people who are need of help. During this trip we brought a wheelchair to Gorlovka for our sister in Christ Raisa Fadeevna. Dennis brought it to Artyomovsk; a preacher from Artyomovsk brought it to roadblock check point, and a Christian lady Zoya Grigoryeva brought it to Gorlovka to Raisa. We thank God that Raisa who has been bedridden for several months now can move around her apartment."



Scriptures." This meeting encouraged all brethren. We have agreed to have a similar meeting in Kyiv in two months.

On December 25, BVBIU students finished the first semester of the school year. After they took all of the tests we had a festive celebration.

On December 27, we had a festive celebration for the children after the worship service. My wife Veronica participated in preparations of the treats for both celebrations and in the program of the celebration for the kids.

Bear Valley Bible Institute of Ukraine (BVBIU)

December 16-25, I taught Denominational Teachings for the second year students. During these classes I was able to teach them about the history of creation of different denominations that are on the territory of Ukraine and about the various deviations from the Biblical truth that they teach. We have also discussed such things as ecumenism and liberalism and their dangers. Considering that the leaders of the Church have to encounter representatives of various denominations on a regular basis, they ought to have a good preparation in order to fight with their influence effectively and maintain the purity of the New Testament teachings in their congregations. I see this course to be very needed for the future ministers.

We thank God that in such difficult time He keeps us safe and cares for us away from home. We thank Him for your support and Christian love. We want to wish you God's blessings in 2016. God bless you and keep safe you and your families, congregations of the churches of Christ and help you in service to Him.

In service to Him, Andrew

NEWS FROM DENNIS SOPELNIK—THE BEAR VALLEY BIBLICAL INSTITUTE TRAINING PREACHERS!

Dear brothers and families,

Usually in December people summarize the passing year and make plans for the year to come. All people in Ukraine hope that in the next year the military actions in the east of the country will finally cease. The military actions look like a swing for kids: it gets silent, and then suddenly they become shooting from both sides. No one can guarantee that the trip to DNR (Russian insurgent controlled areas) will be safe for sure.

With God's help in the middle of December, a preacher from Bila Tserkva and I visited the towns close to the frontline to help those who are need with humanitarian aid. We finally got an opportunity to transport wheelchairs into Donetsk area to people who are need of help. It helps building contacts with local congregations and gives an opportunity to minister those people who were left on their own. We had an arrangement with local preachers who will help distributing the wheelchair and will have Bible studies with those people. During this trip we brought a wheelchair to Gorlovka for our sister in Christ Raisa Fadeevna. We went to Artyomovsk and Kramatorsk. In Artyomovsk together with a local preacher who is also a BVBIU graduate Alexander Seliverstov we visited a family that had attended the Church before. They have a problem; their child has cerebral palsy and cannot move. We have already sent them the wheelchair. The last Sunday their family came to Church.

“It is difficult for our brothers and sisters in Gorlovka to get used to shootings and constant danger to their life again. I try to encourage them every day with phone calls and Bible classes via cell phone connection. They tell me how they are suffering... I want to visit them again... Together with my family I pray for the military actions to cease.”

Ministry at the institute.

In December the students had the following courses: the first-year class studied Pentateuch and Matthew, and the second-year class had Denominational Teachings and 1-2 Corinthians. Each time when I teach 1-2 Corinthians I see what problems the early Church had. Together with the students we try to find lots of lessons for us in order to avoid such problems in our period. There are six students in the program and one person auditing classes. There are two students in the first-year class and four in the second-year class. In December another student joined our program, Sergey Kurinskiy. He is 54 years old. He is from Zugress. He was baptized eight years ago. His life before coming to Christ was full of misfortune. However, recently he has been very active in God's field.

Teaching at the institute gets back to normal gradually. Many of the teachers come to teach classes in person, thus, showing their respect to the institute and the students. At the end of the school year we had a fellowship meal to end the semester, which has become a tradition. Students and some teachers got together. We prayed for the peace in the country and thanked God for all the blessings and the churches that support our ministry.

We keep actively looking for the new students. In this month Alexey Mitskutis has made two trips to Poltava and Dniprodzerzhinsk. We want to show that we try to be stable, and the school is looking for new students. We have made good contacts with preachers and the Church members in these towns. Unfortunately, it is still early to say who will be able to start a new school year with us. However, we try to be active to the most of our abilities in this area even now.

In December I organized a meeting of the preachers from Central Ukraine. There were representatives of eight churches of Christ at that meeting. We have discusses a topic: “Unity based on God's Word.” We plan to have such meetings regularly to support churches in the spirit of sound truth.

Ministry in the church

Every Wednesday the students and I go out on the streets of the town to evangelize. As I have mentioned before, the major objective for this ministry is to spread the true doctrine about Jesus and to teach students practical activity. During the last time of our joint effort we used a tent that was made especially for the evangelizing activities. I was surprised to see how people were eager to come to the tent and get the information they needed about the Church, Bibles and Christian literature. There were more than 100 people who visited our tent. It might be because salespeople often use similar tents, and others got interested why there were so many people there. The very same day a young man came to an evening Bible class, but unfortunately, nobody came on Sunday. Yet despite the result we will continue fulfilling God's commandment.

In the Bible school for children that my wife teaches there is growth. We have 6-10 children coming to Bible classes regularly. The kids are open to the word of God. On the last Sunday, we have organized a celebration for kids after the Church service.

We greet you with the coming New Year. God bless you and your families and the churches where you serve Him. Thank you for your prayers and support of our ministry.

Your brother and coworker, Dennis Sopelnik