



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

May 2016

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"Praise God, the work in Kiev is fruitful. On May 8th Arthur Tvorogov was baptized. Arthur was baptized by Bear Valley student Uriy Romanov who wants to be the preacher of this congregation upon his graduation."

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"WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR PRAYERS, FELLOWSHIP, SUPPORT AND ALL OTHER MINISTRIES THAT YOU DO TO SERVE US AND GOD. AND WE WILL THANK OUR FATHER FOR YOUR HEARTS AND FAITH."

The end of the month of May brought a number of encouraging reports from our brethren in Ukraine. As you read thank God for their steadfastness and loyalty to the New Testament pattern of worship and work for the Lord.

My most recent book has been published (*Making God in OUR Image*). It is a sobering study of how the Holy God of Scripture has been remade to be more convenient, more comfortable, less demanding and more permissive. Modern idolatry is a more prevalent evil than many realize. Far too many have become desensitized to modern idolatry's changes in religious worship, work, governing, and devout submission to the revealed commands of the only God.

Idolatry's subtle leaven is unnoticed and before long people ask, "What has happened? Things did not use to be like this." "Sin" ceases to be specified in sermons and Bible classes discuss cultural generalities with no biblical compass?

Perhaps the most visible area of modern idolatry is also the last area that is attacked—the worshipping assemblies.

Recently I was traveling and stopped to worship at a congregation in middle Tennessee. The speaker was a "youth minister" and he began with what has become a typical mannerism—"Good evening Church." Very few responded. So he said it again and again and again. FOUR times this was done. Each time he made a comment about "members not responding." Finally he elicited a shout from some in the assembly and thanked them for being awake. It was in this "pep rally" atmosphere that "worship" was expected to occur.

During the raucous cheerleading in that "worship assembly," I could not help but think back to the way Frank Sutton, who portrayed Gunnery Sergeant Vince Carter on "Gomer Pyle U.S.M.C.", would continue screaming at Gomer, "I can't hear you!!!"

All the time this was on-going those in the assembly laughed, clapped, and shouted back.

God tells mankind that ONLY HE is to be worshipped and ONLY BY THE actions He commands. God is very specific in stating that religious worship assemblies DO NOT meet the Divine approval unless they follow the Divine pattern. Spiritual idolatry is not accepted even if cloaked in a religious setting. Note these points about modern idolatry...

✓ *The divine warning is clear—"for thou shalt worship no other god: for*

“I will never tire to remind you that you are a vital part of this fellowship and success because without your help in so many different ways, without your love, prayers and encouragement, all of that would be next to impossible. Thank you, dearest brethren, I pray asking God to bless you abundantly beyond measure and expectation.”

Jehovah, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God” (Exodus 34:14).

✓ *Those permitting and participating in idolatry are damned*—“If thou shalt forget Jehovah thy God...I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish” (Deuteronomy 8:19). One is expected by God to “take heed” and not be deceived regarding participation in worship that is changed from what God expects (Deuteronomy 11:16).

✓ *The controlling factors in modern idolatry are personal feelings and NOT God’s commands*—Worship performed today in many locations is SELF WILLED worship not God’s commanded worship. These have deconstructed and deceived and wrested “worship” to suit themselves. “They worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made...they hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; they fall down, yea, they worship...This evil people, that refuse to hear my words, that walk in the stubbornness of their heart, and are gone after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is profitable for nothing.” (Isaiah 2:8; 46:6; Jeremiah 13:10).

✓ *The devout follower has a responsibility to uphold the integrity of God’s worship*—“Stand in the court of Jehovah’s house, and speak unto all...which come to worship in Jehovah’s house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word.” (Jeremiah 26:2). Faithful Christians cannot evade this duty. God says “diminish not a word”! The term “diminish” means to shave off; to remove; to lessen; to shrug off as non-essential; to make something seem insignificant; to withdraw from confrontation. Christians MUST confront modern idolatry.

✓ *Modern idolatry results because MAN thinks God’s commands can be improved* (Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7). Can you imagine anyone thinking they can “improve” on God’s worship patterns?

TRUE WORSHIPPING assemblies follow God’s revealed Truth. God states what He seeks in worship. It is to be a solemn assembly focused on praising the Almighty Jehovah God and minus exaltation of any mortal boasting.

✓ The standard for acceptable worship is “Truth” (John 4:23-24).

✓ The critical query governing worship is “what saith the Scriptures?” (Romans 4:3).

✓ The pressing obligation of those worshipping is “not to go beyond the things that are written” (1 Corinthians 4:6).

✓ The ever-present devilish enticement is that those in charge of arranging worship become “puffed up,” arrogant and follow Self instead of God by using the criterion of “How will this make ME feel” instead of asking “Will this change the focus that is to be fixed upon God?” (1 Corinthians 8:2; Colossians 2:23).

One may say he is not trying to change God’s pattern for worship but seeks to “improve” the spirit of the assembly. This is the initial focus of the modern idolater’s agenda—if he can change in a small way then he will continue to the larger scope (the camel’s nose in the tent scenario!).

So what do the Scriptures say about the atmosphere/spirit/environment of the worshipping assemblies?

The term “reverence” has become obsolete in discussions on worship. Hence the above pep rally scene in middle Tennessee did not even raise an eyebrow’s concern.



"Every week my wife Veronika and Vera Sopelnik teach Sunday School lessons for kids. The members' kids come to the class as well as children who live in the nearby buildings. We hope that weekly Bible Classes will lay good foundation for making the right decision in obeying Christ for this children."



We must not allow "reverence" to be erased from our worship. Let us not forget the urging of the Hebrews writer, "You have come to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, and to God, the Judge of all, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant...See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking...Therefore, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire." (10:22-29).

Psalm 89:7 speaks to this point. The KJV uses the term "reverence" and the NASB uses "awesome." The meaning is that the Lord Jehovah God is superior to all and in the assembly (council) the focus is to be a "fear" that governs actions, attitudes, and atmosphere so that all focuses upon God and not man!

Psalm 29:2; 96:9 commands us to worship in "holy array" (NASB). The KJV translates this "the beauty of holiness." It refers to the attitude as one approaches God. Corporate worship is to be an assembly of people who assemble to focus honor on the LORD God Almighty. Frivolity, self-seeking, and cheerleading are not described by this verse. The worship assembly comes together in holiness. Thus it is uniquely God's assembly—focused upon the LORD God Almighty and how HE feels about our worship. The ONLY consideration asks, "Am I assembled in humility and concerned with God's approval and not man's applause?" (Psalm 132:7)

One final point in this discussion...some believes worship is good only if it has an exciting sound and loud noise. Hence the above reenactment of Sgt. Carter "I can't HEAR you!!"

Scriptures refers to "sounds" of worship. It would be well for each to think of his worshipping assembly and ask "What kind of 'sound/noise' is being made?" Scripture lists various sounds that can be made.

- ✓ Sound/Noise that is indistinct (1 Corinthians 14:8). God's message is watered down so much that there is no distinct preaching and urging to adhere to the New Testament pattern!
- ✓ Sound/Noise of partying (Exodus 32:17-18). This makes the Church sound as if it is party-time! Commotion, laughter, clapping and other "noise" depreciates the holy reverence that should be present.
- ✓ Sound/Noise that is confused (Isaiah 9:5). This makes the Church contradictory. Truth is eternally consistent. If worship was governed by biblical principles 20 years ago those principles remain binding today.
- ✓ Sound/Noise joyful worship (Psalm 66:1; 81:1; 95:1; 98:4; 98:6; 100:1). This is the Church in holy worship. This is the ONLY sound that should permeate the worshipping assembly. Notice that such is directed to God NOT to man.
- ✓ Sound/Noise in the assembly that is rejected (abhorred) by God (Lamentations 2:7; Ezekiel 26:13; Amos 5:23). This is the Church in apostasy! Scripture records religious worshipping assemblies that thought they were addressing the Supreme Being (1 Kings 18:21-30). And how can holy worship be offered to the Jehovah God when one is joined with those who reject the divine commands? *Such an assembly and those participating in that assembly are "abhorred" by God!* Is this worship in which you want to assemble?

Modern Idolatry is subtle and more present than you wish to admit. You can deny it; rationalize it; or ignore it but it is still very present, and...soul damning.

"These things are heartbreaking and discouraging but there is still hope in Christ. It is so important to preach this to people, which we try to do as much as we can here in Ivano-Frankivsk. And you, our dear brethren, help us with your prayers, encouragement and support."

There is a choice that each Christian must make. This choice cannot be transferred to the elders, preacher or Bible class teacher. They will have their own accountability. Some seek to absolve themselves with a "group mentality" saying, "Well I don't agree but I go and just sit silently since the majority wants it that way." This rationalization will not work with God—"You shall not follow the masses in doing evil" (Exodus 23:2).

The question that each must answer is the same question posed by Elijah when he confronted people about their corrupt worship: "If Jehovah be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word" (1 Kings 18:21). Is the modern Church as unconcerned so it "answers not a word"? Does the Church have any sensitivity to idolatrous compromises that move the focus of worship from God and onto man?

If you want a copy of my new book on *Making God in OUR Image* you can order it from your local bookstore, online at AMAZON.COM or at KACHELMAN.COM. Supporters will automatically receive a free copy in the mail.

I hope the following reports will encourage you with the news of how the Lord is working in Ukraine!

Thank you for your encouragement, financial support and prayers.

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

TETIANA ZOZULINA REFLECTS ON THE SPRING MISSION TRIP

Dearest brethren! Once again, I am greeting you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who is our hope and guiding star in this crazy world. We cannot but admit that this world is really going to the dogs when we see Muslims flood our countries not wanting to conform with countries' laws; when we see Christian values being trampled and abominations that God punished and uprooted nations for are being upheld, encouraged and pushed on us; when even at Church, that is supposed to be pure and undefiled body of Christ, just as He is, we are tempted to forget what worshipping God in truth and spirit is and to give in to "progressive" trends.

All these things are heartbreaking and discouraging but there is still hope in Christ. It is so important to preach this to people, which we try to do as much as we can here in Ivano-Frankivsk. And you, our dear brethren, help us with your prayers, encouragement and support.

You help us through people like John Kachelman, Jerry Morgan, John Durham, Gary Jerkins, Michael Lawson, Ron Swang who have come often to us and others that have come here at least once to teach and preach, to encourage us with wonderful fellowship, to build us up with great lessons and personal examples and to help us share the love of the Lord with others. They personally nurture us to become the "salt and the light" to this world.

We are especially blessed to have John Kachelman as our regular visitor and teacher, who has been with this congregation since its foundation! We love and appreciate him for his perseverance and commitment, for his uncompromising character that encourages and makes us stronger, for his endless, tireless and self-denying work for God and His Church, and for his

STARRY LYSETS



This man's name is Volodya. He is from Starry Lisets.

Mayor Anatoly told our brother Volodya about him and since then he has visited and helped him.

Volodya wrote about him in one of his reports.

The man was beaten up ruthlessly and has been in a wheelchair since then. He is just one year older than our Volodya.

His thinking is clear but speech is impaired.

loving and caring spirit. So we always look forward to his visits. And not only that, he always brings us greetings and love from you so in this respect he is your ambassador and by him we appreciate and love you!

Thank you so much for your great part in this mission work. I cannot even imagine where we would be it was not for your kind and caring hearts. Your help is truly vital and invaluable.

This time John taught two Bible sessions for five days. One session was on "Type and Antitypes of the Bible" for Bible School students; and the other one was on Proverbs for general audience. I enjoyed classes very much and they opened up my mind to understand some of the types that I had not thought of as being ones before. True, interpreting this session was a challenge to some extent because it was John's first time to teach this topic here and I wanted to make sure the terms I used were right. And, of course, you can never teach too much from Proverbs. On one hand, it might seem to be an easy book, but on the other hand, every time you read it you find a new piece of understanding that proves God's wisdom is inexhaustible and the more you study it the more it unfolds for you into an amazing plan and providence. It is breathtaking and proves again and again that God is omniscient, omnipresent and all-seeing.

Most of the time on this trip (just like on any other trip) was consumed with visiting humanitarian aid recipients that had received aid distributed by the Ivano-Frankivsk church of Christ on behalf of churches of Christ that you had collected and sent here. And the majority of institutions that John visited this time was associated with children and displaced people. Helping children is one of the most rewarding areas of benevolent work because children are our future and our society will have the same values that we teach them now. If they see love, kindness and concern in their lives, especially when they are facing horrible and even impossible situations, they are most likely to grow up and treat others like that.

It was a real blessing to visit one of the camps for displaced children not far from Kyiv called "Forest Outpost." It was meant to be a temporary place for children from displaced families to give them shelter while their parents try to settle in new places and find jobs. The grounds are nice and spacious. It used to be a summer children's camp but had been out of use for many years. The staff is all volunteers and they do amazing things for children. They had to refurnish the camp into a more permanent place because it proved to be a great place for traumatized children. Thanks to teachers and workers that have surrounded these children with love and care many of them come back to life and learn to smile again. But still when you look into those little faces you are amazed to see how mature they look. John had a wonderful opportunity to spend some time with the children there, talk with them and discuss different things. I was amazed to hear some of the questions and comments that children made. Not all adults understand pain, hurt, despair, helplessness, loss as those children do. It was a humbling experience to me...

At the end all children wanted to have one big hug with John and it was so touching to see everybody embrace in one group.

Another amazing thing about the camp is the fact that children not only stay there to get away from the war zone and receive some psychological help. They learn to care for others; they learn to be responsible and considerate of others. We were told that children visit elderly people and

**“You are
refreshment to
my soul and
working by
your side is a
super blessing
to me!”**

help them and spend some time with them. Then they prepare dry vegetable mix for borshch. We were taken to their “lab” where they chop and dry veggies and then mix them and seal.

Being busy helping others is something that can really help you get over your own grief. I was told once (and have remembered that since then) that if you feel miserable and helpless find someone who feels worse and help that person and then your misery and helplessness will give way to satisfaction and joy.

I think those children are taught this principle very well and in the midst of grief and trauma of their lives they find satisfaction and inner joy.

I want to thank all workers of the camp and all those that provide food and other things for the children there. Some of the supplies that you dear brethren have collected will be given to those children. Thank you once again for humanitarian aid as it makes such a HUGE difference in the lives of these children!

There is one more children’s institution that I would like to mention here. It is Disabled Children’s Home in Zaporizhia. It was not our first time to go there (they receive many items from shipments that you collect and ship here). I am always amazed at the zeal and love of the personnel and especially the Director, Lyudmila. She knows everybody by the name and children run to her every time they see her. I have never seen her turn down a hug or a smile. I always bow down to people like that because I know they must have a great big heart and blessed patience.

As soon as you enter the place you know that children are really loved and cared for there. Lyudmila told us that their boilers were broken and they needed new ones as it was still quite cold for children to take cold showers plus no matter how hot or cold it is you need hot water to do dishes and wash clothes and for boy’s hygiene needs! So John told Lyudmila that he would talk to his Bible class about collecting money for boilers. We communicated back and forth after John left and you, brethren, did collect money for two boilers.

I wired money to Lyudmila who was so happy and excited and thankful to you dear brethren for having acted on her request so promptly!

And the money that was collected to take care of two boilers was actually enough to buy five! So now every group (all the children are divided into five groups there) will have its own boiler and children will not have to wait too long to take a shower.

So Lyudmila put together a thank-you letter to the church of Christ. Plus, May 27 they are having an Open House where Regional and City Mayors will be present and she is going to talk about great and timely help from Lord’s Church. So more people will get to hear about Lord’s Church and thus more doors and hearts might be open!

Another children’s place that I would like to mention is a school in Strelkoveh, a village that is 18 kilometers away from Russian part of Crimea (geographically Strelkoveh is a part of the Crimean peninsula but it is still part of Ukraine). That village had also received aid from our shipments and they wanted to thank John in person and through him to thank everybody who worked tirelessly to collect humanitarian items, to raise shipping funds and to ship those badly needed commodities here.

BENEVOLENCE IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

“Humanitarian aid has consumed a lot of time and energy this month, too. We received a humanitarian aid container and were able to distribute it to those in need. First of all, we helped all Christians in need and then those outside the household of God.”



It was such a joy to see children of Strelkoveh dance Ukrainians dances, to hear them sing Ukrainian songs and recite Ukrainian poems. Moreover, all children, their teachers and the Headmaster gave up their day-off and came to school on Saturday! It was very special! We were given a tour of the school and it was wonderful to see children's handiworks and their museum where they study and display history of that part of Ukraine.

Besides children's homes and schools, we visited some displaced facilities. First one was in Kuialnik, close to Odessa. We were there last year as well and talked about sending furniture shipments to accommodate the displaced in their new place that they were supposed to be given by the city authorities. Unfortunately, it did not happen and they were still in that temporary facility for displaced disabled and their families.

Needless to say, that they face a lot of problems and have great needs. They received clothes from our shipments and wanted to thank you for it as well. John was also invited to see distribution of food bags to the displaced in Zhytomyr with some of the food items that we had shipped as well.

There is no way to describe all activities, emotions and successes.

God works things out in amazing ways. Who would ever think that we will have an “international” Church here in Ivano-Frankivsk? But we have a group of medical students from Africa (Ghana, Sierra Leone and others) worshipping with us and when our American brothers come we have Christians from three continents worshipping together in one place! It is incredible!!!

But, again and again, I will never tire to remind you that you are a vital part of this fellowship and success because without your help in so many different ways, without your love, prayers and encouragement, all of that would be next to impossible. Thank you, dearest brethren, I pray asking God to bless you abundantly beyond measure and expectation.

I cannot but give special thanks to warehouse crews in Arkansas, Mississippi and other places where you collect humanitarian aid. You are my warehouse heroes who stand tall fighting battles with impossibly heavy hospital beds, ultrasound machines, x-ray units, cabinets, etc. in any weather. You are refreshment to my soul and working by your side is a super blessing to me!

To summarize everything said, I would like to quote verses from the Bible that I love very much. It is Galatians 6:9, 10. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

Tetiana Zozulina, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine
May 2016

IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK!

Dear brethren, we are sending you greetings from Western Ukraine.

Our congregation received a good spiritual charge this month. John Durham visited us and taught good Bible lessons from the Epistle to Ephesians. Our brothers and sisters had good fellowship and asked Bible questions for which they had been seeking answers. Dr. Gary Jerkins came

We have given a lot of aid to medical institutions which helps Church to be in good standing with society. And church of Christ is known to be a group of people to believe with words as well as deeds. We thank you for such help and sing praise to our Father for your hearts. Glory to Him for everything!

on May 19. He met with doctors; examined our brethren and gave advice as to how they should treat their eyes and sustain their eyesight. We are very thankful to brethren from Hillsboro for their help and their work with doctors and hospitals. Some doctors started coming to Church. They help Christians with medical assistance if necessary. Medical care is very expensive in Ukraine nowadays and there are doctors that cannot give correct diagnosis. Thus, our doctors can learn a lot from American doctors. Our medical care is dozens of years behind the medical care in America. Many doctors were touched by the recognition given to Dr. Igor Vitovsky by Gary during his latest trip.

Big thanks to brother Ron for his support of Ivano-Frankivsk regional dentists. Big thanks for supplies and equipment. We have a family of dentists that started attending thanks to your help. The father and son are dentists. Yaroslav Olexiovich is 90 and he was the one to set up dental clinics in cities and villages of the Region. He has a lot of experience to share. He talked to the Church and urged young people to have an active stand in life both at Church and in the society. He urged youth to brace themselves and work hard to serve people and gain knowledge. His son Valentine brought his wife and daughter for the first time. His wife sings in a Catholic choir but she still came, attended our worship and said afterwards that she liked it very much.

More and more people hear about church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk and have become more open to us within these last few years. We pray and ask God to bless our construction so that we could finish ASAP and invite more people to Church.

Special thanks on behalf of our brethren go to Kathy Cadden and brother Joe Thompson. The latest container that you sent us was filled with things that many Ukrainians need so much now. Thank you, Kathy, for powdered washing detergent, diapers, peanut butter, children's clothes and lice treatment. We took these to a mountain village where all children at school had lice and they could not do anything to get rid of lice for a long time. Some tried kerosene and burnt hair-roots. It took them only ONE week to get rid of all of it when we gave them the treatment that was shipped!

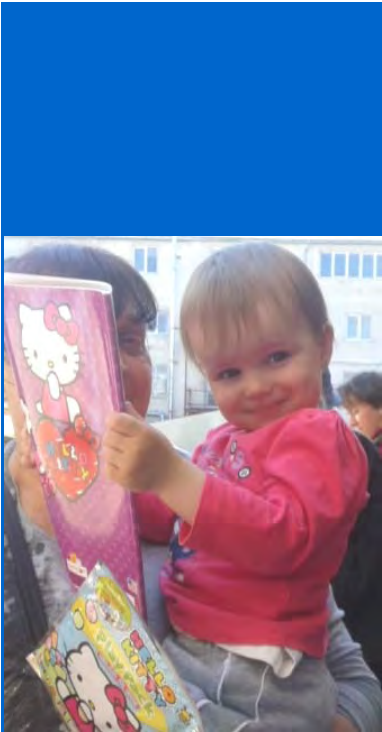
Galyna Dmytrovna, Deputy Head teacher of the school, is sending her heartfelt thanks to Kathy. Children are able to study better now while they could not do so for several months suffering from this disease.

We now have many little children as the Christians and guests are young and they have children in their majority. There are over 32 single mothers that our congregation supports and some of them come to Church. Thank you very much for wheelchairs they are in great demand. We have disabled people and even more now since war is taking place. Thank you for your kind hearts and your ministry to Church and our Heavenly Father.

Big thanks to brother John Kachelman for his work and ministry as his humanitarian work is even more vital now. Ukraine has never faced such horribly difficult time. Life is so hard and prices keep going up. Through your help and prayers, Lord gives people opportunities to open their hearts to receive the Gospel.

Report on how Church is progressing:

We continue assembling on Sundays and Wednesdays. Last Sunday attendance was 34 (plus children); average Wednesday attendance is 14-17



(plus children).

Volodya helps with Church work and continues his ministry in Starry Lysets. Pasha would like to help with humanitarian aid distribution in Kryvy Rih and gain more contacts to preach the Gospel. John Kachelman is getting ready to send a container to Kryvy Rih. We also plan to submit docs to register church in Kryvy Rih at the end of June. This way we could rent officially an assembly place.

We thank brethren who serve in the mission committees in Hillsboro and Dalraida for prayers and help, thanks to them we can be active preaching the Holy Gospel.

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

VOLODYA DIDUKH SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD!

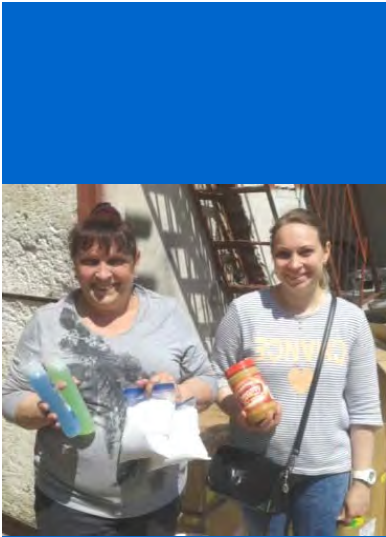
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I am sending you greetings from Western Ukraine, from Ivano-Frankivsk. I am greeting you on behalf of my family, Mom and Dad, as well as church in Ivano-Frankivsk.

Another month has flown by like one day and I would like to share with you some of the plans and events that have taken place this month. This period of time has been hectic with visiting brethren from the USA. There has been a lot of work associated with humanitarian shipments. We have helped many needy people and I personally have visited the mayor of Starry Lysets several times. Brethren from Krasnoarmeisk church of Christ, Donetsk Region, have visited us. And we have had a USA team that came to work in a children's camp at a secondary school since the end of the month. These are the events that have taken place this month. Now I will dwell on each one of them more.

Let us begin with Starry Lysets. I have had an opportunity to help one of the inhabitants and workers of Starry Lysets this month. He is a fireman and an emergency worker. He had an accident and broke his leg and his family takes care of him. We have given him crutches to ease his suffering and to enable him to move around conveniently. Crutches might not seem to be a great help but the ones that you send are very convenient. This man is very glad to have such a gift and to see that we care, because it would cost him an arm and a leg to buy crutches here.

I also met with the village mayor to discuss possibilities of giving them some aid in the form of working tools and uniforms for their working crew. With the summer break coming soon, they plan to do some repairs and refinish facades of the school and kindergarten. As we talked I assured him that we would do as much as we could to contribute to the work and might get some buckets for work and clothes for workers. To my mind, such co-work especially if associated with children should be beneficial to the Church in terms of growth and outreach to the community. So I pray and ask the Father to bless these plans.

I have spent much time with our African brethren that study in Ivano-Frankivsk and attend our Bible classes and worship services. We went fishing to Starry Lysets a few times and had wonderful fellowship there.



Even though my English leaves much to be desired, it is the language that these brothers speak, we have great fellowship and enjoy our time together being in one spirit, the Spirit of Christ. One of them, Emmanuel, has gone home to Ghana to be with his family during his summer break. But some of them will stay here. Please, pray for their stay in Ukraine and especially for Brother Nano who is having stomach treatments now. We as Church, help him as much as we can but the Lord works much better than humans. Brother Nano has lost his parents and he does not have a family of his own so Church is the only place for him to find support and encouragement. I thank God for strength and opportunities to help such people that He gives us. Please, pray for him.

Brother John Durham has been with us this month. He taught great classes from Ephesians as well as English in one of the educational facilities here. We are glad that the Lord gives him ability, strength and willingness to work for this congregation in Ivano-Frankivsk. Brother John is facing a very hectic period of his life as he is getting ready for his daughter's wedding and we, in our turn, pray for him.

Our brother Gary from the USA has also been with us this month. We had wonderful fellowship and worshipped our Lord together. His visit was not as long as that of John Durham but we still were encouraged and enjoyed great fellowship. We thank these brothers and all those who are part in this ministry.

Humanitarian aid has consumed a lot of time and energy this month, too. We received a humanitarian aid container and were able to distribute it to those in need. First of all, we helped all Christians in need and then those outside the household of God. As of today, we have not distributed all aid and continue working on it. We want this aid to go to those that really need it. We thank all who are associated with these shipments and collect humanitarian aid. It comes very handy at this horrible time that this country is facing. Many cannot afford to provide all hygiene supplies, decent food and clothes necessary for their families. That is why this aid means a lot to us. We have given a lot of aid to medical institutions which helps Church to be in good standing with society. And church of Christ is known to be a group of people to believe with words as well as deeds. We thank you for such help and sing praise to our Father for your hearts. Glory to Him for everything!

Besides, we continue repairing our truck. As of today, we have renovated the frame, have painted it and are about to start putting it all back together. Undoubtedly, there is a lot of work to do still but we are encouraged by what has already been accomplished and we can picture now how great this truck will be when all repairs are complete. We thank all who contributed towards this truck and those who have helped to renovate it. There is no doubt that in the future this truck will do a lot of good to Church and people. We thank God for allowing us to use such things.

We have a group of Americans coordinated by Mike Lawson visiting with us now. They are having their camp at a secondary school. Church is going to be a part to these activities this year as the camp is planning to go out to the mountains for a retreat and fellowship together with some members of the congregation this coming weekend. Brethren asked me to be a part of the youth group fellowship that will be present there and will consist of school students. It will be totally new experience for me and I would like to

EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS



We continue evangelistic efforts in the city of Bela Tserkva.

Preaching in the hospitals, in the streets, youth group meetings—all activities aim to find new people so the Gospel will become available for them.

One of the most important ministries in my opinion is the service in Bela Tserkva Oncology Clinic. People pay attention to every word preached from the Holy Scriptures, willingly take New Testaments and other Christian publications.

ask you to pray for that. It is a great opportunity to build up contacts with young people. Of course, I am no elderly person myself and have just gone through my youthhood but my whole life has distanced me from young people. That is why I pray and ask God for wisdom and strength to do everything as it should be done. I also pray for this camp to be productive and beneficial to the Kingdom of God.

And finally, I would like for you to share in my joy – my father still stays away from the booze and still works his job. I visit him every week basically and help him with the household. I rejoice greatly because I had no desire to see my Dad when he was addicted to alcohol. I did help him but there was no joy, only despair. And now everything is fine, thank God, and time with family is a source of great joy to me. My Mom works as well. She attends services and tries to come to Bible classes as often as she can. Thus, my family is a joy to me now and I thank God for it.

We really appreciate your prayers, fellowship, support and all other ministries that you do to serve us and God. May our Father bless you and your families all the time. And we will thank Him for your hearts and faith.

Glory to God for everything.

With love, your brother, Volodya Didukh

Слава Богу за все. З любовою ваш брат Володя Дідух.

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

Peace and grace to you. I am happy to greet you once again with great love, our dear brethren from America. We thank our Heavenly Father in our every prayer for your hearts that He has opened to support us both financially and spiritually with such love, understanding and sympathy, and to pray for us continually. Churches of Christ in Ukraine are refreshed spiritually and strive to grow and do more thanks to your love and care. I thank you for supporting our American brethren and their trips to Ukraine where they teach wonderful classes from the Holy Scripture. I am thankful for our brother John Durham in particular. I thank God for giving him so much strength and energy to be so active in the missionary field.

I would like to share my last month's work report with you as well. I continue working in God's vineyard in Ivano-Frankivsk. I have noticed that I mature spiritually and gain knowledge that I lack around these wonderful Christians and spiritual mentors. After my attempts to start a congregation in Kryvy Rih having seen successes and failures, I understand the hardships of those that go to other cities and towns, and especially to other countries to spread the Word of God. I can see their need to have a kindred spirit. And I ask God to bless missionaries, who continue planting the Word of God with great love no matter what.

In Ivano-Frankivsk, I teach Bible classes, take part in church activities, meetings with people, distribution of humanitarian aid, for which we are so thankful to you and God who works in this world through us. Besides, Volodya and I continue visiting and helping the disabled woman that I wrote you about in my previous report. It is always such a joy to see her happy face when we visit her.

"We really appreciate your prayers, fellowship, support and all other ministries that you do to serve us and God. May our Father bless you and your families all the time. And we will thank Him for your hearts and faith."

We also take care of our church garden that we planted to provide food for the members. I would like to thank you for the seeds that you sent. I am absolutely sure that they will yield good crops and we will treat you to some of them as well when you come to visit us. So welcome to Ukraine!

And as usual, I ask you, brethren, to pray for my family, my children, for the growth of church of Christ all over Ukraine and all through the world. Please, pray for those who have not become followers of Christ but want to do so. Please, pray and ask God to add as many as possible to His Church, for peace in this country, for this pointless war to stop so that innocent people would not be killed any more.

I ask the Lord to bless you in everything you do and to strengthen your health and spiritual growth. I always pray for all of you wishing good health, God's love and blessings for you and your families.

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

ANDREW ZHURAVLYOV SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD!

Hello, dear brethren and your families,

Situation in Gorlovka.

Recently I have returned from the city of Dzerzhinsk. This city is the closest to Gorlovka place controlled by the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The purpose of the trip was to legally document the hostile takeover of the building owned by the Church of Christ and Bear Valley Bible Institute - Ukraine in 2014. This city gets a lot shelling from the territories occupied by pro-Russian insurgents. The policeman I talked to told me about the consequences of the shelling and informed me that the last one took place just on the night before my arrival. There used to be a Church of Christ congregation in Dzerzhinsk before the warfare broke out. According to my sources, all Christians have left the city because of the danger.

The Ukrainian media predicts that in the end of 2016 - beginning of 2017 there will be elections in compliance with Ukrainian laws on the occupied territories. After the elections the whole region will supposedly return to the jurisdiction of Ukraine. To achieve this goal both sides of the conflict will have to take steps to insure the presence of the Ukrainian Border Control forces on the border with Russia as well as pass the laws about amnesty for the insurgents and make the very important decision on what will be the legal status of the territories reunited with Ukraine. For us it will mean the return of Ukrainian laws and jurisdiction, the freedom of religion including, to the currently occupied territories. So we do not give up hope to reclaim the building that was taken over by the armed people two years ago and is still being used by them. We have a lot of good memories about the worship services, baptisms and impressive cooperation of Bear Valley Bible Institute and the local church of Christ taking place on this property.

The web-sites and on-line forums of the Donetsk People Republic host a discussion of what should be the legal status of the territories in their control upon their return under the jurisdiction of Ukraine, with the high hopes of getting special privileges and a "special status." However, in the meantime the warfare is still active, the number of shelling attacks as well as the

THE LORD'S CHURCH AT WORK IN IVANO- FRANKIVSK

Valentine brought his wife and daughter for the first time. His wife sings in a Catholic choir but she still came, attended our worship and said afterwards that she liked it very much.

More and more people hear about church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk and have become more open to us within these last few years.

We pray and ask God to bless our construction so that we could finish ASAP and invite more people to Church.

amount of victims (killed or wounded) increase daily. It can be explained that by demonstration of their military might the leaders of the DPR will try to get more profitable conditions of the truce agreement.

I keep in touch with the Christians who remain in Gorlovka. I call them on the phone, teach Bible lessons. We miss each other a lot. I was able to purchase the train tickets ahead of time to travel to Gorlovka next week and spend two weeks there. I really appreciate prayers for the safe travels and safe worship on the occupied territory.

The Christians in Gorlovka are still struggling financially. All help is vitally necessary. We are thankful to LT Gurganus who had taught in Bear Valley this year and left some funds to help out these Christians on the occupied territories, the city of Gorlovka including.

Ministry in Kiev region.

This month I spent all Sundays in Shevchenko District church of Christ worshipping with this congregation. Every week I taught Bible classes. Also before the worship we would try to evangelize the people in the streets. Praise God, the work in Kiev is fruitful. On May 8th Arthur Tvorogov was baptized. We worked a lot with this man encouraging him to obey the Gospel of Christ. Following his baptism I continue having individual studies with him. Arthur was baptized by Bear Valley student Uriy Romanov who wants to be the preacher of this congregation upon his graduation.

In cooperation with Bear Valley Bible Institute we continue evangelical efforts in the city of Bela Tserkva. Preaching in the hospitals, in the streets, having soccer games opened for public, youth group meetings - all these activities aim to find new people so the Gospel of Christ will become available for them. One of the most important ministries in my opinion is the service in Bela Tserkva Oncology Clinic. Being tired of their health struggles, people pay attention to every word preached from the Holy Scriptures, willingly take New Testaments and other Christian publications. In the course of this ministry we have managed to establish good relationship with the staff. They do not create any obstacles and do not have any objections letting us spread the Gospel of Christ among their patients. Usually it goes like this: we go from ward to ward and in each of them I teach a short lesson based on a few New Testament Scriptures. Then we visit and in the end pray for all patients in the ward. Besides, we usually bring treats purchased with the funds of our mission committee. This method of Evangelism helps to establish long term contacts with the patients and their relatives as well as the personnel of the Clinic. I have high hopes that as the result of this work the church will have new visitors.

Every week my wife Veronika and Vera Sopelnik teach Sunday School lessons for kids. The members' children come to the class as well as children who live in the nearby buildings. We hope that weekly Bible Classes will lay good foundation for making the right decision in obeying Christ for these children.

The Institute.

Dennis had asked me to teach 1,2,3 John for the 1st year students on May 23-27. Taking into account the difficult teaching of these epistles and the fact that I was to teach this course the first time, I have spent a lot of time this month getting ready to teach it. To achieve my goal I have read a few commentaries and worked with the Greek text a lot. The students were diligent with memory work, daily tests and the final test.

THE LORD'S CHURCH AT WORK IN BILA TSERKVA

The Church here reached the point where they want to grow spiritually and in number.

We started using the various methods of reaching out to people.

Some brethren started visiting the hospitals (the ones where they treat cancer patients), and others are actively preaching on the streets of the town.

On the 28th of May we held the Graduation Ceremony where the diplomas were presented to the graduates. All three graduates kept good grades and showed good attitude of working hard and helping out with the Lord's work during the two years time period. I am sure they will be excellent workers in their local congregations. After the ceremony we had refreshments and visited in the Christian fellowship.

I am very thankful to the brethren who give funds to support my work. I appreciate everybody who reads my reports, who prays for our efforts and for the peaceful resolution of the military conflict in Ukraine. Christians from Kiev, Bela Tserkva and Gorlovka send their greetings.

In Christ, Andrew

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

Hello dear brothers and sisters.

I want to share with you some news of the joyful events in the life of the institute and some churches of Christ.

First of all, we had graduation 2016 on May 28. This year there were three men prepared to the ministry: Alexander Drogaitsev, Ivan Lushnikov and Sergey Pavlenkov. These brethren entered into the program when the institute was still in Ternopil, and fortunately, having received the needed experience and knowledge they are ready to start ministering.

Alexander Drogaitsev joined the Master's program after receiving his Bachelor's degree. Most likely he will stay in Bila Tserkva and help the local congregation in their ministry. During the time of his studies, we have discovered many of his talents; he can preach, encourage, give good advice and cook wonderful meals. I am sure the Church receives a very good and wise minister.

Ivan Lushnikov is going back to his local congregation in Kramatorsk where he will also help to minister and work with young people. He had a great attitude towards the process of studying.

Sergey Pavlenkov will most likely continue his ministry in the church of Christ in Nikopol, where there is a rehab center. Right now he is still in the process of negotiation with this congregation, and they discuss the details of Sergey and his wife moving to that town. During the times of studies he proved to be a brother who loves God and is well organized.

Also in May we had American brothers coming and teaching at the institute. Gary Fallis taught Jeremiah; Jim Sherman taught James and Preacher and His Work. We are grateful for their service and for sharing their experience and wisdom in the knowledge of God's Word.

Right now we have a period of summer practice. Usually students go to their local congregations and they have assignments for each summer month. They have to preach, visit the sick and spiritually weak, evangelize and participate in summer camps. It is a wonderful time for the students to receive practical skills of working with local congregations. Sometimes the students are invited to continue helping the work of the local congregation after they finish their studies at the institute.

"Together we do a great work. It will not be an exaggeration to write that we have still a lot to do and to suffer much, but if God is with us, then who can stand against us."

Several men and women have contacted me concerning the next school year, and we have 7-8 potential students. I ask you to pray with us for their decision and willingness to study at the institute. Sometimes it happens in Ukraine that a person got interested to become a part of the program, but after sometime they would not answer the phone calls. That is why it is a raw spot for me. I hope it happens only in Ukraine.

Ministry of the churches of Christ in Ukraine

We have yet another good news. In May there was another baptism at the Shevchenkivska church of Christ in Kyiv. The young man's name is Arthur; he has been studying the Word of God for a while and came to the only right conclusion. It is wonderful that our student Yuriy Romanov baptized him. I have already mentioned that Yuriy is a wonderful brother who is ready to share the gospel at any time. He has a wonderful family, and I hope that he will become a full time preacher in his local congregation after his graduation in February.

We continue to minister actively and preach the gospel in Bila Tserkva. The Church here reached the point where they want to grow spiritually and in number. We started using the various methods of reaching out to people. Some brethren started visiting the hospitals (the ones where they treat cancer patients), and others are actively preaching on the streets of the town. Unfortunately, we do not see new faces at the Church now, but we will continue doing God's work.

As for the building of the institute in Gorlovka, as you know, it is now on the territory that is not under the control of Ukraine, and it does not belong to us neither in fact nor by the law, since there are different laws there in action. However, we decided to insure our rights in case this territory goes back to Ukraine. I inquired what we need to do to start a legal procedure of the fact of illegal confiscation of the building, and it seems that we have done all we could. We have admitted petitions to the police, and government officials have to do something.

We are grateful for all those who help the ministry of the institute in Ukraine. Together we do a great work. It will not be an exaggeration to write that we have still a lot to do and to suffer much, but if God is with us, then who can stand against us.

Your brother and coworker, Dennis Sopelnik

Hi John! Yesterday went well but we missed JohnD, Gary J and Galina. I hope JD & GJ arrived back home ok. We prayed for them. There were 5 guys from African countries in today's worship! Emmo is leaving this Saturday for Ghana and will come back September 1. The photo that Ivan sent you was one Emmo requested since he was leaving and it was his last Sunday with us for awhile and he wished for photo to show brethren in Ghana. And we had torts with drinks afterwards. Arnold isn't going anywhere and I'm not sure about other guys. So we may still have 3 or 4 of them coming. Ivan preached on faith. We had 2 b-day boys - Andrew and Yaroslav (the older guy that comes with Luba and they have been attending since retreat with AMER brothers and sisters last Oct). Yaroslav spoke about himself after worship. And we had torts with drinks afterwards. It was wonderful day of Lord!
Love & greetings to all!! TZ