



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

August 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

- Ivano-Frankivsk, Starry Lysets, Kryvy Rig, Kyiv, Bila Tservka, Gorlovka



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"THIS YEAR UKRAINE CELEBRATED 25 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE... THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT DURING THIS TIME PERIOD WAS THE COMING OF HUNDREDS WHO PLANTED THE SEEDS OF GOD'S WORD... IT RESULTED IN BIRTHS OF MANY LOCAL CONGREGATIONS... THE CHURCH IN UKRAINE IS STILL QUITE YOUNG BUT HAS A LOT OF POTENTIAL... PLEASE KEEP PRAYING FOR UKRAINE AND THE CHURCH OF CHRIST THAT NEEDS PROTECTION."

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL!

Our mission efforts are focused on the preaching and teaching of the gospel of Christ. It is the power of the gospel verses the world's weakness.

The power of the gospel is undeniable. It is described as possessing an explosive quality that brings about an unbelievable change (Romans 1:16). This change is intimidating and threatening to those held hostage by the devilish addictions of worldliness. Consequently there is a strong resistance from the world (Acts 17:6).

The power of the gospel provides opportunity to choose God and reject Self. The righteous goal is to give man true freedom and value. The satanic goal is to capture souls and enslave them to an existence in utter desolation. In this condition the lost sees no hope, no God and no way out of their misery (Ephesians 2:1-3, 11-12). This miserable existence is because people refuse to "see" God's Truth and follow His directives (John 12:40; 2 Corinthians 4:3-1). We are burdened with the obligation to follow the Lord's command in Acts 26:18, "to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith in me." Because of the wonderful freedom that the gospel's Truth offers we read "How beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15).

A mission that is void of the proclamation of salvation taught in the New Testament is a mission that is void of God!

The power of the gospel can be compromised. The Scriptures warn the choice of salvation can be compromised. One can tragically return to sin's misery (Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 6:6; 10:23-27).

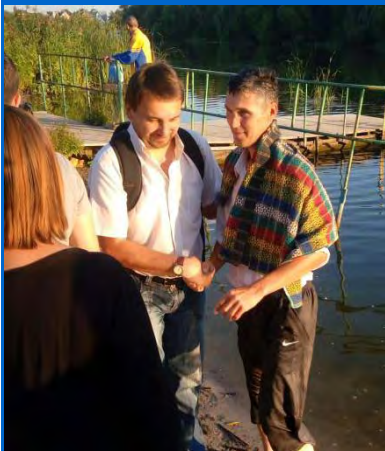
A compromised gospel brings apostasy (Galatians 1:6-9).

Apostasy is a perennial threat to God's People. The Old Testament provides numerous illustrations from historical Israel. These principles urge Christians in the spiritual Israel to be alert to apostasy (Romans 15:4).

FRUITS OF THE GOSPEL IN UKRAINE



One more great news that I'd like to share with you - one more precious soul was added to the church. Valentine was baptized in the Ros' River. He had been attending a denominational church and didn't have the right understanding of salvation and forgiveness of sins. After numerous Bible studies he decided to obey the Gospel and was baptized by Biblical baptism. This event was a great encouragement for the whole church and me personally



Apostasy occurs from irresponsible Bible study! The New Testament warns Christians not to be drawn into “heresies” (2 Peter 2:1). These heresies are groups teaching different doctrines and interpreting the Scriptures according to their own interpretations. Such is described in 2 Peter 3:16, “the ignorant and unstedfast wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.”

Apostasy occurs from choices to be blinded once again by error! One can be saved from the gospel and have his eyes opened to the Truth. He can possess knowledge of God’s perfect will. BUT he can choose to deny God’s sanctification and *live according to what he wants* God to command.

This apostasy is illustrated by ancient Israel. Hosea is told “Ephraim is joined to idols; Let him alone. (Hosea 4:17). The term “joined” is instructive to modern minds. It comes from a Hebrew word (תָּבַר) whose root means one has been “fascinated” or “charmed” so that his thinking has been changed. The one being discussed has been persuaded (charmed) by another to leave former beliefs and practices and to accept “new” teachings. Thus, ancient Israel had been persuaded to leave the Holy God and follow idols. Thus, “Ephraim has become fascinated by idols...leave her alone as she will not follow Jehovah God!” In our day the prophet would be told, “These people have become fascinated by their own knowledge thinking they know better than I...leave them alone as they will not obey My Word!”

Apostasy occurs from a flagrant rejection of God’s standards! I believe this is the greatest challenge facing the Lord’s Church today. The biblical standards are ignored and each focuses on his own “needs.”

The frightening reality of our modern world—*there are absolutely no absolutes in morality!*

Recently Gary Davenport (my brother-in-law) sent out an article that included statistics underscoring how modern man does not live by an objective Truth.

- ✓ 22% of adults in America believe there is no absolute moral truth.
- ✓ Among those professing to be “born again” Christians only 32% of adults and only 9% of teenagers said they believe moral truth is unchanging or absolute. Americans base their “truth” on feelings. “There’s no such thing as right and wrong—it’s only how I feel that matters!”
- ✓ Few Americans use faith as the primary guide for their moral and ethical decisions. 3-to-1 adults said truth is always relative to the person *and their situation*. Among teenagers only 6% said moral truth is absolute.
- ✓ Relativism (what is “real” is only what I feel) is gaining ground, largely because relativism appears to have taken root with the generation that preceded today’s teens.
- ✓ The most common basis for moral decision-making is doing whatever feels right or comfortable in a situation and whatever produces the most personally beneficial results.
- ✓ 7% of teenagers say their moral choices are based on biblical principles.
- ✓ Substantial numbers of Christians believe that immoral activities such as gay sex are morally acceptable. People are left with philosophies such as “if it feels good, do it,” “everyone else is doing it” or “as long as it doesn’t hurt anyone else, it’s permissible.” “The result is a mentality that esteems pluralism, relativism, tolerance, and diversity without critical

QUOTES FROM EMAILS...

I have a number of lessons posted on various sites on the internet and here is an email from one somewhere in the world that studied my notes on Kings of the Old Testament ...

"I had to commend you for your wonderful article on King Zedekiah. You factual and devotional approach is rare and I truly appreciate the messages that you derive from the life of Zedekiah for all of us today. May God bless you as you will greatly enhance the lessons that God's flock will learn. Thank you. Mauricio Escobedo"

reflection of the implications of particular views and actions."

- ✓ 1-of-10 born again teenagers believe in absolute moral truth - a statistic that is nearly identical to that of non-born again teens.
- ✓ The basis of people's moral and ethical decisions is more feelings and less Bible.

The challenge facing the Church's mission today is summarized by a well known public figure who said, "I'm the closest I've ever been with God. **I have my own relationship with God and that's all that matters.**" We are challenged to prove the Bible offers the only foundation for a relationship with God because all other options are self-centered.

The Lord God Almighty expects His People to follow Him and His will and have a relationship based upon God's standards not mans fluid criterion. To accomplish this objective God expects His People to teach the simple gospel Truth as it is taught in the New Testament.

This Truth is absolute. This Truth is unmistakable. This Truth must be held fast in an uncompromised devotion. This Truth is not "plastic" and able to be redefined or rethought to allow modern culture's personal "tweaking" of its commands and principles.

This is our mission!

We are unapologetic in our endeavors to defend and spread God's Truth.

We are not intimidated by those who seek to weaken our resolve.

We stand with fearless Jeremiah who said, *"Thus says the Lord, 'Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak...all the words that I have commanded you to speak. Do not omit a word! Perhaps they will listen and everyone will turn from his evil way...Then Jeremiah spoke saying, 'The Lord sent me to prophesy...all the words that you have heard. Now therefore amend your ways and your deeds and obey the voice of the Lord your God...But as for me, behold, I am in your hands; do with me as is good and right in your sight.'"* (Jeremiah 26:1-13)

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK!

NEWS FROM THE IVANO-FRANKIVSK CHURCH OF CHRIST, AUGUST 2016.

Greetings, dear brethren!

The month of August was very hot in Ukraine and temperature would go up to 40C (104°F) at some pl aces, which was very unusual for Western Ukraine.

Despite of these horrible acts of nature, we continue working, helping people and preaching the Gospel of Christ.

We pray to God asking Him to bless us with opportunities and to open doors for the Gospel where Satan cunningly restrains the Truth through prejudices and false teachings that reign in the hearts of millions of people who hardened their hearts and do not know the supreme Law.

Evil that is done around us makes our life seem unbearable. We are tempted to give up. People need the love of Christ and hope for future more

QUOTES FROM EMAILS...

Thus far in 2016 we have loaded and shipped 20 cargo containers. Here is an email from a group that received one of our containers...

"There are no words that can be expressed to pass on all the thanks for the essentials supplies we received from churches of Christ and for their constant support to Ukraine and it's people in their hardest times. Project 007 was set in motion by our biggest supporter John Kachelman Jr. and arrived in Odessa on July 2, 2016. The Head of the Charity Fund 'Unindifferent People' V. Kruchynina."

than ever now.

Displaced people lost their near and dear ones. They lost everything they had managed to build life. They have no expectations as far as help from the government goes.

We try to help such people as well as offer help to various local groups. We are thankful to you, dear brethren, beyond words, for your prayers and support. Thanks to your help we have access to different organizations, schools, hospitals, institutes, children's home and orphanages.

We received a request for help from the administration of a children's rehabilitation center. There are 38 children there from 3 to 18 years old. All of them found themselves in impossible life situations as they lost their parents (some died and some were denied parental rights). These children were left without parental care, some have criminal past and most have various diseases. These children suffer with lice, worms, lamblia, and need help badly.

When my wife Svetlana and sister Luba went to that shelter they saw that there were a lot of needs and problems needing immediate attention but the administration was helpless and about to give up hope for these children. The administration could not do anything due to the lack of budget and problems in the country.

We learned that some of the older children were about to commit suicide. They saw their lives as useless. There was a young boy by the name of Dima. He is sixteen years old. He came to this shelter when he was three years old because both of his parents died. Dima's relatives took him but they died soon after moving to their house. After the death of his relatives Dima was adopted three more times. But all of his adopted parents died for different reasons so the boy is deeply depressed.

When Svetlana saw him in the orphanage Dima had shoes THREE sizes larger than would fit.

Dima said his dream was to find a job and buy a suit to feel adequate around his schoolmates.

Thanks to the aid that our American brothers and sisters sent and that aid which was collected by sister Kathy Cadden, brother Joe and their churches, we were able to help this children's home. So we send BIG thanks to Kathy for lice treatment, shoes, food for children, rice with vitamins and peanut butter.

Our sister Luba comes from the village of Zhuravno, sixty kilometers from Ivano-Frankivsk. She says that people are in dire straits there due to the crisis in the country. We sent Bibles, reading glasses, shoes, summer clothes, food and medical supplies to that village before and will send more.

Here is a story from our benevolence in the village of Zhuravno. There is a woman by the name of Anna. She was confined to her flat for many years due to her bad joints. We were told that she needed assistance and visited with her. When we gave her a walker she cried and said that the Lord had heard her prayers and she could move around. She can now visit her neighbor on her own and go to a grocery store. She went to church and prayed for all who made it possible for her to move around. When people from the village found out about our upcoming campaign with Dalraida's Bible classes they said they would come to classes to thank us personally.

QUOTES FROM EMAILS...

Brother Emmanuel is in medical school in Ivano-Frankivsk and after graduation will return to Ghana to practice medicine and preach the gospel of Christ.

He had asked for copies of my books to use in his evangelistic efforts. The books were mailed and presented to Emmanuel upon his return to Ukraine from Ghana.

Emmanuel sent me two emails that are below.

From: Emmanuel K.nimo
To: John L Kachelman, Jr
Subject: Safe arrival

*"Dear Brother John!
Greetings in the name
of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ.
Hope all is well with
you as well as your
family and all
the saints.
By the grace of God I
have arrived safely
in Ivano-Frankivsk
and started
classes yesterday.
Hope to see you soon.
Yours Brethren in the
Lord, Emmanuel."*

In Starry Lysets, we gave away some school desks that were in container that John Kachelman arranged for US Department of Defense to ship to us. We sent some of these desks to the schools in Starry Lysets as well as 20 chairs to the kindergarten. We are getting ready for the campaign and are looking forward to having our brethren from Hillsboro and Dalraida here.

We thank you for your help to the Maternity Home where our brethren provided complete repairs. Not only did we completely remodel the room but we were able to equip fully one room. This room will have a plaque saying "Gift from the church of Christ." The Head of the Department and the staff would like to attend our Bible classes during the campaign.

This project shows great cooperation as the Church in America provided money and the Church in Ukraine repaired the ward. Pavel repaired the room and the plaque will also say that help was provided by American and Ukrainian brethren from churches of Christ. Thanks to your help many institutions have opened their doors for the Gospel.

We send a BIG THANKS to sister Debbie Brunk for her constant prayers and help for the work in Ivano-Frankivsk. We send thanks to the Mission Committee of Fort Collins church of Christ.

We send thanks to brother Rick Montgomery and the Hillsboro Mission Committee for the additional funds they sent. We would like to use these funds to purchase medicines for the shelter, such as antibiotics, cold medicine and medicines for asthma. The work that Hillsboro church of Christ does in Ukraine is very fruitful. Thanks to all faithful in the Lord for being our partners and helping to spread the truth and Kingdom of God on earth.

There is a special BIG THANKS for construction funds that have been donated to build our meeting place. Brother John Kachelman has all reports and pictures. It is very important for us to have our own church building where everybody feels secure. It is necessary for our growth and to be recognized as a legitimate religious body in the community.

We are thankful to our brother Jerry Morgan for the truck that he gave us to deliver humanitarian aid to the needy. We plan to use it to truck humanitarian aid to mountain villages that do not have good roads and there are not drivers who want to go there. But with the truck we can go anywhere we need to help people.

We continue assembling from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sundays. Sermons presented in August have come from the Gospels.

On Wednesdays we study Exodus. On Fridays we have prayer sessions.

My family is doing well. Anya started her 11th grade. Ruslan and Masha returned from Poland and help with church work and humanitarian aid. Please, pray for Masha so that she would repent and be baptized.

We look forward for fall campaigns and pray to God asking Him to use us effectively in His Kingdom.

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

"When we gave her a walker she cried and said that the Lord had heard her prayers and she could move around...She went to church and prayed for all who made it possible for her to move around."

QUOTES FROM EMAILS...

*"Hello Dear Brother in
the Lord!*

*I have received the
books from sister
Tanya today.*

*God richly bless you for
your kindness!*

*I'm very grateful for such
an incredible love and
desire to impart such
vast knowledge and
wisdom through your
writings onto me and
others. Is such an
inspiration for me to do*

*more in the Lord's
Church. I have started
creating a Christian
library in my room. All
thanks to you.*

*I have started with
"Study on First
Principles".*

*May the good Lord
continue to grant you
good health to continue
His Kingdom works.*

*Thank you once again!
The blessing, peace, joy
and above all, His love
continue to abide with
you all the time."*

VOLODYA DIDUKH SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I am sending you greetings from Ivano-Frankivsk on behalf of church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk and on behalf of my family. We thank our God the Father for the unity in Christ, for fellowship and encouragement that we find in one another.

Another month of our lives has passed and I would like to share some news with you that took place in the past. The month was very busy even though it was still a summer month; it was full of different events, both good and not very good.

It is sad to begin with this piece of news but nevertheless...Two people have passed away this month. They heard the Gospel and did not submit to it. You know about the family of Miroslava and Stepan. They are elderly people with whom we have been in contact. I wrote you last month about my visit with them, about my discussion with Miroslava. It was at the end of the month. Miroslava passed away September 3. Her husband called me and told me that she had passed away. It is hard to come to terms with such news when you realize that people have not fully submitted to God's will. I do not know why God has decided to take her right at the time when she just started studying Scriptures and listening to the Bible. However, He knows better what is good for us.

Another blow was news about the death of our brother Pasha's mother in Kryvy Rig. She heard the Gospel many times from Pasha, brother Ivan and I but she did not want to accept it. Pavel was overwhelmed with grief over this event. He is getting over it now but all his earthly parents are now gone and our Heavenly Father is the only one for him to rely on. I would like for all of us to join in prayer for him so that his spirit would not be crushed but rather get stronger in the face of this trial. It is important since Pavel has two children which he has to discipline and prepare for the life in this world. Thus, I would like to ask you to pray for our brother.

Our Brother Ivan has been on vacation with his family this month and I have preached twice in his place. Thank God, Ivan and his family had a good vacation and have come back home to continue their ministry in God's vineyard.

Brother Volodymyr and I went to a church seminar in Chernivtsi. The theme was "women's role in church." We met a lot of Christians from all over Ukraine. God also blessed us with an opportunity to meet old friends, brethren in Christ. Such fellowship is spiritually uplifting and it gives us opportunities to analyze advantages and drawbacks of local churches of Christ.

Brother Ivan and I met with Anatoly Romanovych, the mayor of Starry Lysets. We talked about the fall campaign that is to take place at the beginning of October.

Anatoly Romanovych was very glad to know that he would be able to spend time with Americans, to see his old friends and make new ones that are filled with energy and enthusiasm. He likes the topic that the Dalraida missionaries will teach, "What makes a GREAT Village?" He likes stressing the personal qualities essential for making a great village and he likes the

**Emmanuel holds
the books that he
will use in
teaching the
Word of God
in Ghana!**



idea of Dalraida's members teaching English in schools. (Note: Our classes will focus on "The Fruits of the Spirit" and applied to how those possessing such fruits are strong community members.)

We are working hard to have everything set up by the time our missionaries come and hope that this campaign will bring forth good fruit in God's vineyard. We all need to pray for this work.

I continue seeing my two friends that are not believers yet. We try to find time to fish and visit almost every week. I tell them about God, Scriptures and great wisdom that God revealed through Scriptures, and about the sacrifice of Christ. I hope that this companionship will bring forth fruit for God's Kingdom. Please, pray for me asking God to give me strength and courage to continue.

Not long ago, Brother Ruslan and I went to Lviv to meet our Brother Emanuel who came back to Ivano-Frankivsk to resume his studies. This brother works hard in God's vineyard and he set in motion a very interesting project in Ghana. He and his doctor friends set up a medical organization that provide some basic medical help and examination free of charge. They do it while preaching the Gospel of Christ to people.

Emanuel is back to Ukraine now as he has to continue his studies. We were happy to help our brother get from Lviv to Ivano-Frankivsk. And we pray that the project they initiated in Ghana will bring forth good fruit. They will have to struggle to survive because they have minimum equipment and support. However, this work will grow if it helps God's Kingdom.

Unfortunately, my dad has been on the booze again and his condition is bad now. It is a hectic period for us as there is a great and pressing amount of garden and farm work. We need to harvest potatoes and all veggies and dad is on his drinking spree. I pray and ask God for strength to live through this trying time. And I pray for my dad to come back to his senses.

Thank you for your support and help. May the Lord bless all faithful throughout the world and especially those that are concerned for His Kingdom.

With love, Your Brother Volodya Didukh
З любов'ю ваш барат Володя Дідух.

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

Peace and grace to you! I am happy to greet you with great love again, our dear American brethren. We pray and thank our Heavenly Father for your hearts that He opened your hearts to support us both financially and spiritually, and to pray for constantly us with such love, understanding and sympathy.

Churches of Christ in Ukraine are greatly encouraged and strive for spiritual growth thanks to your love and care. I would like to report to you on the work done within this month.

I continue working in God's vineyard in Ivano-Frankivsk surrounded by wonderful people and spiritual mentors. Here in Ivano-Frankivsk I help with Bible classes; take part in multiple Church activities, visiting people,

"Dear John,

Now we are working with Svatovskii area of Luhansk. There is a critical situation with people affected by the fire and explosion in the nearby Svatovo. The tragic event took place on October 29, 2015. Many people were killed and injured, more than a thousand high-rise buildings and private homes were partially or fully destroyed. These buildings are homes for around six thousand people!

Almost a year has passed, and the destroyed houses still have not been repaired. People survived the last winter in inhuman conditions. Some houses even still do not have glasses in windows. Damaged buildings continue to be ruined. Winter will come soon again, and people will have no chance with their current living conditions.

We are trying to help the victims repair their homes. First of all, building materials are required. I have attached to this letter their approximate list. I would be very grateful if you could give me contacts of charitable organizations which can help us in the form of materials or funds for their purchase. Thanks for the help!

God bless church of Christ!

Best wishes, Vadym"

distribution of humanitarian aid, for which people are very thankful to you. Their gratitude is beyond words and they are thankful to God for working through us on this earth.

Unfortunately, this month has been filled with sorrow for me. The disabled woman that Volodya and I visited passed away on September 3. Also my mother has passed away this month and she never made her mind to accept the teaching of our Lord Jesus. I hope beyond hope that God will outpour His mercy upon them forgiving them and admitting them to His heavenly places.

I ask our Lord to strengthen spiritually all those who have made their minds to follow Him since our life is goes by fast and we do not know when our time to leave this earth is going to come. Even more steadfastly do I pray to God asking Him to give me more love and wisdom so that I will be a better servant in His vineyard.

My dear brethren, please, pray with me to the Lord asking Him to add to His Church as many people as possible.

As usual, I would like to ask you to pray for my family, for the growth of church in Kryvy Rig and throughout Ukraine, for those that have not found the right way and are not true followers of Christ, for peace in this country. Please, pray for my family and especially for my children.

I always keep all of you in my prayers. I thank you for your help, love and support. I wish you good health, God love and blessings.

With love, Your brother Pavel
с любовью ваш брат Павел.

ANDREW ZHURAVLYOV SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD!

Hello, dear brothers and sisters.

The summer has come to the end – for many people it was the time of vacations, rest and resorts. One can see much more people in the streets in Bila Tserkva now than in summer. The coming of the fall is associated with studies or more intensive activities for many people.

As I wrote in the previous report, on August 5 I went to occupied Gorlovka to support, strengthen and encourage Christians who live there. During two weeks I conducted two worship services, several Bible classes, many visits in the homes, in the hospital and individual Bible classes. I was encouraged by the fact that during my stay in Gorlovka, Oksana, the mother of our brother in Christ Bogdan Chigvintsev came to the worship services and all Bible classes. She showed much interest in study of the Word of God, and I did my best to give maximum attention to studying with her. I pray that her desire for God and thirst for His Word will not grow cold. Previously Oksana showed no interest to God and His Church, but present sufferings and daily dangers because of the war caused her to reconsider her view of life.

During this trip the battles around the city were very severe. Almost every night was accompanied by artillery duels during which one could hardly fall asleep. I recorded the sounds of the shelling on August 17. The battle that day lasted for five hours. The recording was done in the apartment; in the open air the sounds of the cannonade are much louder and scary. Every

A Container Arrives In Ivano-Frankivsk

"The month of August was very hot in Ukraine and temperature would go up to 40°C (104°F) at some places, which was very unusual for Western Ukraine."



such shelling causes destruction of the houses and other administrative buildings. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ld8rNU5fTGY> There are casualties also. These are the pictures of the results of the shelling of the city during my stay there. Without a doubt, the most dangerous thing in the trip to Gorlovka is the crossing of the front line. On coming to the occupied territory I escaped the shelling simply because the bus on which I was travelling was delayed for several hours.

Recently the media informed us that the authorities of the DPR plan to turn off all the Ukrainian mobile operators on the territory under their control. This means that all the people who live there will be totally cut off from their relatives and loved ones and all other people who do not live on that territory. I thought that time had already come on August 17th when all the city was left without mobile connection. I had no possibility to communicate with my family and all my brothers and sisters on both sides of the front line. But it turned out that the connection was lost because of the shelling and sometime later it was restored.

Every other Sunday I come to Kiev to help in the Shevchenko district church of Christ. There I preach and conduct Bible classes on the Book of Ecclesiastes. Also together with brothers we preach the gospel in the streets.

Right after returning from Gorlovka our family participated in the organization and conduction of the VBS in Bila Tserkva on August 22-25. We had Bible classes, prepared games and quizzes, helped smaller kids with crafts, Veronica participated in the puppet show. The children liked VBS very much, and they gladly invited their friends. And the number of kids who participated in the work of VBS the first day (17 kids) increased to 34 within several days. We thank God that we were able to form a strong and friendly team out of the local Christians and those who came from other cities of Ukraine. The result of this VBS was that not only children learned about the Church and her work but also their parents with whom we tried to make contacts and maintain good relations. Our expectations were fulfilled, and the number of the kids who come to our Bible classes has increased greatly. Summarizing the results of the VBS we must point out that working with kids in Bila Tserkva may be the best way of evangelism.

In order to reach the people of the city with the gospel we try various methods. In July we placed the contact information about the Church on the billboard in the central street in Bila Tserkva. At the last worship service I met a guest who came to the assembly because he read that information.

I thank God for all my brothers and sisters in Christ who prayed for my safe trip to Gorlovka, my work there and safe trip back to Bila Tserkva. I am very grateful to those who support my work for the Lord in Ukraine financially. May the Lord richly bless you, your families and your work in His vineyard!

In His service, Andrew.

NEWS FROM DENNIS SOPELNIK IN BELA TSERKVA

Dear brethren, families and churches,

I would like to share some tremendous news in my monthly report.

This year Ukraine celebrated 25 years of Independence. During this time

JOB 29:12

“I delivered the poor who cried for help, And the orphan who had no helper.”

“Some of the older children...saw their lives as useless. There was a young boy by the name of Dima (16 years old). He came to the shelter when he was three years old because both of his parents died. Dima's relatives took him but they died soon after moving to their house. Dima was adopted three more times. But all of his adopted parents died for different reasons so the boy is deeply depressed. When Svetlana saw him in the orphanage Dima had shoes THREE sizes larger than would fit. Dima said his dream was to find a job and buy a suit to feel adequate around his schoolmates.”

period the country had to survive many political problems, some economic turmoil and currently it continues the fight for the territorial unity. I am sure that the most important event during this time period was the coming of hundreds of missionaries who planted the seeds of the God's Word and spread the Gospel. It resulted in births of many local congregations who continue laboring for God's glory. The Church in Ukraine is still quite young but has a lot of potential for growth and strengthening. Please keep praying for Ukraine and the church of Christ that needs protection.

On August 6th I had a wonderful opportunity to participate in a great conference in Chernivtsy. This time the topic for discussion was "The Role of a Woman in the Church." There were thirty participants representing nine congregations of the churches of Christ. We had a great opportunity to discuss and debate. The goal of such conferences is to study the Word of God together and become stronger in the knowledge. The next meeting of this kind is scheduled to be held in Kharkiv on November 5 with "Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage" as the topic.

We often try to utilize different approaches in spreading the Truth. We usually use street evangelism and recently tried to utilize the commercial outdoors ads. We have ordered big boards with a call to think about the meaning of life and, by the way, one man came to check out the worship service last time. But according to our personal experience one of the most effective way to evangelize is to devote a lot of importance to the children's ministry and upbringing of the young people.

On August 22-25 we conducted a wonderful VBS in the church. The topic was "The World of Adventures." Every day children were introduced to different events from the life and ministry of Christ. Most of the children who came to VBS have non-Christian parents. But through this effort we established some good contacts with the parents. We are very grateful to my wife Vera and everybody else who helped her to conduct the VBS. We had a great time. Every day we had about thirty kids. It was a huge success for the Church and its Sunday school. On the Saturday after the VBS many children came to the children's Bible class.

Before the beginning of the new school year we found a way to renovate the church building. Some of the work we were able to do with our own talents and only for the more complicated jobs we had to hire professional people. It resulted in saving a lot of money. Many local brethren were able to participate and we are thankful to all who helped to serve the Church in this area. After that we purchased a few additional desks. Thus, the facility is ready for the school year.

One more great news that I would like to share with you—on September 2nd one more precious soul was added to the Church. Brother Valentine was baptized in the Ros' River that is nearby to our church building. He had been attending a denominational church and did not have the right understanding of salvation and forgiveness of sins. After numerous Bible studies he decided to obey the Gospel and was baptized by biblical baptism. This event was a great encouragement for the whole Church and me personally.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we are very thankful for your support and your prayers. We truly appreciate your love and care for us. My family and our students send their Christian love.