

MISSION TRIP SCHEDULE

- Oct 7 |** Travel Day
- Oct 8 |** Travel Day
- Oct 9 |** Worship & Lesson
(by Scott Lockwood)
 Fellowship
 Sightseeing in City-
 Planning Meeting
- Oct 10 |** Stary Lysets School*
 Afternoon classes in
 Stary Lysets*
 Meeting with Aid
 Group to Troops*
 Visit School #23
 Visit Construction Site
- Oct 11 |** Stary Lysets School*
 Visit Police Hospital*
 Speak at Law School*
 Visit Ugorniky
 Evening classes in
 Stary Lysets
- Oct 12 |** Stary Lysets School*
 Speak at Law School*
 Visit Children Shelter
 Evening classes in
 Stary Lysets
- Oct 13 |** Speak at Law School*
 Visit/Tour Medical
 School & PT Clinic
 Evening classes in
 Stary Lysets
- Oct 14 |** Meet Andrew
 Trip Carpathian Mtns
 Visit Yaremche
- Oct 15 |** Travel Day

* split groups to these events



this report

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ENCOURAGING & PLANTING in Western Ukraine

By John Kachelman III

Since our last visit in 2012, the work in Ukraine has been progressing very well. The congregation has been growing both numerically and spiritually. Thankfully, four years later, the work continues and we were able to schedule another trip to the area. This time, instead of just doing a survey and reporting trip to Ivano-Frankivsk, we hoped to do more of an evangelistic campaign in the area.

I was so excited that I had been able to recruit six others from Dalraida to go with me on this trip. The seven of us began making plans to work in a village outside of Ivano-Frankivsh that had received humanitarian aid from the church and had been a prospective location to establish a congregation. The planning was not easy as there are language barriers and no one had planned this kind of campaign before. The other hurdle for a successful campaign was the local influence of the Orthodox priests (there are two in the village of 2,500 people!). Their stronghold on the spiritual teaching in the village has been something we have had to combat since we first began bringing humanitarian aid into their village.

Ivan Skoleba and Volodya Dydack have been working to spread the Gospel in Western Ukraine. They started working hard to lay the groundwork for our trip and set up several visits. Thankfully they were also able to get the village to allow us to use their Palace of Culture for our evening lectures and made plans for children classes every night. They were also able to arrange for our team to go into the schools every morning and begin establishing connections with the kids. Since the village leaders did not want us to pass out flyers about our classes, this was the best option to advertise who we were and what we wanted to do. It turned out to be the best form of advertising possible!

Each day was filled with many activities; we did not have

time to even feel jet-lagged! We started out each day at the Mafia Café and enjoyed oatmeal with fruit or super-loaded 5-egg omelets (seriously, they were humongous!). Then each day was split up into different visits and activities. You can see from our schedule (to the left) that our days were full of following up on humanitarian aid shipments, networking and talking with those in various locations around the city, and preparing the soil in Stary Lysets for our nightly studies. The trip was full of activity and we enjoyed every day to its fullest. Reflecting back on the trip, there are many things that jump out at me from our trip.

Everyone Was Encouraged

Our group wanted to encourage the brethren in Ivano-Frankivsk. We knew that they had been dealing with many obstacles over the past few years, and part of our trip and goal was to let them know how much we thought about them at Dalraida. As we planned the trip, we made it a priority to be there to worship with the brethren on Sunday morning. The worship assembly was wonderful. Eventhough we had an overflow of people for the meeting place, we were able to join together in song, prayer, communion with the Lord, and in hearing a great lesson from Scott. The bilingual service was bridged by some translators and we were all able to understand and join together in the worship service.

The mutual encouragement did not end there. The local brethren were active in supporting our nightly lectures each night. They took time out of their schedules and we all went together to try and reach out to this village that is in need of the Truth.

As we left in the early morning hours on Saturday, many from the congregation met us to say our goodbyes. They were some of the first faces we saw as we arrived in

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TEAM MEMBERS

- Billy Camp
- B.J. Harrah
- John Kachelman III
- Scott Lockwood
- Nick Revels
- Malorie Smith
- Danyel Wilson

MORE INFO

Mission Work in Ukraine

Dalraida has been involved in spreading the Gospel in Ukraine (and other places in the former Soviet Union) since the communist nation fell in the 90's.

Dalraida previously sponsored a full-time work in Nikolaev, Ukraine where David & Galina Binkley worked until they retired. We currently oversee and sponsor the work in Ivano-Frankivsk where Ivan Skoleba and his family work on a full-time basis. Also, John Kachelman Jr. makes two trips each year to Ukraine and works closely with Ivan in Ivano-Frankivsk.

If you are interested in learning more about



Dalraida's mission works, go online to www.dalraidamissions.org and read about all the places we are involved!

FIND A WAY TO GET INVOLVED MORE IN SPREADING GOD'S WORD AROUND THE WORLD!
(Matthew 28:19-20)



One of my favorite things about the Dalraida church of Christ is its love for mission work. Since I have been at Dalraida we have taken mission trips to Jamaica, Panama, Aruba, Peru, and now Ukraine. Ukraine was my first trip across the Atlantic Ocean and into Europe, which is in contrast to the trips we normally take to Latin and South America. I believe this trip was a great starter for Dalraida reaching into Europe and beyond.

Although Ukraine is not necessarily the easiest trip to take, it was well worth the travel. Upon arrival we had to adjust to being around a language that is hard to recognize any cognates and in the midst of a culture that is different from our own. Our group easily adjusted to the differences because we had a common mindset wherever we went—***we are all created in the image of God.*** There are many details about the things we did, but as I reflect, I want to share what we can do ***next.***

The church in Ivano-Frankivsk has a great foundation in the Bible, the community, and Ukraine. Ivan Skoleba, along with his family, have taken the work there into a good direction. However, it is not just Ivan that is active in sharing the gospel, but the entire church is involved. All week we had mem-

bers join us for our activities, lessons, and meetings. They wanted to be involved in the work, and were very open and hospitable to us. The church is also very active in giving out humanitarian aid. This approach has opened many doors for them to reach out to groups of people they would not have normally been able to reach.

The positive impact the church is making in their community and nation is contagious. Officials, schools, businesses, and entire villages are active in helping the church grow, whether they know it or not. In the one week we were in Ukraine, we had the opportunity to speak to school directors, mayors, military representatives, and a host of other important people. These doors were not opened up only because of the humanitarian aid, but because the church is a light everywhere in the region.

This positive standing allowed the church, along with us, to speak in many places. One specific village that we worked with was Starry Lysets. Since there is a not a congregation meeting in that village, there is a lot of work to be done. I can see Dalraida making a directed effort in focusing on villages like Starry Lysets in future trips.

The positive impact the church is making in their community and nation is contagious.

The Impact and Future of Mission Work in Ukraine

Considering what we can do next in Ukraine for the Lord's Church.

One day the mayor of the village and the principal of the school shut down everything in order for us to have a lecture with the adults and classes with the kids. Imagine what we can do next time with reaching out to the children and their parents, teachers, and village members. Every time we had a session there were more

people who joined. By the end of the week we were seeing large numbers of children coming to hear Bible classes, and adults listening to lectures of the Bible. This open door will allow the church, with the help of Dalraida, to do more in this village than they ever thought could be done.

I am excited to see what Dalraida can do in the future with this work in Ukraine. We had a lot of great learning experiences, and we will know next time what to expect and what we can do. It is my hope and prayer that we can continue to send groups to this city and its surrounding villages so we can see the Word of the Lord being spread. There is a lot of work to be done, it is quite evident that the fields are white for harvest if we will just be willing to send laborers.

- Billy Camp

Planting Seeds in Young Children

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this trip to Ukraine a reality for me. While in Ukraine, we were blessed to have the opportunity of countless experiences and also create bonds with other people that will last a lifetime. While in Ukraine, I was able to witness God's blessings in many ways. Nick Revels and I taught the teens' class and watched our class grow from 15 teens on Monday night to over 50 teens on Thursday night.

We never imagined that we would be able to achieve these number during our trip, but with God's blessing, we were able to plant many seeds in these young children that the church over there can now nurture into strong brothers and sisters in Christ. There were many other events and works that we were able to partake in during our trip, and words cannot adequately describe this trip. Once again, thank you to the elders of Dalraida and everyone else who made this trip possible for me. May the Lord bless you for the kindness you have shown me, and the work that you allowed me, and everyone else on this team, to accomplish on this mission trip to Ukraine.

- B.J. Harrah



A LOOK BACK: MY FIRST TRIP TO UKRAINE

As we were preparing for the trip, I had no real idea of what to expect. We had planning meetings about schedules, itineraries and general information but I still didn't have a great mental image of what our trip to Ukraine would be like. Our travel over there was long, but fairly uneventful. Once we arrived in Kiev, we had around six hours before our next flight so we were able to leave the airport and walk around the city. One of our translators, Inna, met us there and showed us around the city. It was amazing to see the history that was in the city, something we really don't have to the same extent in the U.S. Our flight from Kiev to Ivano-Frankivsk was delayed several hours which was annoying, but we got to Ivano-Frankivsk by about 11pm on Saturday night. We got up the next morning and ate breakfast at a restaurant called "Mafia". We had a choice between omelets and

oatmeal, both of which were very good. We would end up eating breakfast here for the rest of the week.

After breakfast, we walked to the flat that serves as the gathering place for the congregation in Ivano-Frankivsk where we were able to meet and fellowship with the members before the service. I had personally never been in a bilingual song service before, however I found it to be a very uplifting experience. It was very encouraging to hear the same song being sung in different languages knowing that even though we were separated by a language barrier, everyone had the same purpose in praising God. It made me look forward to the day when we can all gather together in heaven and unite in praise of God without being artificially divided by a difference of language. Brother Lockwood delivered an excellent lesson through one of our translators

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FAST FACTS Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine

Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine is a historic city in Western Ukraine that is at the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. The city is the administrative center for the oblast bearing the same name.

Here are fast facts about this city
Population: 224,401 (2009)

Oblast: Ivano-Frankivsk
(same as city name)

Former name: Stanislav (Polish)

Language: Ukrainian
(Russian is frowned on in western regions but still spoken)



A note of thanks from Volodya Didukh

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

I am sending you greetings from Western Ukraine and on behalf of the church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk. The month that has just passed was filled with wonderful events and work that I'd love to tell you about.

The visit from our American brethren that attend Dalraida church of Christ was the most interesting and most important event of the month. The main purpose of the visit was to conduct an evangelistic campaign the village of Stary Lysets where I work to make church of Christ known to people. As I wrote you before, there are 2 "traditional" (Greek Catholic) churches in the village and almost all people there consider themselves very religious. That is why the preaching of the Gospel in that area presents certain challenges. However, the Lord worked everything out in a great way to make the campaign a success, and many people, school teachers and youth, had an opportunity to hear about Christ and receive Bible as a gift. The team from Dalraida church of Christ headed by John Kachelman III consisted of very talented young people who attracted and gathered a lot of people with the help from the Lord. And not only that, they also became good friends with those people, which was very important for the preaching of the Word. In general, we had an evening seminar that lasted 4 days and at the same time there were classes for children and teens. There were also English classes taught for 3 days at a secondary school that enabled them to get to know children, teens and their teachers. It

was a very busy time and very fruitful, too, as it enabled us to introduce church of Christ to the village of Stary Lysets. A week didn't pass upon the departure of the group and the children were asking me when the next campaign was going to happen. I was excited and encouraged to see young people respond to common sense and Gospel. I thank God and all that took part in the trip, who was involved in it giving money towards the campaign! Great work was done that moved a huge old rock off the ground that was in people's way to hearing the Gospel. As for me, it is a great joy and a sign of the mighty work of the Lord when we cooperate with Him.

Besides, we continued distributing humanitarian aid that you had sent us through Bro. John Kachelman, Jr.. We delivered 30 desks to Mykulychyn and 20 desks to a school in Ivano-Frankivsk. It's so good that now that we have our truck running we can deliver humanitarian aid ourselves where it is needed most. This week (Oct 27) we have received and unloaded one more container with aid from you. Container was loaded with rice mixes, which we plan to give to social institutions as well as poor, needy and large families. Such ministry helps open up people's hearts to the Gospel. It also helps this country survive in such horrible times. We send our heartfelt thanks to those involved in this work. May God give you back graciously and abundantly.

In Christian love,
Your brother in Christ Volodya Didukh



REALIZING MY PURPOSE

by Malorie Smith

Doing the work of the Lord, by teaching His word to those in Aruba as well as Ukraine, has made an indescribable impact in every aspect of my life. Because of the generosity of Dalraida's members, as well as other congregations, I have been able to travel across the world carrying God's precious soul saving gospel to those who are lost. I can not thank those who support the mission work of Dalraida enough. I hope and pray that the Lord continues to bless me with good health and an encouraging heart so that I may continue serving Him wherever I have the opportunity to go.

Attempting to describe in words the trip to Ukraine is almost impossible. The brothers and sisters in Ivano-Frankivsk have a piece of my heart. Each and everyday I pray for their safety because of the chaos in our world today. I now see how blessed we are to live in the USA where we do not have to fear surrounding enemies, like Russia, invading. Although we are blessed in our society, I have seen that life does not become great from having a beautiful home, a perfect yard, or making a lot of money. Life becomes more than great when we trust the Father in Heaven, the creator of this universe, the one who knew us before we were even born. Life becomes more than great when we each find the passion to share the gospel

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and I feel that the church there received great encouragement by our presence.

After the service, we went on a tour of downtown Ivano-Frankivsk with brother John Durham acting as our tour guide. Ivano-Frankivsk is a very beautiful city and, as in Kiev, I was surprised by the rich history it contains. We visited several buildings that pre-date the founding of the U.S. which were very interesting to learn about. We also visited places that held significance during World War II which was interesting but sobering. After the tour, several of us went to a chocolate shop which had some of the best chocolate I've ever had. B.J. got a "hot chocolate" which was literally a cup of melted chocolate which was so rich

that it was almost impossible to finish.

On Monday, Billy, BJ and I got up very early (due to our jet lag) and walked around the city park for a while before going to breakfast at Mafia. They brought us up some 'homestyle' omelets which contained carrots, onions, broccoli and other vegetables as well as ham. One of the best things we found foodwise was that the coffee in Ukraine is excellent and very inexpensive. The only complaint we had about the coffee situation was that none of the coffee shops opened before 8AM! After breakfast, BJ, Danyel, Malorie and I traveled to a village outside of IF called Starry-Lysets to talk with the students in the school. The director of the school visited with us for a while

THANKFULNESS FOR OPPORTUNITIES

by Danyel Wilson

Words cannot express how grateful I am to everyone, both individuals and all my church families, for blessing me with the support to go and spread the God's word to those in Ukraine. I am forever grateful for your prayers along the way as well. Your prayers were absolutely answered.

Our journey to Ukraine was a long one to say the least, but a journey well worth it. As soon as we landed (close to midnight there) in Ivano-Frankivsk, we were overwhelmed by God's love pouring out of our brothers and sisters. That love continued throughout the week as we worked side-by-side with some members from Ivano-Frankivsk.

Our first morning there was on Sunday and we were able to worship with our brothers and sisters. All nestled in a cozy flat (apartment), we worshiped God the same ways as we are accustomed to at home, but the song service was by far one of the most uplifting I've ever been involved in. I have had the privileged through my past mission trips and our time spent in Peru to participate in a bilingual song service, and being able to do so again in Ivano-Frankivsk was so moving to me. Singing and praising our Father always brings me joy but to hear how different languages can blend beautifully in song, it just makes you sit back and wonder the aroma it brings to our God.

For myself particularly, I was asked to travel to a village outside of Ivano-Frankivsk to teach English to students in the school in Starry Lysets. I didn't quite know what they were expecting of me and my teammates. We quickly learned the routines they were used to in their English classes, and for that first day there we asked questions concerning what their lessons were on that day. We

ended our class with an invitation to our nightly lessons and children's classes that we were doing for their village but didn't know exactly what to expect. To our surprise, we had around 18 come to learn about the Fruit of the Spirit in the children's bible class that Malorie and I. And although the teen class started out with just a handful of children, it quickly grew throughout the night as well.

As each day of our trip continued, we grew closer to our children and learned more of their eagerness to know about America, our school systems, our careers, our clothes, what "church" is like, and how our government is run. Their questions ranged from important matters to very simple things like what kind of pets we have. It was eye opening to see that just because there is simplicity in the school, the classrooms, the books, the food, the extra programs like art and sewing, it doesn't take away from the incredible intelligence that these students possess. They learn so many things starting at such a young age. You will learn quickly that it's very hard work and it takes a toll on the children, but they are so much more prepared for their future because of it and they have such an eagerness to learn more about what we were teaching in our bible lessons. I wouldn't say that they are deprived of bible knowledge, but it's more controlled than the opportunities we have. This made our lessons even more important. To be responsible for planting seeds, in what we hope and pray will be our future brothers and sisters in Christ, is a huge responsibility, one that I feel is so important and I humbled for the chance to do so.

One of our brothers from Ivano-Frankivsk, Volodya, has been doing a lot of humanitarian aid for this village and a lot of prep

work for our trip. I didn't realize at the time, but our work there was the first of its kind and was meant to be the starting point to what we hope will be a village dedicated to working for the Lord.

During our last couple of days in Ukraine, we had the opportunity to visit and speak with students attending a medical university, some kindergartens, and also some children's homes. We are updated often on what this country has gone through and still continue to go through. I know many are praying and doing what they can to support our sister congregations, but to be there in-person and see and hear of the things our brothers and sisters have had to face, well, let's just say that I believe true faith and trust in the Lord lies within every member there. To have overcome some very grave things and still fight for their religious freedom and country, it makes you appreciate the freedoms we have here even more. It has personally challenged me to be more grateful for where I am and the things I've gone through, and to be more determined to show Christ to others and forget about excuses and to just talk about God. I heard many, many times from Ivan, "it may be hard, but really it's not, because I know the Lord loves and provides, so why wouldn't I teach it to others." It really is that simple, and I hope that I can do just that, teach what the Bible says, no matter the circumstances you may be faced with.

There are so many other lessons that I learned from our brothers and sisters there that I would talk forever. The one thing I would like to end with is this...If you are ever able to travel and teach the word of God to lost souls, please set aside your fears and go. You will forever influence those you come into contact with, but will also be forever changed yourself.

and was a very warm, caring individual who obviously took pride in his job and the education being provided to the children of the village. The school itself would not be looked on as a “nice” facility by most in the US, but it was cleaner and more orderly than any school I’ve been to over here. All of the students we met were very well behaved and you could tell the teachers and staff were all dedicated to giving the children the best place possible to learn and grow up.

We split into 2 groups, BJ and Danyel and Malorie and I along with a translator each, and went to several of the classes. They were English classes, so we were able to sit back and listen to the children learn our language. Some of them speak it better than many Americans do! After listening for a while, we were invited to stand up and talk with the students. They asked us questions about the US and we asked them questions about Ukraine. We did this with 3 classes and then were invited to see a show the children had put together about their village and its history. It included songs, dances, skits and other activities and many of the kids wore traditional Ukrainian dress. The kids were very talented and we were very impressed, especially when they told us they had only be practicing it for a few days. After the show, I presented the director with a laptop and a printer the church had bought for the school. He was very appreciative and assured us they would be very useful tools for them. After that, we ate what I can only describe as the best school lunch I’ve ever had and then we went back to IF.

Every afternoon, we would go somewhere to see the impact that the benevolence work of the church has had. Monday afternoon, we went to a school in IF to deliver some desks that had been shipped over and refinished by the church. The director of the school and several teachers met with us and expressed their appreciation for the gift and gave us a tour of the school. They showed us their computer labs that contain 33 computers that are shared between the 1,500 students! Many of the computers were at least 8 years old and would be considered junk in the US but are very valuable tools in the education of the children there.

Monday evening, we went back to Starry-Lysets as a group to teach a bible class at the Cultural Palace, a sort of community center in the middle of the village. We split up the classes into young kids (~ < 10 years old), older kids and adults. Malorie and Danyel taught the younger kids, BJ and I taught the older kids and the rest of the men took turns speaking to the adults. Our topic was the Fruits of the Spirit and how they can contribute to building a strong community. The first night we had 15 kids and had a great time talking with them and teaching. Our translator, Olga, did a fantastic job in helping us to communicate and overall it was a successful night.

I have never eaten so much good food over the span of a week as we did in Ukraine.

The rest of the week until Friday followed this same pattern. Every day we got to visit with different classes at the school in Starry-Lysets about life in the US, our customs and traditions and life in Ukraine. One afternoon, we went to a children’s shelter which was a heartbreaking experience. It was very humbling to think of how richly we are blessed in the US and how we still find ways to be unhappy and complain about every little thing we don’t like or feel is unfair. We also visited a kindergarten that one of the little boys in the church attends. Tuesday, we had a slight change of plans and held our classes at the school at lunchtime instead of the evening. This was done in order to get more exposure to the classes and the director of the school was gracious enough to allow us to use his facilities. The rest of the week we went back to meeting in the evening and our attendance steadily grew. The last night, Thursday, BJ and I had 54 kids in

our class! I hope that we made a lasting impression on them and that we planted a seed of truth that will influence them to live for God.

Friday, we traveled by bus to the Carpathian mountains to the restaurant of a man named Andrew who has helped the church tremendously through various legal battles it has be embroiled in over the past few years. He fed us a fantastic meal and then provided us with a tour guide who rode the bus with us further up the mountains to the ski resort of Bukovel. It had just snowed a few days earlier and the contrast of the still green woods and the snow on the tops of the mountains was very beautiful. On the way back, we stopped in Yaremche which is a popular tourist attraction (much like Gatlinburg, TN) and were able to buy souvenirs and gifts for our friends and family back home. Saturday, we got up early and flew out of Ivano-Frankivsk that morning. After several connecting flights through Kiev, Paris and Atlanta we finally arrived home late Saturday evening.

As I stated earlier, I really did not know what to expect before we left. Probably my biggest concern was not finding food that I liked however it was just the opposite. I have never eaten so much good food over the span of a week as we did in Ukraine. Probably my favorite was a pastry called ‘vareniki’ which was like a dumpling filled with meat, vegetables, mashed potatoes, fruit, really anything you could think of. The breads and cheeses, as well as the meats we ate were all fresh and fantastic; it was a very nice contrast to our diet of processed and fried foods.

One thing that really stuck out to me was the impact that benevolent works can have on people and how it can open doors that would otherwise be shut. I feel that we sometimes don’t hold much stock in benevolence because a) people in the US generally are not in destitution and thus to make a significant impact in a single person’s life takes a large amount of money or b) the attitude of most Americans is to feel



with everyone. Life becomes great when our eyes finally see why we have been put on this earth.

I now know why I have been put on this earth. I know mission work is something I will devote my life to. God has given me a loving heart and soul. I love people, especially the innocent children God has blessed us with. I earnestly desire to return to Ukraine in order to spend time teaching about God in the children’s shelter as well as to the kids in the village of Starry Lysets.

Again, I want to thank everyone who supports missionaries. I would not have been able to grow into the Christian I am today without your love, encouragement, and support.

STARTING A PREACHER TRAINING SCHOOL

The congregation in Ivano-Frankivsk has been in talks with the World Bible Institute (WBI) that helps set up and staff training schools around the world. They hope to start an extension in Ivano-Frankivsk this Spring so that those who wish to have a deeper understanding of God's Word will be able to enroll in the school. This school is for those who wish to be preachers and will be the only one of its kind in the western part of Ukraine.

Before the Dalraida team arrived in Ivano-Frankivsk, two men from WBI had come to survey the city and congregation to determine if this was a feasible plan. They were very impressed with the congregation and location and are working full-time to set up this new opportunity to help others prepare to preach the Word in Ukraine.

Howell Ferguson wrote about this new endeavor in his recent newsletter: "If all goes according to schedule, WBI-IF will begin its first class in mid-January. My plans are to invite



Ivan and Volodya will work as instructors with the school; Masha will work as the secretary

POSSIBILITIES & CHALLENGES AHEAD

The mission work in the Western Ukraine is productive. The fruit of efforts there are seen in a solid and strong congregation of Christians. Most of the real hard work has been done preparing the local congregation and different municipal entities for further work. Even though the challenges are significant to the open spread of the gospel, the prospects remain exciting.

The positives that we saw were the organization, the planning (even though it was not up to our standards), and the fervor with which much of the work was carried out by the local brethren. This is important to keep in mind. If we don't detect enough initiative and maturity on the part of local brethren, the cause of Christ will lose in the end. I believe the population there was open and receptive as well to us. This results from several factors. One, I believe that they are enthralled with Americans and English-speaking people still. This may not last but it was a major contributor to our success. Also, the people there show immense gratitude for gifts and donations given. As long as their hearts are warm to outside efforts to help them, this will always be an open avenue to exploit for the sake of the kingdom. Thirdly, their history and background lends itself to serious matters about the questions of life. Once a country has indulged in the riches and successes of most Western European countries and the US as well, there is little fertile ground for sowing the seed of hope.

The negatives are numerous as well. The culture is steeped in Eastern Orthodoxy. This in and of itself is not necessarily too much of a problem but the leadership of that religion is. Much like in Paul's day with Judaizing teachers. It wasn't necessarily the middle class or common folk Jew that was the problem. It was those that had much to lose over the conversion of souls. This will continue to be a challenge in the Ukraine. The time frame we are looking at may be limited. The graft greed and corruption that is hitting international headlines (just this morning from the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal) will continue to keep a schism between that populace and those that have made advances in free economies after the fall of communism. Those national characteristics of corruption will keep the Ukraine in the Russian sphere of influence and out of the advancing commitment to westernize amongst the other former Soviet States. This is ominous for our long term objectives. If they don't stay free and open, we will lose most of our gains and pray for the seed to stay incubated and germinate until God's providence provides.

One thing concerning the local congregation to keep an eye on will be how the local congregation prospers or dwindles when they move out of the middle of the city and toward the "suburban" area with their proposed worship site. That may change the chemistry significantly and may mean redirecting the work somehow.

Overall, it not only is a good field of work, but it is relatively safe with the possibilities of a limited timeframe to work. I suggest working it periodically enough to know whether we can overcome the challenges and see the congregation grow and mature. Also, as we have seen this is a great opportunity to train young folks on mission work and make an impact in their lives as well. The work environment is conducive to putting more in the field than we had but the planning will be challenged as well as the logistics. We can overcome those things however.

- Scott Lockwood

entitled to everything so we don't get great responses to benevolent works. However, it is totally different in other parts of the world like Ukraine. Our campaign in Starry Lysets was only possible due to humanitarian aid and benevolent works that the church has done in the village. The influence of the Greek Orthodox church is very strong there, but the priest of one of the churches came and talked to us one day at the school and was very appreciative of the good works the church of Christ had done for the village. Due to the power of the Orthodox church, he could have made it very hard for us to work there but he saw the good works that had been done and it opened the door for us to talk and work with the people of the village.

I thoroughly enjoyed the trip, it was so encouraging to meet people 5,000 miles away who hold the same beliefs and who will be right along side us when we all get to heaven. I hope than we were a source of encouragement to the church there, to Ivan and his family, and that we helped to spread the love of God and his word to people who need it just as much as those here in the US. The work in Ukraine will always be in my prayers and I hope to have a chance to go back and work some more in that great mission field.

- Nick Revels

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IVAN SKOLEBA'S REPORT || OCTOBER 2016

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters!

October was very hectic and filled with various responsibilities because we were facing a challenge as three groups of American brothers were coming and we had to carry out everything that had been planned.

In the first group came David Hamrick, the President of the World Bible Institute, as well as brother Howell Ferguson with his wife Mary. David and Howell evaluated the work of the Church and visited several groups that had received benevolent help from church of Christ.

Mary, Howell's wife, taught a lesson to our ladies on Christian morals. The sisters of the congregation enjoyed the lesson very much. Brothers David and Howell taught a class each and preached. After that, we met to discuss different aspects associated with the setting up of the Bible School in Western Ukraine. We made plans to start classes on January 15, 2017, with eight students enrolled. Our joint humanitarian work with American churches of Christ prompted such a decision because it has opened doors to preach the Gospel in many areas of this Region. We are in a good standing with local administrations and some public and legal organizations. But we do not have ministers trained to serve in the West of Ukraine, to preach in an effective and professional way, and to teach people that live in Catholic environment. The Catholic environment is at times very aggressive and intolerant towards strange religious teachings.

We trust the Lord to help us spread His Kingdom in Ukraine and to open hearts of many faithful Christians in support of our plans.

Joel and Joy Campbell from the Northeast church of Christ were in the second group. Joel taught classes on leadership and Joy taught women how to present Bible classes to children of different ages. Those classes were very helpful and essential. Right after classes on leadership that our brother taught we applied that knowledge in real life dealing with people, students, teachers, and others living in the village of Starry Lysets.

John Kachelman III recruited in a wise and professional way the wonderful group from the Dalraida Church. These brothers and sisters were a great asset in that work. Those coming from Dalraida were young brothers and sisters that came to us and together with our members were involved in an evangelistic campaign in Starry Lysets. Starry Lysets is the village in which our congregation has given humanitarian aid for many years. Each day the attendance grew for every class. On our last day we had full classes of 100 children. Also during the classes we can say that all school teachers attended the classes.

The Dalraida group also had meetings with the Law School and with the Medical School, Physical Therapy Department. These have also received humanitarian aid from us.

The work and meetings of this week had a great impact on people from the average citizen to the local officials; many hearts were "ploughed" and the seed of the Gospel planted.

Upon the departure of the last group, my wife and I drove to Bila Tserkva, which is 500 kilometers away, to meet with sister Debbie that came from Colorado to see Lord's work in Ivano-Frankivsk and to meet with the Church.

Debbie impressed Sveta, interpreter Olya and me with her courage and patience when we had to spend two hours going through a very dangerous area with militants prowling about and attacking people. Those involved in this criminal action were runaway insurgents and criminals from Donetsk. They are hiding in the woods and try to ambush those driving. I had to drive at a very high speed to get past that dangerous area as soon as possible.

Debbie took the plane to go back to Kyiv. Debbie has supported our work for over 10 years both prayerfully and financially. Their congregation once collected and loaded a container of humanitarian aid that was shipped through brother John Kachelman.

Dear brothers and sisters! Thank you for your hearts and faith, for your help with our Father's Kingdom that we spread in Ukraine.

Thanks to brother John Kachelman, his wife and children for their patience, sacrifices and invaluable work they do for Ukraine and other countries. Thanks to sister Kathy, brother Joe and their team. Your work, prayers and help have accomplished a great work here. Thanks to brothers Ron and Gary from Hillsboro for their work and patience. Thanks for brother Rick Montgomery and Hillsboro's Mission Committee for help and prayers that we need so much working for Lord's cause. Thanks to all who pray and spread the Word of God all over the world. Thanks to our interpreters Tanya, Olya, Inna, Oksana and Ksyusha for their work and translations, for their patience and Christian endurance.

Together we have a great power in the Lord and we trust Him to see the work through.

In Christian love,
Ivan and Svetlana Skoleba

another American teacher and schedule at least one visit in 2017 to teach short courses. This is an exciting time for Ukraine and for us as we begin this new cooperative endeavor in western Ukraine to train preachers, evangelists, church leaders, Bible teachers and kingdom workers. There is so much more I wish I could report about this new undertaking. In time I am sure more will be said. For now, we all ask that you add WBI-IF to your prayers that God will increase His church in western Ukraine and beyond! "



Interested in reading more about WBI and their work in Ivano-

Frankivsk? Read their report online at www.kachelman.com/ukraine or by clicking [here](#) or on WBI's website at www.worldbibleinstitute.com

MISSION TEAM | TRIP REPORTS



The mission team wrote some combined reports most of the days that we were in Ukraine. Those who signed up to receive the mission updates got them via email each day. However, if you missed them, enjoy reading the daily reports below.

OCTOBER 10, 2016

Thoughts from John Kachelman III:

Our first day in Ukraine was full of food, fellowship, and fun. We started our day off with a breakfast at the cafe where we will meet each morning. Since our group is not able to stay in the same flats, we have decided to meet at a cafe each morning. This was our first chance to taste some local cuisine in Ivan-Frankivsk, and we were all filled with the delicious oatmeal and egg omelets we were served. We thought that the omelets would be like typical omelets we eat in the U.S., however they failed to tell us that they were 4-5 egg omelets and huge in size! Their homemade oatmeal is so smooth and delicious that it definitely puts any instant Quaker Oats to shame. Topping off our breakfast was some coffee and cacao (hot chocolate) and we were stuffed!

As we walked to the meeting place of the church, we were excited to worship with our brethren. Many of our group had never experienced a worship assembly where brethren were singing songs in two languages at the same time. Also, Scott Lockwood spoke and he had never used an interpreter to preach before. Needless to say, he did a great job bringing us a lesson about Naaman and how we should all seek to avoid

“spiritual leprosy” in our lives. The worship assembly was wonderful and the room was overflowing with those who had gathered together to worship God on this first day of the week.

Our day then continued to fill up as we went to a restaurant for a congregational lunch together with the brethren from the congregation. Our lunch would turn out to be a filling lunch of verniki, which are dumplings with various fillings. We were

not told that we would enjoy some with potato, cabbage, meat, cottage cheese, and cherry! We dove in on the first ones — potato filling — not realizing that we would have four more rounds of other kinds! After five rounds of the various filled verniki, they about had to roll us out of the restaurant. It was delicious! Thankfully, the rest of the day was spent walking around the city as we had some time to learn about the city. We ended our day with a team meeting going over plans for the week.

Today we will be going out to some various locations. Four of our team will go to the village of Starry Lysets to visit with the school children and encourage them to attend our evening classes starting tonight. Three others will remain in Ivano-Frankivsk and meet with a group that we have helped in benevolent shipments. Tonight will mark the beginning of our work in Starry Lysets where we will hopefully make an impact in this village for the Lord's Church and open doors and hearts for bible study. I will be speaking to the adults and Danyel and Malorie will be teaching the little children and B.J. And Nick will be teaching the older kids.

Thoughts from Nick Revels:

It was very encouraging to worship with the church here in Ivano-Frankivsk. Hearing the singing in different languages was a great reminder that the church is truly universal and that the love of God is cherished by all. The food is excellent and plentiful and the coffee is outstanding (even if you can't get any til 8am). I am looking forward to going into the school today and speaking with the children and encouraging them to come to the lectures tonight.

Thoughts from Danyel Wilson:

Worshipping with our brothers and sisters in Ivano-Frankivsk was very encouraging to me and brought back some wonderful memories from previous works I've been involved with around the world. I love that no matter where you are, God's church is the same. We all love each other, love our God, and are willing to serve our brothers and sisters. We have been surrounded with love, kindness, and true servanthood. I look forward to teaching and visiting with so many more.

Thoughts from Scott Lockwood:

It is amazing to share such kinship with folks that are halfway around the world and have lived in an environment and conditions that Americans can little understand. What a universal kingdom the Lord's church truly is!

A look at the city reminds us that there was truly an iron curtain shutting off these people for more than fifty years. Their history of survival is not one of great leaders storming the beaches of Normandy but with local heroes that fought an insurgence against the ghastly Third Reich and then desperately went underground to fight the horrid Soviet occupation. There are remnants of WWI trenches nearby.

Many trace their roots to war refugees from former ravages of destruction. We even walked by an old synagogue downtown that once housed a thriving Jewish community that was exterminated nearby down the same cobblestone street. This synagogue was part of a wall where folk heroes were lined up and shot by the Nazis for resistance.

Today there is a plainness and simplicity about the population that lacks the radical individualism that we are seeing in

“Many of our group had never experienced a worship assembly where brethren were singing songs in two languages at the same time...”



America. Most are dressed nice and clean cut and continue to show an incredible interest in English speaking people and America in general.

Continue to pray for us that we may have wisdom in lighting up a spiritual darkness that has been propagated by years of the Eastern Orthodox dogmas. Mostly at this point I know that we have truly been more blessed by these warm and loving peoples than they have from us.

Thoughts from Malorie Smith:

The Ukrainian language is beautiful. As we began to sing praise to God Sunday morning, the Ukrainian and English voices harmonized making the most beautiful sound. It amazes me how a room of people who don't speak the same language verbally can speak the same language in our hearts with love and humility to our amazing Father in Heaven. Mr. Scott had an outstanding lesson about Naaman the leper. His message was influential and encouraged the Lord's church, and even those who are not yet members of God's family, to look to God, the authority of all, for help in our spiritual leprosy instead of those who have authority in this world.

Touring the city completed a wonderful first day in Ivano-Frankivsk. I am in love with the lifestyle here in Ukraine. Many people walk instead of drive like we do in America. By walking, you not only get good exercise but you get to meet and interact with people. Children filled the town with their laughter while riding their scooters, parents walked hand in hand, teenagers talk instead of text, and the smell of sweet flowers filled my nose. The women here know fashion! They all have stylish high heels, beautiful coats, and gorgeous long shiny hair. I would definitely fit right into the culture here!

I look forward to the rest of this week and all the adventures that will come. Please keep us in your prayers. I hope that I can make an impact on the lives of our interpreters, the children, our group, and the members of the church.

OCTOBER 11, 2016

Thoughts from John Kachelman III:

Our Monday was slam packed with activities and presented more opportunities for us to talk to others about Christianity. This country has a tremendous history, and the people are so welcoming everywhere we go. In my 22 years of coming to Ukraine, I have never ceased to be amazed with the love and joy we find when we travel here.

We started our day off with breakfast at the Mafia Cafe. This is our planned meeting place every morning and we have been stuffed every time we come. Our staple breakfast food is omelets and oatmeal. We cannot get enough coffee as they have much smaller cups...so we have to insist on multiple "big American" cups of coffee. We have



continued to be impressed by all the food here, and our breakfast is no different.

After breakfast, we divided up into two different groups. Four of our team went to Starry Lysets to be with the school and Scott, Billy and I stayed with dad to meet with some men who are helping provide assistance to those fighting against the Russian insurgency in the eastern part of the country. It was sobering to hear their pleas for continued help and descriptions of what they were dealing with. Of course it reminds me of the lack of support from many nations when Russia invaded. Please continue to remember those fighting the Russian aggression. Dad and I visited Donetsk for years and that region is experiencing so many tragedies!

Our original plans were to hold evening lectures in Starry Lysets and offer children classes as well to introduce and open doors to the people there to God's word. On the way, we stopped and ate a delicious dinner at a beautiful restaurant. I presented a lesson on "Love and Joy" to the adults. Unfortunately there were only two persons from the community present, but we had a great turnout from the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation and it was so encouraging to have them present. The Mayor of the village spoke before we started, and he was hugely apologetic for not having more from the village to be present. After we finished, the mayor and principal offered to allow us to change our time to speak in the afternoons so more will be able to come and hear. Of course we jumped at this opportunity. It will change our schedule, and we had to make some changes, but this will be such a great opportunity to speak to more and tell them about the Word of God.

Our day today will be visiting a Police Hospital this morning, the group will be going back to the school in Starry Lysets, and we will speak at the Law School this afternoon. A day full of activities...but more importantly full of

MORE INFO Mission Works

Dalraida is involved

in many different

mission works

around the world. Find out more

information online at

www.dalraidamissions.org/



TRANSLATING FOR OUR TEAM

Since those in Ivano-Frankivsk speak

Ukrainian, we had to make sure we

had translators that could help assist

us on our visits, trips, classes and

pretty much everywhere that we

went. We had four translators that

went around with us. Three of them

are pictured below (l-r): Susha, Olga,

and Oksana





opportunities and promise! Read the thoughts below from the rest of the group, and please keep us in your prayers!

Our group is posting some pictures on Facebook and we will show plenty when we get home. Also, you can read our reports and my dad's reports on his website www.kachelman.com/ukraine and he includes some pictures in his.

Thoughts From Billy:

Ukraine has been an amazing experience. This trip is my first time crossing the Atlantic. I've done lots of mission works in the Caribbean and Latin America, but not into Europe. Traveling was quite the experience. It's much easier to grab a flight from Atlanta to Aruba and be there in 4 hours. It's a whole another experience when you have a layover that's longer than an entire flight to and back from Aruba.

Upon arrival we were greeted by the church. It's a fact that love transcends a multitude of barriers. Even though we couldn't speak the same language we communicated with hugs, smiles, and care for each other. This affection has carried us through the whole week. Every day we have all grown closer together, and learned more about each other.

Our work here has been nothing in comparison to the impact the church has been making in the communities for years. Our task is to keep taking the love of the church to members, people, and places. John Kachelman (not to be confused with our John at Dalraida...or otherwise called "Johnny" in Ukraine), has laid a foundation that is amazing. The mayor of the village we are working with decided to cancel school, activities, and bring the community into the school for an hour every afternoon to hear lectures. Today I get to speak to everyone in the village about Peace and Patience. It's amazing we get this opportunity and I'm excited to see the impact of this effort on everyone.

We are just starting our Tuesday, but our whole group is on fire and ready to plan an annual trip. I know I'm excited about my wife and baby coming on future trips!

Thoughts from Malorie:

On Monday, me, Danielle, BJ, and Nick visited the school in Starry Lysets with two of our amazing interpreters (Olga and Susha). The principal, teachers, and children, were so kind and hospitable. Nick and I visited a first and third grade classroom. The children were a little shy at first, but they soon began to ask questions like how much an iPhone is in America, what kind of school classes do we have, and what holidays we celebrate. My favorite part was getting to observe the teacher teaching the children. It amazes me how smart the children are. They are already learning a second language (English) at a very young age.

The entire school put on a production that they performed on one of their country's holidays a couple days ago. They wore

beautiful costumes and proudly told of their country, Ukraine. The children are so talented and confident.

Later in the afternoon, we visited School #23 to deliver desks.

Dinner was delicious! I had mashed potatoes, grilled veggies, and of course the fondue chocolate with pears, apples, and oranges.

Our first night of lecture in Starry Lysets was amazing! Danyel and I had a classroom of 22 precious children. Danyel taught them about love and joy. They completed a craft of baby Jesus, and ate a snack. Words cannot express how much I love children! I look forward to teaching the children about Peace and Patience tonight.

Today, we start another day of adventure. We all are having to be flexible because our schedule is constantly changing. God has opened the door for us to evangelize with hundreds of people, and that is all that matters. Please pray for us as we reach out to others and teach about God today.

Thoughts from Scott:

Yesterday's visit to the local school was fascinating. It was truly inspiring to engage with the wonderful teachers and students of the school. I was impressed with several aspects. First of all their English skills were excellent. They all strive to learn English and it is part of their curriculum in the school system. At a time in the US when we seem to be embarrassed that we speak English or that our society is based off of English for communication, these other nation states recognize the utility in learning a language that half of the world recognizes as essential. For instance all air traffic control and most airports have signs in English.

Secondly, the youth here are very polite and clean cut. They are very respectful and remind me of an American scene from the Norman Rockwell era. On the streets of this great city and country you will not see sagging pants, crazy hair and dress but rather children interacting and being respectful, somewhat quiet around adults and definitely interested in all people from the US.

"The children were a little shy at first, but they soon began to ask questions"

I don't see the over reliance or indulgence in time on electronics either even though they all own iPhones.

This has been extremely refreshing.

Thoughts from Danyel:

To be honest, Monday started out with me. I did not want to get up. Jet lag and an 8 hour time difference is hard! But, I quickly remembered the plans we had for the day and the children we would be meeting and teaching. I quickly readied myself and off to breakfast we went.



Breakfast was again delicious and as soon as we finished we set off for Starry Lysets. There we were greeted by one of the most jolly men I've ever met, the principal of the school in Starry Lysets village. He gave us a quick tour of the school and then showed us to our classrooms that we would be teaching. I had the privilege of teaching English to both 10 and 16 year olds along with BJ Harrah. We spoke about the alphabet and words for each letter (the children are really smart), about Ukraine and America, what it's like in American schools versus Ukrainian schools, jobs, careers, etc. Many were shy, but many were also very eager to learn. We finished the morning with a school presentation/show from the children. There was dancing, singing, comedy, readings and story tellings of Ukraine and at the end, we were gifted a book mark hand made by the children from our classes. We then gifted the school with a new computer and printer. The joy on their faces was incredible! After we left and returned to Ivano-Frankivsk, we went to another local school, School #23, and delivered some refurbished desks. There we met with the principal, had some speeches from both Scott and John, and then visited with Anya and Kristina's class. It was a wonderful experience and it's incredible the amount of knowledge these children have and their eagerness to learn.



Frankivsk to deliver some desks the church here had worked on. While there we had a chance to visit their computer lab and they only have 33 computers (all of which are > 10 years old) for 1,500 students. In the evening, BJ and I had a chance to talk to 11-17 years old in Starry Lysets about love and peace. The lesson went very well, the children were very interested and I hope

they were able to take something positive away from it. It was a long but fulfilling day and I look forward to the rest of the week!

Thoughts from B.J.:

On Monday we hit the ground running again. We started the morning with another great breakfast. Then my group went to the village school at (Starry Lysets). At the school we met with the classes and were able to talk with them about the United States and play games with them to enforce the English that they know. After we visited the classes we went to the gathering hall at the school and they put on a mini cultural festival play for us. We also got to meet and converse with the school principle while we were there. We talked with him for a while about the education of the children there in the village. We also had the opportunity to speak with one of the village priests. The priest was very welcoming toward us and we were able to talk with him about how he (the Catholic church) interacts with the school there.

Doors have been opened up here and if we could put everything we have experienced here in this short time we could write a book. Thank you for your support and please continue to pray for our work here in Ukraine.

OCTOBER 12, 2016

Thoughts from John Kachelman III:

We woke up on Tuesday to a changed schedule of events. The night before had brought little attendance at the lecture at Starry Lysets and the mayor and principal of the school offered to allow our group to present the lecture and bible lessons during the afternoon at the school. This brought a much greater attendance from adults as many of



We ended our day back in Starry Lysets where Malorie and I, along with our interpreters Susha and Inna, taught a children's bible class on the first two fruits of the spirit, Love and Joy. They were very attentive with lots of questions. They may not have know what the fruits of the spirit were, but they could definitely quote scripture. I started reading Matthew 22:37 about the greatest command and after reading 4 words, Inna told me to stop because they were reciting it word for word. I was very proud of them for knowing this verse. We ended with a craft, a little gift, and a snack. And the best part of it all was when they all expressed there heartfelt thank you's for teaching their class and the joy you could see on their faces.

I am excited to be with them again today!

Thoughts from Nick:

Yesterday, we went to the village of Starry Lysets to speak with the children in the school there. We sat in an English class and listened to the children learn to speak and write our language. We also had a chance to ask them questions and also answer questions they had for us. Before lunch, the children of the school performed a show which told the story of their village and all about their culture. It was very well done; the children are very talented.

In the afternoon, we went to a school in Ivano-

TRIP TO MOUNTAINS

We had originally hoped to make a trip up into the Carpathian mountains as we did in 2014. However, since the temperatures had gotten close to freezing and there were some in our group that were already battling sickness, we decided it was not a good idea to risk any further illness. We did enjoy some time together driving up to the ski lodge and then doing some souvenir shopping in Yaremche on the way back down the mountain.



BRIDGE OF LOCKS

In Yaremche, there was a bridge that had locks all along the rails. When a couple was married, this was one of the picturesque locations and they would come to this bridge (and the beautiful river underneath). The custom is to put a lock with their names on the bridge. Wonderful illustration for marriage if you think about it!

the teachers and others from the village stayed for the lessons...22 attended instead of only 2 on Monday night. Unfortunately, we thought we would continue to do our lessons during the afternoon but found out that was a miscommunication. So our schedule changes again tonight. If anything, this trip is flexible. After all that is "how they do it in Ukraine."

While Billy, Nick, BJ, Malorie and Danyel worked at Starry Lysets, Scott and I were able to speak at the local law school. We were excited to speak to them about our jobs and work. Scott did an excellent job in talking about the U.S. Constitution and how it was founded to secure our rights...regardless of how they are being disregarded in our current world. As always, He made some excellent points and I could have listened to him for hours! I was able to talk a little about my job and some of the things I do as a prosecutor. The audience, made up of students and professors, asked many good questions and we soon ran out of time and had to stop our time together.



Another wonderful day with precious children! What could be better! We again were able to engage in conversations with 3 high school classes yesterday in the school at Starry Lysets. They have been learning in their English classes about careers and emotions. We were able to do a charades game about emotions. The children were responsible for picking an emotion from the chalkboard and acting it out while their schoolmates said the word in English. It was wonderful to see their personalities shine. We were also able to use the subject of emotions as an avenue to speak about God and what he says about emotions. Our wonderful translator Olga has been a huge help and thought that particular class went very well. After we finished working with our classes we had a wonderful lunch of borsch, potato dumplings, and homemade bread in the school cafeteria.

Afterwards, we were taken to a classroom of 5-10 year olds that were waiting on Malorie and I to bring them their bible lesson. Malorie did a wonderful job teaching the children on peace and patience. She has such a bubbly personality and it blends well with the children. They love her! They also loved the story of Jesus calming the storm. We were blessed with a classroom full of 31 people. I really can't wait until tonight when we again meet at the cultural

palace to have our 6:00 bible class and activities with these wonderful children.

Once the lecture series ended, everyone met up to visit another village near Ivano-Frankivsk. The mayor, Lubov, has been suffering from an illness but she came to meet with us anyway and to talk about her village. You could instantly see the love she has for her community and how grateful she is for the relationships built with the church here. Her beautiful smile was contagious! We were then shown around the community and visited the school they have there and the improvements that have been made to their school. We then went to the property that has been given to the church and updated on the building progress. It's a beautiful property and I'm so excited there will be a permanent meeting place for everyone to attend and for all of the benevolence to be stored.

After our daily activities were completed, we had another group meeting and I was able to learn just how many trials the church here has had to overcome! I am more amazed everyday spent here of the faith, courage, and perseverance of our brothers and sisters here in Ivano Frankivsk. I am so thankful for them

"The impact of benevolence that we may take lightly is very large and opens many doors that would otherwise be closed"



We enjoyed an afternoon tour at Ugorniki, the town that gave the church the land on which they are building a warehouse for humanitarian aid. We first met with the mayor and then we went and toured their school. The mayor has been battling breast cancer and has undergone several rounds of chemotherapy. Hopefully it is now in remission. The school was very nice and clean and we were impressed with their dedication at providing a nice place for the children to learn. They are currently building a new kindergarten that looks to be gorgeous. We were not able to go in but drove by the outside. After our touring, we enjoyed a nice dinner at our local hangout — the "Mafia Cafe" and several of us enjoyed their brick oven pizza.

Our day today will go back to the original schedule with our evening lecture. Scott, BJ and I are going to speak at the law school. Nick, Billy, Malorie and Danyel will return to the school in Starry Lysets. Scott will present a lesson tonight on "Gentleness and Self-Control." We also hope to visit a children's shelter and kindergarten this afternoon.

Several in our group are struggling with sore throats from either allergies or other things. Keep them in your prayers and hope that we will all be strong enough to keep up our hectic schedule and do all we have planned.

Thoughts from Danyel:

and ask that you please continue to keep our brothers and sisters here in your prayers.

Thoughts from BJ:

On day 3 we started off with a visit to the school again. As each day passes the children there seem more and more excited to see us and we are just as excited to talk with them. We then had our fruits of the spirit lectures at 1. Me and Nick had 30 teens in our class. I'm not quite sure what it is, but even though we have only been here a short time I feel a strong connection to the kids in this village. Please continue to pray for continued success on this trip and thank you.

Thoughts from Nick:

Yesterday was long but rewarding. In the morning we went to breakfast at 8 and went back to Starry Lysets to speak to some more children. Malorie and I spoke to 7th and 8th graders about the American Education system. They were very interested and had a lot of questions for us! After a great lunch at the school (potato filled dumplings drizzled in bacon grease), we held our lectures at the school. BJ and I spoke to the older kids about peace and patience. We had 30 kids that came and some more that were too shy to come in the room but stayed outside to room to listen.

After the lecture, we went to visit the mayor of a village that the church has worked closely with. She was very enthusiastic and happy, even though she has been very sick. We also were able to visit another school that has been helped by humanitarian aid from the US. The impact of benevolence that we may take lightly is very large and opens many doors that would otherwise be closed. I am looking forward to the rest of the week and how God will continue to bless our work.

OCTOBER 14

Thoughts from John Kachelman III:

The past two days have been full of activities and events here. We have been so busy that we were not able to get out a report yesterday. I have had an opportunity to speak at the law school the past two mornings. It has been a good experience and interesting to see a difference in some of the laws. More importantly it has been good to meet new people and introduce myself and the church to them.

The biggest impact has been seen in the village of Starry Lysets. We did not know what to expect there as there has never been a campaign there before. Our efforts before this trip has focused on making an introduction of the church as there is a huge influence of the Greek Catholic Church in the village. We have shipped humanitarian aid into the village and helped to make a clinic in the village and given go to open the doors to future teaching. Our efforts in the village have been some of the first attempts to start teaching them substantive things from a Gods Word. Our teams work in the schools each morning have laid a wonderful foundation that has caused an extremely incredible response from the children. Each night the



attendance has practically doubled in our children classes. We have about decided that the way to make in roads in the village is to start with the children. It allows us to show we are not some "dark sect" or crazy people but have pure motivations. The children respond and then the adults respond. Our attendance at the adult classes has slowly increased each night (only one or two more), but it shows that we have slowly made some impact. We had more than 90 in our children classes....that speaks volumes about our impact in this small village! It really demonstrates the impact of the good work of our Dalraida team and our brethren in Ivano-Frankivsk and influence the Lords Church can have in this village!

Today's plans include going to a village outside I-F and delivering some school desks to them and doing some sightseeing. We had hoped to go up the Carpathian Mountains but because we have had some sore throats and sickness, we do not want to risk any further health since it has been cold enough to snow in the mountains.

Thoughts from Malorie:

We will be leaving Ukraine tomorrow. I am sad at the thought of leaving. I have grown to love all of the people who are members of the Ivano-Frankivsk Church of Church. Going on mission trips is one of the most amazing experiences. On Wednesday, it started out rough. Sore throats have infected our group (Billy and Me), but we got antibiotics and and will hopefully be back to normal soon! We visited Starry Lysets school for the last time on Wednesday. I have enjoyed getting to see all the





precious children, and hearing about their lives in Ukraine. Of course the children's funny questions like whether we have met President Obama, how much an iPhone costs, and Nick and I explaining why American's eat so much added lots of laughs. Nick and I also explained American holidays (Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years), government holidays (Memorial's Day, Veteran's Day, Columbus Day, etc.), how American school systems work (elementary, middle, high school, extra-curricular activities, and college), and my personal favorite..... "Prom" (but with bowling instead of dancing!) The school treated us like kings and queens, and I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to visit Starry Lysets. I hope to come back and visit.

On Thursday we visited a children's shelter for kids who are orphans, or have a unhealthy family life. From across the room, I immediately connected with the cutest blonde hair blue eyed girl. She made the funniest faces at me, and I tried my best to do the same in return. When it was about time to leave, I asked the precious blond hair blue eyed girl, "Do you like it here?" She shook her head to the left and right. I asked, "Do you want to go home?" Again she shook her head to the left and right. Lastly I asked, "Do you want to come home with me?" Immediately she quickly nodded her head up and down.

The crocodile tears came flowing down my cheeks as I hugged her tight. As I walked out saying goodbye she ran across the room and hugged me not wanting to let go. Leaving children who are in need of love and a good Christian home is one of the hardest things to do.

P.S. The children's shelter is in need of shoes, undergarments, jackets, socks, and scarves for both boys and girls ages 2 through teens. With winter time coming, and the children need as many warm clothes as possible.

Please keep us all in your prays as our trip will soon come to an end.

Thoughts from Billy:

Our time in Ukraine has been going by very quickly. Our days are filled with following up with shipments of Humanitarian Aid given previously, talking to communities of people, and general growth with the church. I've

realized that the church, although had faced some opposition, is thriving and growing. When mayors, directors, and leaders have respect for the members of the church you know they are doing a great job. I hope when we return again that we can do some evangelist follow up with non members in the communities and villages. I'm glad Dalraida is a part of this great work!

Thoughts from Scott:

For two days I was privileged to visit a children's home and an elementary school. Upon walking into the school grounds I was overwhelmed with how clean everything was kept and how neat the classrooms were set up. Nothing is in excess in the Ukraine. You may have to walk around through several rooms or down the hall to find a simple trash can. Upon finding one it will not be overflowing.

"The Ukrainian people will continue to be great because they care about their children and train them to be respectful and diligent"

The cafeteria fed us lunch that was worthy of the label, "fine dining." It has been years since a cafeteria in the states could have attempted a home type cooked meal.

But the most exhilarating experience was dealing with the staff and students. The teachers were very polite and well dressed individuals that cared immensely for the kids. That was evident.

The students were very attentive and polite. They were refreshingly respectful. What joy they brought to my heart when they were such good citizens and so happy. I am not inclined to work with children but somehow that experience made me question my preconception.

The Ukrainian people will continue to be great because they care about their children and train them to be respectful and diligent. Let's pray that they will always have hope.

Last night we met up with them again at the cultural center. How delightful and sad at the same time to watch them as they were told basic Bible stories



that they had never heard before.

We handed out Bibles. Some of them had never owned one. Most did not have one and we soon ran out and left their reaching yearning hands empty. We are resolved to never let this happen.

I was able to overcome my bad language challenge by talking the international language with a few boys. Soccer! Of course we called it football.

Today we set out to again try to pass on hope to a world that has not had many chances in their past to openly search for truth.

Thoughts from Nick:

It was cold, windy and rainy on Wednesday and the forecast was the same for Thursday. However, the response to our work here and the great encouragement we have received from our brethren more than offsets any discomfort we may have. On Wednesday we had more opportunities to see need in Ukraine but also to be encouraged. After breakfast, we went to the school in Starry Lysets for the last time. Malorie and I talked to 3 different classes about American holidays, education system and general life in the US. We also taught one class of 3rd graders "If You're Happy and You Know It", which went over very well. Before eating lunch at the school, they showed us a museum in the school which contained historical and cultural artifacts collected from the villagers. They had some of the prettiest embroidery I've ever seen along with other interesting things such as Soviet era money, Nazi helmets and Bibles from the early 20th century that escape destruction by the Soviets.

After a very good lunch at the school, we came back to meet the rest of the team. We then went to a children's shelter that houses children that are taken away from their parents, runaways, and others in bad situations. It was very sobering and hard to leave them. After that, we went to a kindergarten that one of the children in the church here attends. His mother showed us around and told us about some of the items they need, such as new windows and money to fix their playground

(which is in terrible condition). The money required to make these repairs is very small, but the parents of the children cannot afford it and the government does not fund them adequately.

After leaving the kindergarten, we went to eat a very good dinner. We then went back to Starry Lysets to conduct another lecture. BJ and I talked about kindness and goodness and we had 35 kids attend our class! They were very excited and receptive, and I hope that we will make a lasting impression on them.

Thoughts from Danyel:

Wednesday was our last day teaching English at the Starry Lysets school. Scott and Billy were able to go to the schools with us and we all were able to enjoy lessons on family traditions and holidays. We learned a lot about the different holidays that Ukraine celebrates. The children in all of our classes were unanimous in saying that Christmas was their favorite. They have many traditions they take part in including food, gifts, and decorating their pine trees; but it was their tradition of caroling that caught my attention the most. Not only do all of the children go caroling, but they LOVE doing it. Most of them dress up in costume style clothing (traditional Ukrainian clothes, sheep, donkeys, etc.). The most interesting part of their caroling was that they all receive a gift of money from the homes they carol too. It was so interesting to learn about. We were able to tell them some of our family traditions as well and they loved hearing the similarities and differences. We also convinced them to sing one of their carols for us; so, of course we had to "teach" them our jingle bells song.....and it was so eloquently performed by both Billy and Scott. Needless to say, it was a bittersweet moment when we had to leave. So after all the "selfies" were taken with the children and all the hugs were given, we all said goodbye. I have been forever touched by the amazing children, teachers, and staff there! I know this can be a wonderful Christian community one day and I hope that our fruits of labor will have touched their hearts just as their excitement and kindness has touched ours!





Ivan & Sveta Skoleba

MORE INFO Ivan Skoleba

Who is Ivan Skoleba? How did he get started in spreading the gospel in Ukraine? There is much more to his story than a simple biographical sketch can provide.

Learn more about Ivan online at www.dalraidamissions.org! You can read about his family, how he became a Christian, and how he helped start the church in Ivano-Frankivsk

(continued from front page)

Ivano-Frankivsk and they were some of the last ones as we left the city. Several of them told us “thank you” before we boarded the plane, but I could not help but think that it was us who were thankful for them. We came to encourage and uplift them; it was them who encouraged us and made us extremely thankful to have been with them.

The Church is Growing

The congregation of the Lord’s Church in Ivano-Frankivsk is growing. A couple of years ago, we talked with the brethren there about searching for a larger meeting place. They found a larger and more accessible flat and have been renting it for some time. However, when we were there it was obvious that they now need an even bigger space. The congregation is working toward construction of a new building and warehouse just on the edge of the city and that occupies their time. But it is obvious that they will likely need another place even before that building is ready for them to use.

I was very glad to see that the church continues to grow. It may not be as large as many of the congregations we know in the south, but the numbers are impressive for that area of heavy Orthodox influence. But their growth is not merely numerical. The many conversations that we had with the men of the congregation have reinforced their spiritual maturity. They may still have a way to go when it comes to communication with us, but I am comfortable I knowing that they are growing spiritually and continue to spend time in God’s Word.

More Opportunities to Help

The work in Ivano-Frankivsk continues to grow and is respected by many leaders in the surrounding region. The Christians, led by Ivan, Volodya and the other men, have worked tirelessly to utilize humanitarian aid shipments to endear themselves with their fellow citizens. This use of humanitarian aid has opened doors that otherwise would have remained shut. The prime example, and most relevant to our trip, is the village of Starry Lysets. The main reason we were able to offer nightly Bible classes is that the local leaders knew how much we had contributed to the village. Instead of allowing the Orthodox leaders in the region shut us out of teaching God’s Word, the leaders fought for us to be able to do this because of all we had done for the village.

As our trip showed, there are many other villages and areas around Ivano-Frankivsk that have been touched in the exact same way. For years we struggled with how to transition our benevolent work into teaching, and finally on this trip we were able to start making that transition. With the other areas ready and willing to accept us, we can now use the model we have begun to create to plan future trips and campaigns to reach beyond Starry Lysets to the other harvest fields.

I knew that our trip was a success and there was a real prospect of additional trips when halfway through the week my team was asking me when we could come back to Ukraine. There are many more opportunities and hopefully we can take advantage of them in the years to come!

The Seed Was Planted

Every place that we visited, our group made a point to talk about God, Christianity and God’s Word. Since we were afforded several opportunities to speak to groups, we took those opportunities to at least speak in some way about God and why we were in Ukraine. This is not best way to teach God’s Word, but it sure can open doors for future evangelism and questions (which we got in some places).

The best place where we planted to see was in Starry Lysets each night. Of course the children’s classes were taught from God’s Word, and they learned all kinds of different Bible lessons that helped teach the “Fruits of the Spirit.” But, the best thing was that each night adults heard the Word of God spoken and information was given about the true, living God and what He has done for us so that we might be saved — sent His Son Christ! It was taught, and many heard the message.

Our group did a wonderful job in encouraging the brethren and planting the seed of God’s Word while we were on our trip. I could not be prouder of the six that went with me, and I am grateful for the opportunity that Dalraida and the elders gave me and our group to reach out to those in Ukraine on our trip.

John Kachelman III is the deacon that helps coordinate the mission work in Ukraine. If you would like to get involved in the Ukraine work, please see him for more information .

