



# UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

December 2016

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*"While in Gorlovka I conducted two worship services, and visited Christians in their homes during the week. The religious oppression continues to be very strong here...For this reason I taught the close friends and relatives of our Christians while visiting with them in their homes."*

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**"WE WERE BLESSED WITH SEVERAL JOYFUL EVENTS IN 2016, SUCH AS IMMERSIONS WHEN GOD SAVED AND ADDED SOULS TO HIS FAMILY. WE ARE SO THANKFUL THAT YOU CARE FOR UKRAINE AND THE GROWTH OF THE LORD'S CHURCH HERE."**

I join with the others submitting reports for this month's UKRAINE MISSIONS newsletter in expressing how quickly the last twelve months have passed! It seems incredible that we have ended another year. At the end of every year all are in agreement with Job's comment (7:6a), "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle." The rapidly passing days and months are explained in the action packed schedules and incredible opportunities that are presented to us. No sooner is one action completed than three more jump out at us. 2016 offered constant action and opportunity and we thank God that we were given the opportunity to seize the moments and utilized the energies to make those opportunities count for God's Cause.

And we were not alone as many reading this newsletter partnered with us in the year's actions and feel the satisfaction of duty rendered to the Almighty God.

Throughout 2016 we strove to remain constant in our efforts. This constancy is founded upon a trusting faith in the Almighty God and not upon the transitory geo-political machinations or the feeble strength of mortality's wisdom or upon the delusional assurance of selfish priorities. The year had its share of disappointments, discouragements and depressing events, but such never diminished our faith and trust in God's presence!

Marked in the success category for 2016 will be these line items...

✓ The continued activities in our benevolent efforts to assist the Lord's Church gain recognition and respect in their locations. Twenty-eight containers were shipped (more details below).

✓ The construction of the church building in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine which at the beginning of 2016 was only excavations and basic construction but at the end the first phase was nearing completion and the next phase is scheduled.

✓ The publication of a basic study for Christians challenging each to look at their personal concept of God and make certain that they live with a holy reverence for the Holy God of Scripture (The book was *Making God in OUR Image*).

✓ The continued success of the Lord's Church in Ivano-Frankivsk—God adding members to the congregation, growth in the congregation's spiritual maturity, activity and involvement of the congregation's members in various actions of the Church, involvement in preaching the gospel throughout the Ivano-Frankivsk Region touching many within a 150 kilometer radius!

## FRUITS OF THE GOSPEL IN INDIA



*"My dear loving brother  
David and sister Gennie,*

*Greetings in the  
merciful name of our  
Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ.*

*I once again bow before  
you for your loving kind  
heart. We convey our  
thanks to brother Ernie  
also for his love.*

*I am enclosing few  
pictures of meeting and  
baptisms. Please kindly  
pray for new souls.*

*Yours in His service,  
Immadi"*



✓ The structure, plans and curriculum established for World Bible Institute to begin a study center in western Ukraine which will serve to train Christians to labor for the Lord's in Ukrainian speaking regions. Plans call for this to be the only Bible Institute in Ukraine that is registered with the State and therefore the only Institute whose diplomas will be recognized.

✓ The first evangelistic campaign in Starry Lysets was met with astonishing success that was way beyond expectations.

✓ The continued positive impact that is being made in the medical community through our shipping in medical equipment and supplies and these being used by Dr. Gary Jenkins and Dr. Ron Swang for the glory of God.

✓ The mission trip visits that permitted us to visit personally a number of locations and validate the integrity of our efforts to offer a practical lesson on the truth of Galatians 6:10, "As we have opportunity let us do good unto all men especially those of the household of faith."

✓ The reputation of the Lord's Church has greatly increased in 2016. This is evident as I have received calls from contacts throughout Europe and Canada asking for our assistance and saying they had learned of our good work from many sources. The news of our efforts and the success that the Lord has brought has spread far beyond any borders imagined. I am constantly asked to bring the Lord's Church into distant communities.

Those saving each month's issue of this newsletter can look back over 2016 and review the phenomenal success that results not because of any strength of man but because of the power of God to utilize our efforts to accomplish His end. To be a part of this work is humbling as we realize we are only the mechanism used by the Maker.

We rejoiced in 2016 with the wonderful partnership with so many that makes this success possible. The donors have given freely and generously to provide the funds necessary for the cost of shipments, the various benevolent actions completed (the construction of the church buildings in Ivano-Frankivsk, the replaced heating of the disabled children's home in Zaporozhe, the remodeling of the ward in the maternity hospital in Ivano-Frankivsk, the assistance to many of the IDP distribution centers, etc). Thanks to the donors our financial base in 2016 remained adequate (I am trying to get the EOY books closed out and a subsequent financial report sent to donors). As is always the situation in mission efforts some support was lost due to churches redirecting funds, or economic issues or health issues or even death. But God provided and as some support was lost other sources surfaced and at the end of the year we are basically where we were at the beginning of the year! THANK YOU to those who financially support these efforts!

The excitement that I find as I make reporting visits to congregations is always encouraging and helps reassure us that our mission objective is preserved and singular!

While the actions of 2016 have been constant and activity has been unrelenting and strength at time weakened, it has been a very good year. Even now, as 2017 is already two weeks into its span I am still involved in finishing up actions of 2016. Once again I can identify too well with the comment attributed to an old circuit rider who stopped to give his horse rest and was met by westward wagons. When asked how he was doing he



*"Greetings in the merciful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!*

*Sir, I and the preachers here thank you again for your love and kind alms.*

*Because of you, the work is growing in India. Kindly convey our greetings and thanks.*

*We once again thank you for your love. We are daily praying for you.*

*Thanks a lot for your prayers.*

*Closing with love,  
Yours Immadi"*

replied, "I am often weary IN my work but never weary OF my work." I know that insightful comment could easily be voiced by many faithful Christians who labor incessantly for the Lord. And if we did not do such then we would lack that wonderful joy that comes only from constancy as a faithful servant!

One can look at opportunity with resentment and bitterness void of faith. But how much more joyous is it to look at opportunity with faith's expectation of "how is God going to use this" and working hard to seize every opportunity.

Job was correct in observing that our days are "fleeting." Even more instructive is the metaphor he uses—the weaving of a fabric. Our lives are producing a story that is told by its daily weaving—a tapestry narrating who we are. This tapestry is our "legacy."

After our days are ended and others look at the narrative of our lives, what will they see as the highlights of our existence?

For what will we be most remembered? Will it be as the one talent man who was fearful and refused the opportunity given to him? If so then all of our energies and objectives are wasted. Will it be as Demas, one bound by bitterness and resentment because he had to "give up" what was valued by him in order for the opportunities to serve God be possible? If so in the end the tragic comment that "he turned back" will highlight our earthly living. We remember Job as a patient man; John as the beloved; Michael as bitter and resentful; Paul as the sinner transformed into the saint; Saul as the humble heart that became bitter and arrogant. Each of these, and countless others in Scripture, were presented with an opportunity to serve God. Some reacted by faith; others reacted by self-centered feelings. Each had the same decision to make as the tapestry of their life was woven line by line.

For what will you be remembered in 2016? Those opportunities given to you are now forever gone. So, what will be your narrative in 2017? Will you pursue self and become bitterly antagonistic because you are presented with an opportunity or will you angrily react toward those who respond in faith to God's opportunities? Will you be negative and critical and cynical in reference to what others are seeking to do for the Lord?

May we end 2016 and begin 2017 with a quick acceptance of the Lord's command: *"And he said unto all, if any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever would save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose or forfeit his own self? For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in his own glory, and the glory of the Father, and of the holy angels"* (Luke 9:23-26). Note these points of application from the Lord's command:

- ✓ One MUST deny self's priorities (it is not a matter of "I think; I feel; I want; I thought; I expected").
- ✓ One MUST sacrifice each day—it is a daily matter of taking up the cross of...self-denial, reordered priorities for self, physical and emotional inconveniences.
- ✓ One MUST follow Christ Who lived without any of the conveniences and expectations of normal earthly living because He was living for the life AFTER earthly life.

## BENEVOLENT SHIPMENTS FOR 2016



### In the Name of the Lord:

Total Containers  
Shipped: 28

Total Pounds  
Shipped: 686,119

Total Value Shipped:  
\$4,595,974.00

Total Cost to us:  
\$73,984.00



✓ One MUST realize that a bitter, resentful attitude toward God's opportunities leads only to a personal loss that eclipses anything this world has to offer.

✓ One MUST shun the temptation to be "ashamed"—a term referring to emotions that would prevent one from accepting the opportunities presented by God. It describes how one allows personal emotions to replace God (NOTE: I suggest you study this term closer because many misunderstand it and restrict it only to a "denial" of the Lord but it literally refers to an intense feeling that hinders one from doing what God has provided. See Vine's, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, page 77 for an interesting discussion and applications of this term).

As our tapestry of life is finished may it be highlighted with our readiness to accept opportunities and our eager submission to God as we seize opportunities. This metaphor is found in Isaiah 38:10-12, *"I am to enter the gates of Sheol; I am to be deprived of the rest of my years...I will look on man no more among the inhabitants of the world. Like a shepherd's tent my dwelling is pulled up and removed from me; as a weaver I rolled up my life. He cuts me off from the loom."*

We close the reporting of 2016's events with this last newsletter. THANK YOU for your support and involvement as together we strove to provide a responsible duty to the opportunities that God has provided for us. Acts 14:27, *"they rehearsed all things that God had done with them, and that he had opened a door of faith unto the Gentiles."*

We begin 2017 with the same request spoken by Paul, *"Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching therein with thanksgiving; withal praying for us also, that God may open unto us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds; that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak (Colossians 4:2-4)."*

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

## IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK!

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters!

2016 has flown by way too fast, it seems like one month instead of twelve months.

Looking back we can see how much the Lord has done in Ukraine through our joint efforts with you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord. We have seen how great is the power of the Gospel to change our lives and priorities in our lives, and to change men in general.

My family and I never tire to thank God for showing his great mercy to Ukraine and for you, dear brethren, through whom the Lord has granted us a great opportunity to be transformed into spiritual humans leaving behind pagan traditions. These pagan actions have been pushed on us since our childhood. These godless traditions have penetrated our society through and through and it is hard to live silently now that we see the difference between things that are from God and those that are not from Him. This causes us to understand how badly Ukraine needs faithful Christians dedicated to preaching and teaching and living God's Word!

The church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk is like a tiny ray of sunshine that

## **Arrival of Shipments in Ivano-Frankivsk**



*"We received a container with humanitarian aid from you this month. This container had clothes. The clothes will help and support many...so such aid is very timely. We thank all of you supporting this ministry and helping with humanitarian aid that is being shipped to Ukraine, namely to Ivano-Frankivsk."*

draws people seeking truth. This congregation has become stronger, more well-known in the city and the whole region both by deeds and words. Our latest evangelistic campaign revealed how open to the Gospel our people are, and children and teens especially. Close to 100 children attended Bible classes and close to 80 adults attended classes at school and the local Palace of Culture in a small village with the population of 3,800 people.

Luba and Yaroslav are a special couple that stands out in our minds as we review 2016. Yaroslav was 90 when he was baptized and ever since their immersion this couple has been actively involved in the life of the Church. This example and activity is so uplifting to us younger people. Especially encouraging is Yaroslav's active standing in Christ.

Sveta encourages Luba to be involved in benevolent work. Together they visit children's shelter and needy women. Svetlana also helps needy people all over Ukraine and especially those that turn to us for help. There are a great number of refugees with large families that have lost homes and every possession they had.

Luba says that the Christian life she has found gives her great joy and satisfaction. Yaroslav and Luba are very thorough when it comes to studying the Bible, they keep notes, and then they share the Word of God with their neighbors and relatives. Their son Valentin, his wife Olya and their two daughters attend Bible classes as well. Valentin misses classes only when he has to work. He is thinking about baptism so, please, join with us as we pray for him to make that decision.

Valentina Petrovna says that she feels so wonderful in Church. She commented that the year has flown by and it is as if it was just yesterday that we put 2016 Calendar on the wall and now we have already put 2017 on the wall.

Our children prepared a wonderful New Year's presentation and brought so much joy to our hearts. Even the little ones did great. We had guests from Odessa, Africa, Kryvy Rih, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk regions. We greeted the Church and one another. Children received fruit, sweets, toys, and every family received a calendar with Bible verses and beautiful sights of Western Ukraine as well as sharing in a holiday dinner with one another. We thank Svetlana that she arranged everything so well.

During 2016 we have noticed that Inna changed greatly as well. She had everything in her native city of Donetsk. She invested a lot of money and energy in her apartment and repairs. But now she understands how much energy and time she wasted. She now understands that she should spend all her time and energy on things eternal. Her son Svyatoslav has recovered from depression and his behavior has changed. He reads a Bible story every night before he goes to bed while just a year ago he would cover his ears when he heard Bible stories.

We have made a lot of contacts through humanitarian aid this year and many more people have heard about the Lord and church of Christ. One of these contacts was with Olga from the Police Hospital. Olga, who works at hospital lab, was surprised to know that you can actually read and understand the Bible, that the Book has answers to all questions.

Our daughter Anna shares her Bible with her friends and tells them about the living faith. She is surprised that so many people have trouble understanding the Word of God.

## UNLOADING THE CONTAINER IN IVANO-FRANKIVSK



Our son Ruslan turned 30 on the 1st of January 2017. As we think of his turning 30 years we confess that time has flown by. We thank God for our son who has been our helper and right hand in many things all these years.

There are so many blessings that have been possible thanks to your care for us and our Church Thanks to your classes, your commitment to the Lord, and your prayers, dear brothers and sisters we see wonderful results from God's blessings.

We send our heartfelt greetings to all who love God.

Happy 2017!!! We wish you strong spiritual and physical health, success in all you do, warmth of your near and dear ones, many smiles and much joy, good friends, peace in the Lord.

Thank you, dear brothers. In Christian love, Ivan and Svetlana.  
Спасибо Вам дорогие братья. Во Христе Иван И Светлана

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

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

Another month has passed by and it was the last one in 2016. Another page of the book of our lives has been turned. I would like to share some thoughts and memories of that month and year with you as well as plans for the next year.

The last month of the year has been filled with work in God's vineyard. Our men continued working on the construction and finished all preparation work to install the dividing wall and framework for the two rooms upstairs (over the assembly room). We have suspended all work now due to New Year's and Christmas (our country celebrated Christmas on January 7) and plan to resume it as soon as possible. We praise God who has given us strength and encouraged us to work in that area. It is so encouraging to be able to do something with your our hands that you can hand down to generations to come.

The construction work done within the last year has been encouraging and amazing to us. When we see the great things that God does for us through our American brethren we grow in faith. We thank you for your support, prayers and financial help given towards the construction. This work sure will bring good fruit for God's Church in future when God's family has a wonderful place to worship, study the Word of God, teach children and help the needy. Thoughts about this future are refreshing to us and we look forward to the time when we pour the foundation for the main building.

We continued studying the Word of God with the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation. Our brother Ivan was having treatments at the beginning of the month so I preached in his place applying the knowledge I gained while being enrolled in Biblical Institute Master's Program. Now I continue teaching Wednesday Bible classes.

As for World Biblical Institute (WBI) for the education of our members and the whole of Western Ukraine, we have considerably moved forward. We will start teaching first Bible classes for Bible School students in January.

*"We were blessed with several joyful events in 2016, such as immersions when God saved and added souls to His family.*

*The immersions of of Yaroslav and his wife Luba was one of those events. It was one of most joyful events that happened this year because the whole family came to God to serve Him with their talents.*

*It was a very special event also because Yaroslav being 90 years old and having seen the truth responded to it despite his age."*

We would like to thank all that help prepare everything that is needed for the School to function. We thank brethren that visited us in Ivano-Frankivsk and made up their minds to support us as we carry out this wonderful plan of work in God's vineyard. We are getting ready to start our academic year; we are putting together our library, looking for necessary materials, and are trying to give everything into God's hands asking Him to bless and strengthen us as we begin this work. And, no doubt, we praise our Creator through Christ for all these things.

We have held an evangelistic campaign in Starry Lysets this past year. It was uplifting and strengthening to me because at times when I see how indifferent some people are to the Word of God, I feel drained of strength and discouraged. But this campaign has proved that there are God's people everywhere and has opened up my eyes as to how I should continue my ministry there. We thank all of those brothers and sisters from the Dalraida Church, who took part in the campaign. The work will sure bring forth fruit for God's vineyard. I continue visiting with people in that village, meeting with the village administration and keeping in touch with the school that welcomed us so gladly and warmly. I would like to ask you to pray for this work so that God would send us people that truly seek Him, so that we could start church of Christ in Starry Lysets.

We also received a container with humanitarian aid from you this month. This container had clothes. We have not started distribution of clothes yet because people are getting ready for New Year's celebrations and are very busy. But I am sure that the clothes we have received will help and support many. The average people in this country are not facing their best times; many have to go abroad to be able to provide for their families so such aid is very timely. We thank all of you supporting this ministry and helping with humanitarian aid that is being shipped to Ukraine, namely to Ivano-Frankivsk. May God bless you in the New Year and give you back hundredfold according to His generosity and love.

We were blessed with several joyful events in 2016, such as immersions when God saved and added souls to His family. The immersions of Yaroslav and his wife Luba was one of those events. It was one of most joyful events that happened this year because the whole family came to God to serve Him with their talents. It was a very special event also because Yaroslav being 90 years old and having seen the truth responded to it despite his age. So now this family serves a good example to their relatives.

Yaroslav has felt under the weather lately and has worshiped and studied the Bible with us on Skype. As for his wife, she is always in classes and worship services. Their son Valentine attends Sunday worship quite often. We pray and ask God for their whole family to come to know Him and received forgiveness in Christ. Such things are uplifting to us and make our faith stronger. We thank God for this privilege to witness the great work that He's doing.

This is a brief discussion of main events of this month and the year that passed. It is impossible to write about everything. We are so thankful that you care for Ukraine and the growth of the Lord's Church here. May God bless you through Jesus Christ for all riches that you share with us.

With love, Volodymyr Didukh, your brother is Christ  
З любов'ю ваш брат в Христі Володя Дідух.

## GORLOVKA

*"This month the intensity of shooting increased again. Both sides tried to attack, and this led to a new wave of casualties and ruins. Every day for many hours close and far off the explosions of heavy weapons were heard which caused the walls of the buildings in Gorlovka to shatter. Two days before I came to Gorlovka the bus with people travelling to Gorlovka had been fired at from the small arms. As the result there were some killed and wounded. Such news, no doubt, adds to the anxiety before the trip, and also produces gratitude to God for giving us safe passage in both ways."*

## PAVAL TUZNICHENKO REPORTS ON THE LORD'S WORK!

I am happy to greet you and send my love to you, dear brothers and sisters. I always thank our Lord for your open hearts, with which you continually support us and pray for us with such love, understanding and sympathy. Your help enables us to teach and help people around us. I also ask God to always bless you for your assistance in the growth of churches of Christ all over the world. I would like to give you Christmas and New Year's greetings.

Last year was full of good and not good things both here and in your country. Many important projects were implemented that had been scheduled at the beginning of the year.

We have really made tangible progress as far as construction on the church building. Our warehouse has turned out to be quite spacious and having set apart a section we are putting together a temporary meeting place that we will use until the main church building is built. I am so thankful to for your great input into this project.

We have also repaired a treatment ward in the Maternity Hospital, for which we are also thankful to you. This repaired ward caused much excitement in the hospital and news information sources. The reputation of the Church was increased greatly and the hospital is very helpful to Christians who need treatments because they want to help us as we have helped them.

We have distributed a lot of humanitarian aid, such as medicines, medical equipment, clothes, shoes, food, etc.).

Trying to remember all the things that we have given away makes your head dizzy and your soul overflows with great joy realizing how great is the love and care that God's children show to others. We all know that we should gather our treasures in heaven.

I want to thank you for evangelistic campaigns that we had when you came to Ukraine. We attended a number of wonderful classes that opened hearts of many more people to hear about church of Christ.

I hope and pray that you will continue visiting us so that we can build up one another.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your invaluable input into our joined efforts. We cannot do these things alone. We look to you as our older brothers and sisters who can give us very useful knowledge of God's Word and how we are to serve our Almighty God.

I trust that you have had great holidays filled with God's blessings and love. We had New Year's assembly at the end of the month with some great fellowship, sweets and drinks, and our children recited Christian poems, even the smallest ones participated. It was wonderful!

Once again, I would like to wish you holidays filled with joy, God's love and all possible blessings.

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

## IVANO-FRANKIVSK CELEBRATES THE NEW YEAR!

*"Our children prepared a wonderful New Year's presentation and brought so much joy to our hearts. Even the little ones did great. We had guests from Odessa, Africa, Kryvyi Rih, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk regions. We greeted the Church and one another."*



## ANDREW ZHURAVLYOV SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD!

Hello, dear brothers and sisters, families, friends.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. May God richly bless you, your families, your congregations and your service to Him.

May with God's help your boldest plans and dreams come true in 2017.

Now about my work in December.

Thanks to God, Veronica and I crossed the border line safely and came to Gorlovka. I did it on December 16<sup>th</sup>, and Veronica did it on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. These days were especially cold, and the temperature reached 3-5F. Even though we tried to dress warmly, but because of standing in long lines at the division line for many hours out in the open, we were quite frozen. It was especially painful to look at shivering elderly people and children who suffered the most in that piercing frosty wind.

This month the intensity of shooting increased again. Both sides tried to attack, and this led to a new wave of casualties and ruins. Every day for many hours close and far off the explosions of heavy weapons were heard which caused the walls of the buildings in Gorlovka to shatter.

Two days before I came to Gorlovka the bus with people travelling to Gorlovka had been fired at from the small arms. As the result there were some killed and wounded. Such news, no doubt, adds to the anxiety before the trip, and also produces gratitude to God for giving us safe passage in both ways.

Thanks to God, there was announced the "silence regime" again for the New Year and Christmas holidays. For several days already the people can sleep normally, move around the city and go about their regular works. All do hope that the day will come when the sounds of the explosions in the East of Ukraine will cease forever.

While in Gorlovka I conducted two worship services, and visited Christians in their homes during the week. The religious oppression continues to be very strong here, and the open preaching of the gospel can lead to the arrest. For this reason I taught the close friends and relatives of our Christians while visiting with them in their homes. In particular, I visited the needy family of Maxim Gaikov who has seven brothers and sisters. I taught the lesson from the Gospel of Luke and gave them money to buy products, and also gave presents to the children. Last Sunday the son of our sister Louise, Peter, came to the worship service for the first time.

In Ukraine the New Year is a family holiday, when all the family gathers around the table and people come out in the streets for festivities. During peaceful time we always celebrated the New Year with our spiritual family. The war filled the lives of Gorlovka Christians with loss, hardships, need and dangers. That is why we decided to gather together at the end of the year as we had done before to spend time in fellowship, singing hymns to the Lord and in prayers. The sisters prepared food, and I did the Bible quizzes and games. Then I gave presents to everyone.

These were very joyful hours when we totally forgot about the horrors of

*"Children received fruit, sweets, toys, and every family received a calendar with Bible verses and beautiful sights of Western Ukraine as well as sharing in a holiday dinner with one another."*



war and outer dangers. We had a great time together and we did not want to part.

For Christians in Gorlovka it is very important to know that they are not forgotten in their troubles, that they are being thought of and prayed for. While in Gorlovka on Sundays we called our brothers and sisters in Christ who live in other regions of Ukraine and parts of the world. We thank brother Jeff Abrams who (because of the time difference) taught the Bible class last Sunday until two o'clock in the morning and encouraged everyone greatly.

Troubles, needs and tests did not harden the hearts of Gorlovka Christians. When they learned about the fire in the house of our brother Alexander Rodnaev from Pokrovsk and that he himself received burns, we decided to collect money to help him.

For us the last two weeks were filled with meetings, fellowship and Bible classes. Now we are getting ready to return to Bila Tserkva so that, the Lord willing, we could be ready to go back to Gorlovka in February. Please pray for our safe return trip.

In the beginning of the month I was invited to go to Lvov by our brothers, the graduates of the Bible Institute Stas and Dmitry Kuropiatnikov and Bogdan Chigvintsev. A year ago they with their families planted a new congregation of the Church there. While there since November 30 until December 4 I had opportunity to teach two Bible classes, a youth meeting and preach during the worship service. I was also present at the brothers' meeting. I thank God for these wonderful young Christians who can work as a team, plan well and work hard to the glory of God. In between the Bible classes and meetings the brothers of the Lvov Church showed me around this unique and ancient city of Ukraine.

Last Sunday before the trip to Gorlovka I taught the Bible class in the Shevchenko district church of Christ in Kiev.

In January I plan to come to them again for several days to be able to visit with them and teach Bible classes both in the church and in their homes. Hello, dear brothers and sisters, families, friends.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. May God richly bless you, your families, your congregations and your service to Him. May with His help your boldest plans and dreams come true in 2017.

In December 5-14 I taught "Denomination doctrines" to the second year students. The members of the Church and her ministers have to deal with the people from various denominations constantly. This class helps the students realize the harm and danger of the denominational doctrines and gives them a lot of tools to withstand them.

We are very thankful to our brothers and sisters in Christ both in the United States, and in Ukraine for their help to the Christians in Gorlovka. Thanks to your generosity and compassion we were able not only to come and spiritually encourage the brethren there who are suffering the horrors of war, but we also were prepared financially to help them according to their needs and buy medications for those who needed them.

We thank all who sympathize with your needs and sends encouraging letters, and also to those who prays to God on our behalf.

Your brother in Christ, Andrew

***THE CHURCH IN  
IVANO-FRANKIVSK  
DISTRIBUTED FOOD  
PACKETS AND  
HOLIDAY GIFTS TO  
CHILDREN'S HOMES.***



## NEWS FROM DENNIS SOPELNIK IN BELA TSERKVA

Dear brothers, sisters and churches,

We trust this finds you doing well and enjoying the blessing of our Heavenly Father in the New Year.

We had a lot of pleasant events in December. Perhaps one of the most important events was the move of Sergey Pavlenkov's family to Kamenskoe. He had graduated from our Bible Institute last year and we prayed about him to find the job in the Lord's vineyard. And now the opportunity was presented. A missionary couple from Poltava Gary and Nadezhda Workman offered Sergey and his wife Ludmila to move to Kamenskoe and serve full-time in the congregation that they had established many years ago. They used to have a respected preacher for a long time but due to the doctrinal disagreements he was asked to step down. To our joy Sergey had been prepared for the job and waited for a job offer. So they are in Kamenskoe now and he works for the congregation there.

The Bible Institute life is going well too. The students finished their scheduled courses, passed the final tests and went home in the end of December for the holiday season. Before their departure we had a wonderful holiday fellowship meal. We shared our memories of the last year, and everybody telling his story said that God worked in his life in a unique way. The classes will resume on January, 9th. This year we are planning to graduate 4 students. One of them has already got a full time job with Shevchenko district congregation of the Church of Christ in Kiyv.

Sadly, our local preacher Konstantin is still in the hospital. We hope that he'll get better soon and they'll let him come home. But at the present time our brothers substitute for him. I ask you to please remember him in your prayers. All of our students take part in the work of the local congregation.

One of our students whose name is Valentin has undertaken a serious evangelical project. Every day he goes to the centrally positioned place in front of a supermarket and reads aloud a few chapters from the New Testament. We have never tried this method of evangelism but I am happy that he has the desire to try and do it. Occasionally people respond and start a discussion and then we can visit and establish some sort of communication.

I think that the other very effective way to attract new people to the Church is to have interesting children's classes.

My wife with the other ladies from the Church decided to take turns teaching them and now we have children's classes few times a week.

Our children's Bible school grew in number considerably compared to the same time last year. Sometimes children encourage their parents to go to church.

I would like to thank once again everybody who keeps helping us to share our knowledge and our experience with our students. We wouldn't be able to do so much if you were not so generous.

God's blessings,

Dennis Sopelnik, the Director of BVBI-Ukraine