



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

February 2017

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"The most meaningful and encouraging event of this month, and probably of all years of my ministry, was the baptism of my son Ilya. Since his birthday Veronica and I took him to all the Bible classes and assemblies of the church. We were overjoyed to hear him say the he wanted to become a part of God's spiritual family."

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"WE THANK YOU FOR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT YOU PROVIDE FOR CHURCH IN UKRAINE. WE SEE YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT THAT IS NOT ONLY BY WORDS BUT BY DEEDS, WHICH SPEAKS FOR YOUR FAITH AND FRUITS FOR GOD. WE THANK GOD FOR OPENING YOUR HEARTS TO UKRAINE AND HIS CHURCH HERE. WE ASK THE CREATOR TO BLESS YOU FOR ALL OF THESE DEEDS."

As you look in this month's sidebars you will see the announcement that a new book is being written. It is titled *"Accepting the ANGER of God."* I designed this series after noticing how people (non-Christians and Christians) ignore the anger of God. These dismiss the fact that the anger of God can be focused upon them. In fact, some are so set against the biblical truth they claim.

In writing chapter two I cite the most blasphemous statement I have ever read as one bitterly rejects God's "anger":

"Modern Christians may talk about God as a loving father, or even a Jesus buddy, the kind you'd want to play golf with, but in reality Bible-God goes out of his way to be intimidating. Worse, he appears to lose control of his temper at times, lashing out like an oversized thwarted three year old; and his earthly representatives, the prophets—including Jesus—do the same."

During the next few newsletters I will excerpt portions of the lessons for you to preview. Hopefully the book will be published and available by mid-summer. Draft lessons are online and available for FREE download at www.kachelman.com/angerofgod

The explanation for such a bitter rejection of God's anger is a reflection of the culture in which we live. Our culture has devolved in self-centeredness to the point that the majority believes there is no objective truth and everything depends upon the person's opinion.

Consequently there is a bitter war against the "old" positions. Many are infected with an angry attitude toward any doctrine or law or regulation that they think is "unfair."

Especially is this true in religion. Today's religious practices are not viewed as a set of doctrinal beliefs as to what is real and governing. Today's religious practices are presented as opinions and personal choices. We believe what we like. We believe what we want to believe.

Where there are no absolute truths then the boundaries of logical consequences are removed and selfish pleasures replace self-denial (crucifying self), cross bearing, and submission of my will for God's will.

THE CHURCH'S BENEVOLENCE



Masha posts sign for distribution by the Church's benevolence



Those displaced by Russia's invasion and occupation in the east come to get clothing, food and personal hygiene items.



There is a vicious attack in which the old order is swept away and replaced by a new order that feels better.

The damning consequences of this rejection of the biblical absolute are frightening—society is loosed from any moral law! The culture that chooses self over God is a society of anarchy where there is no peace (Hosea 4:1-8). Lawlessness reigns because there is no recognized law governing attitudes, actions and lifestyles.

The erasure of anger has occurred not only in American secular culture but has infected the Lord's Church. This is often termed as "cultural wars" in the religious world and is often presented as only a clash of opinions. The "cultural wars" are described so there is a failure to show such are actually the battle described by Inspiration in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

This is seen in many congregations casting aside the absolute biblical truth on doctrinal matters. There is a feeding frenzy of the progressives (liberals) as they viciously attack fundamental biblical doctrines.

The "cultural wars" are becoming so visible now because the progressives/liberals have invaded the leadership ranks and influential centers of the Lord's Church. In their positions they are now able to initiate changes that will eventually transform the Lord's Church. If they are opposed they attack. If they are not opposed then they and those who remain with them become apostate.

Jude warned of this maneuver, "These men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed. Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever" (verses 10-13).

There are two prominent examples of the damnable "hidden reefs" in the Lord's Church. The Richland Hills church of Christ (Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX) in 2007 publically stated that it was abandoning the biblical authority for worship (and if for worship then all other areas will also follow). As a result they now have a Saturday night service, and three services on Sunday of which two are instrumental.

It is a misnomer to call this group the Richland Hills church of Christ because they have dropped any exclusive identification and simply refer to themselves as "The Hills." Ten years later they now have multiple "satellite" churches looking to Richland Hills (the main "campus") as the "mother church." A hierarchical structure contrary to Scripture.

Speaking against such departures of the church and leadership were the voices of many. But those voices were ineffective in controlling the cancerous developments that have now (ten years later) morphed the church, its leadership and members into full apostasy to the point they reject identification with the Lord's Name.

Brother Dave Miller (Executive Director of *Apologetics Press* in Montgomery, AL) wrote a plea for the Richland Hills church to reconsider

REFURBISHED SCHOOL DESKS DELIVERED



their apostasy. This book was published and made available. It can be ordered from Apologetics Press: Dave Miller, *Richland Hills & Instrumental Music: A Plea to Reconsider*. Apologetics Press 2007. Here is a link where you can download a FREE PDF of the book or order hard copies: <http://www.richlandhillsandinstrumentalmusic.com/>

A second book followed in 2010 authored by brother Thomas Alexander (Professor of Bible and Ministry at Harding University). Tom's book was printed by the Gospel Advocate and can be ordered from the Harding Bookstore: Tom Alexander, *Music in worship: A new examination of an old issue*. Gospel Advocate 2010.

More recently I received a link to a sermon preached at the Landmark church of Christ in Montgomery, AL. The preacher affirmed that mechanical instrumental music in worship is no "big deal." The sermon was posted online and clearly advances the progressive agenda that there are no absolute truths governing our religious practices. Once again brother Dave Miller replied to this egregious act and a tract is available replying to the religious error espoused by this church and its leadership (This tract is available as a download from our web site or it can be ordered in hard copy from Apologetics Press. This tract needs to be distributed and studied by the Lord's Church!).

The recent development at Landmark is not surprising. Such has been developing for a long time. In recent months the push for progressive change became stronger as the past tolerances allowed incremental movement toward the progressive goal.

Announced in its "21 Days of Prayer Guide" was this message: "As a key component of our month-long emphasis on serving, we are dedicating three weeks to praying as a family. From August 22 until September 11, we will meet in the Landmark Celebration Room from 6:00 AM until 6:30 AM to begin our days on our knees. Let's all plan to be part of inviting God into our day, our church, and our lives in this special way. *September 10 - (no morning assembly at the building) - Read, meditate on, and worship with Psalm 146. Ask God to make it true in this place! All are invited to an evening of instrumental praise with your brothers and sisters in the Life Center lobby at tonight at 6:30PM.*"

The small, almost unnoticeable actions that pushed the "old" out and embraced the "new" had become an unstoppable tsunami. Few, if ANY, voices of opposition were left—all objectors had been silenced first by their own timidity and then by the "mob mentality" which excuses deviant actions by appealing to the crowd and thus excusing the individual accountability. The problem is that the principle of personal accountability does not excuse the "mob mentality." The principle governing God's Judgment Day is stated, "So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12).

It is sad that so many have sat silently and allowed the absolute of God's Word to be redefined so they approve the opposite of what God has commanded. Little-by-little the progressive change is injected. It is invited into the leadership levels. It promises growth and great feelings. But such will have a future reckoning as God will not be mocked.

The Epistle of Jude speaks soberly to this situation: Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile

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angelic majesties...But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed. Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah...These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage..."In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly minded, devoid of the Spirit (Jude 8-19).

And all of this occurs because man in today's culture chooses to erase the anger of God!

The war against the absolutes of God's Word is not limited to our nation. This is a war that is universal. It began when Satan thought his way and his strength and his intellect was greater than God's. This war has bitterly infected all facets of earthly living. This war transcends geographical boundaries, language, genders, politics, and religious creeds. Man in our civilization seeks to dismiss God's authority.

Our brethren throughout the world struggle with this same battle as we do. From their reports you read how they are fighting the good fight and keeping the faith.

May their examples urge us to remain steadfast, unmovable always abounding the work of the Lord!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

HOWELL FERGUSON REPORTS ON THE BIBLE INSTITUTE'S BEGINNING IN IVANO-FRANKIVSK...



We received word from our director, Ivan Skoleba that WBI-IF classes started on schedule January 16th, and are well underway. Ivan reported that there are currently 8 students which are about what we had anticipated. From our first and only meeting in Ivano-Frankivsk in September of last year to the first day of class (January 16); this is a very short time to envision, discuss and begin a new extension program. So far, so good! We thank God for directing our steps (Proverbs 16:9). And we pray His hand will continually be with us.

Following the first set of long courses David Hamrick the first short course, "The Church" during the week of February 13 – 17. At the same time Pat McIntosh taught a masters level course on the book of "Daniel." The purpose of offering masters classes is to qualify the instructors to be able to teach undergraduate level courses. The long-term purpose, of course, is to ultimately turn WBI-IF into a self-taught, self-supported and self-propagated program. After David and Pat returned, I traveled to Ivano-Frankivsk to teach the second undergraduate course, "Life of Christ," February 20 – 24.

I found the students very sharp and eager to learn. Several of them already hold professional degrees in such areas as law, aviation computing, economics, nursing and teaching. As with all new programs, it will take time

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for WBI-IF's effect to be felt and reach its potential. With only two instructors, Ivan Skoleba and Volodya Didukh, there is a current need for American short course teachers to fill the gap. That is one of my many goals for the year. As time and opportunity avail themselves, and as interested students graduate; we will be able to add new talent to the teaching pool. Accordingly, we also ask that you please pray for, encourage and support this new extension school as it moves past its infancy to becoming a haven from confusing man-made religions and an effective resource of true biblical teaching. May its effects be far-reaching to the saving of many souls!

PAVAL TUZNICHENKO REPORTS ON HIS EFFORTS...

I am glad to send you my love again, my dear brothers and sisters. Every time I pray I thank our Lord and Savior for you, for your love, support, and prayers that all of us and all churches of Christ need so badly. You care with concern encourage us so much and make us stronger to work in God's vineyard with more optimism and assurance. I thank the Lord for bringing His children together in such an amazing way and giving us such wonderful fellowship and partnership in Him. I would like to report to you on things done this month.

I continue working in God's vineyard in Ivano-Frankivsk. I take part in teaching Bible classes and worship services on Sundays. I participate in the life of the Church here which is very busy: I visit people and help encourage them, take part in humanitarian aid distribution, for which people are so thankful to God and you because He is working through us on this earth.

I would like to thank you for teachers that came here to teach at Bible School. The fact that you are willing to share your experience with us is so encouraging. I hope the day will come when all of us would come together and fellowship. What a great day that would be for us!

As usual, I pray to the Lord asking Him to give spiritual strength to all those that have decided to follow Him and more than that do I ask Him to give me more wisdom and love so that I can be a better minister in His vineyard.

My dear brothers and sisters, please, pray with me and ask the Lord to add as many people to His Church as possible, for the growth of Lord's Church all over the world, for those that have not found the right way to follow Christ, and for peace in this country.

Please, pray for my family, for my children's health, and for me to be a good father and spiritual mentor to them. Please, pray for my sister so that the Lord would open her eyes and heart and she would follow Him.

I always keep all of you in my prayers, I thank you for your help and love, and for your support. Wish you God's love and blessings.

In Christian love, your brother Pavel
с любовью ваш брат Павел

VOLODYA SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD...

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in Christ. I'm sending you greetings from Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. We have lived through another month of our lives and I'd like to share some news and events of this month with you.

AN AWESOME BLESSING!



“Two days ago I received a call from a friend and he told me that his 6-year-old nephew broke his leg.

He asked me if we had children’s crutches since they are very expensive to buy here and his family could not afford it. And it was a wonderful blessing for us to have such and to help those people.

Showing God’s love to people through help we give them is an awesome blessing. We thank all that participate in this work.”

This month has been busy for the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk with several visits of our American brethren that have come to teach at our Bible School. Brothers David Hamrick, Pat McIntosh as well as Brother Howell Ferguson with his wife Mary have come for a visit. It is a great blessing for the church in Western Ukraine to listen and receive teachers of God’s Word. We know how important the Word of God is in terms of building up a strong and right relationship with God, thus the School as well as your support of the School is a great blessing to us. Even though this project has just sprung in Western Ukraine we know that the Lord has plans as far as spreading His Kingdom so through this project and the training of qualified ministers we purpose to be part to His plans and labor in His Kingdom.

Olga Kushnirova has called me this month. She is an interpreter that works with Mike Lawson and together they set up children’s camps using secondary school facilities and have done that in Ivano-Frankivsk for three years already. Olya has said that Mike suggested getting Stary Lysets youth involved in the camp to draw closer to them and to start teaching classes to them. I am meeting with the Headmaster to discuss this opportunity. It could be a little complicated because to do this we will have to transport children to Ivano-Frankivsk from Stary Lysets and in order to do so there should be teachers to chaperon them. I pray to God for this work to be fruitful in His vineyard so that our efforts would not be wasted but would help spread the Gospel and save souls. I thank everybody who takes part setting up these activities to work with the youth of Ukraine. It is a great blessing from God that through you He is helping us bring up good generations to come.

We have started the distribution of humanitarian aid that we received from you and we have also have been preparing to receive new shipments. It is a great blessing that we have via our brothers John Kachelman, Jerry Morgan and their team that work to collect, pack and ship such aid. Two days ago I received a call from a friend and he told me that his 6-year-old nephew broke his leg. He asked me if we had children’s crutches since they are very expensive to buy here and his family could not afford it. And it was a wonderful blessing for us to have such a thing in our warehouse and to help those people. I already have those crutches in my car and I will give them to my friend for his nephew when we meet today. Showing God’s love to people through help we give them is an awesome blessing. We thank all that participate in this work.

This month has had me facing some trials in my life and ministry. A very dear person has been sick and I have spent a lot of time trying to help and encourage her. My father has also caused some grief to my family but Lord has helped him give up the booze. Our neighbor that has breast cancer and has had a surgery to remove it is back home now. I do not see her as often now as she lives in the village where my parents live but my mom continues seeing her. I trust that Lord will touch her heart and she will ponder His Word.

We thank you for prayers and support you provide for church in Ukraine. We see your love and support that is not only by words but by deeds, which speaks for your faith and fruits for God. We thank God for opening your hearts to Ukraine and His church here. We ask the Creator to bless you for all of these deeds.

In Christian love, Volodya Didukh, your brother in Christ
З любов’ю у Христі, ваш брат Володя Дідух.

GIVEN IN THE NAME OF THE LORD



IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK...

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters.

In February, the Lord gave us many opportunities to work for His Kingdom in Ukraine to expand. Thank you for your prayers and help that we receive from you. We are training our Bible School students now so that after they graduate they will be capable of working independently.

Our plans are to start a few churches in the areas where people have opened up to us through humanitarian aid. One of those is the town of Sniatyn located 70 kilometers away from Ivano-Frankivsk. The population is about 10,100 people. Yaremche is another place and is 50 kilometers from us with the population of 10,000 people.

Our students do very well. We have completed five courses, such as the Scheme of Redemption, Genesis, Exodus, the Life of Christ and the Church. Although it is a two-year curriculum we plan on going to the places mentioned above this summer to make contacts there and to lay the groundwork for the Church, which is desperately needed in these two locations (and even more throughout western Ukraine). In these locations the people are absolutely ignorant of the Bible but are very religious at the same time. And their religiousness is often on the edge of fanaticism – they kiss statues and icons; they believe that an icon or a cross can heal diseases and poverty. This situation has brought to life a lot of scam artists telling fortunes and giving advice as to what is best, what day to get married or divorce, sanctifying houses and apartments with the “holy water,” and doing all other nonsense that has become tradition.

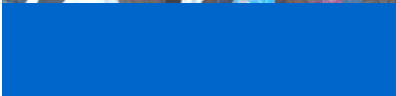
This is why we have decided to train locals that know the language and traditions very well as it will make preaching of the Gospel easier for them.

We have our Wednesday Bible classes from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. We are in Leviticus now. Friday is our prayer meeting day. On Saturday, Emmanuel teaches his fellow students from Africa enrolled in the Medical School in Ivano-Frankivsk. Three of them have started coming to Church.

We continue helping people giving away clothes and food and the urgency has increased. We are in the middle of another rush of displaced from Donetsk that began after Avdeevka was shelled. People are killed in Donetsk every day. There are a lot of wounded. Local deputies ask us to help the displaced. There are a lot of children and young families among them. We send big thanks to sister Kathy and brother John as well as all brethren involved in helping us through humanitarian aid and prayers. The Lord will remember your labor here and in eternity.

Please, pray with us for Ruslan and Masha so that the latter would be baptized. She is a Bible School student now and the Lord has already changed some of her ways, her mindset and her attitude to her husband. She is very active and does a lot of good. If she opens up to the Lord she will use her talent to serve the church.

We also need to pray for Michael Vitovsky, dentist Vasily's son, whom brother Ron helps a lot. Michael is also a dentist but with the latest events in the war's escalation he has been exposed to much stress. This stress has been depressing to his mind. So after his mother and his uncle (who used to help him a lot) passed away he became addicted drugs. His father asked



Church for help and thanks to our contacts through humanitarian aid we have been able to arrange therapy for his addiction. He understands his situation but cannot deal with it on his own so he has agreed without any problem. Please, pray for his soul with us.

We are sending our heartfelt thanks to you for your prayers and your help to Lord's Church in Ivano-Frankivsk.

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

ANDREW SENDS NEWS OF HIS WORK FOR THE LORD...

Hello, dear brothers, sisters, families, friends.

This month was filled with both sad news from the east of our country and great joy for the congregation in Bila Tserkva, and, of course, for my family personally. Now the details.

Unfortunately, until present time the situation in the region of the anti-terror operation continues to worsen. Regular battle combats causing much ruin and casualties among the civilians added to the troubles of the total blockage of cargo shipments by railroads and auto roads from Ukraine to the "uncontrolled" regions. This was initiated by the volunteer battalions that fight for Ukraine but are not subordinate to the Ukrainian authorities. This causes the instability not only in these conflict regions but also in the entire country. It looks like by the present time the negotiations between Ukraine, Russia and the authorities of the unrecognized republics have come to the dead end. We can only pray for the situation and wait for the outcome.

I continue to talk with the Christians in Gorlovka on a regular basis. They are very tired of the shellings that have become quite frequent recently. They are morally exhausted and in great need of spiritual support. We were hoping that the shooting activity in the region would subside, and I would be able to visit them during this period of lull. But unfortunately nothing is indicating that it will be possible in the near future. For this reason I decided not to wait any longer but travel to Gorlovka next week trusting the Lord will provide. This trip is going to be especially difficult and dangerous, as the transportation has been disturbed because of the worsening of the situation in the region and because the checkpoints at the demarcation line are frequently subject to shooting. I will greatly appreciate the prayers of each of you about my trip to Gorlovka and work for the Lord there.

During February I was teaching Bible classes and preached in the congregations in Bila Tserkva and Shevchenko district in Kiev. Much of the time in February I dedicated to the preparation of the class on Minor Prophets, from Hosea to Micah.

Immersion of my son Ilya! The most meaningful and encouraging event of this month, and probably of all years of my ministry, was the immersion of my son Ilya. Since his birthday Veronica and I took him to all the Bible classes and assemblies of the Church. At home I regularly had individual Bible classes with him. He was growing up in a Christian family and saw our example of the life in Christ. We tried to do our best to instill in him the principles of life commanded by the Lord. When he grew up he had the opportunity to compare the lifestyle and values of this world with those offered by God in His word. We were overjoyed to hear him say that he

A NEW STUDY: ACCEPTING THE ANGER OF GOD

JOHN L. KACHELMAN JR.

ACCEPTING THE ANGER OF GOD

THE INCONVENIENT TRUTH
ABOUT GOD

This series examines the process by which modern civilization has casually shrugged off the anger of God. In our current civilization mankind has become desensitized to the control of the Almighty's wrath. The "Whys" and "Hows" of this disheartening development are explained. After explaining the transition from a god-fearing culture to a god-less culture, succeeding lessons explore the biblical reality of the anger of God.

wanted to become a part of God's spiritual Family. I immersed him last Sunday before the worship service in Bila Tserkva. I thank all brothers and sisters in Christ who came early to encourage Ilya and witness his birth from above.

I thank all who support my work in Ukraine and all who pray for us and write me the words of encouragement. I thank all who don't forsake the Christians in Gorlovka alone in their needs and problems. May God bless all of you!

Your brother in Christ, Andrew

DENNIS SOPELNIK REPORTS ON THE LORD'S CHURCH IN BILA TSERVKA, UKRAINE...

Dear brethren, families and churches,

"God, who made the world and everything in it..." These words from the book of Acts often encourage me when we have some difficulties or problems. Our earthly life is fundamentally different from what God has prepared for us in the future.

Sadly, now we have to face pain, wars, lamentations. I beseech you to pray for our country and its government. The war conflict is not over and the Church in the occupied territory feels persecuted and oppressed. They don't have means to keep the building warm. Many people lost their houses. They come and ask for help daily. The situation is the same in occupied cities.

In February we held a seminar about "The Work of the Holy Spirit." This time we had about 100 people present, many leaders of the congregations from different parts of Ukraine were able to attend. For many of us it is the best opportunity to fellowship, study the Word of God and develop relationships based on the sound understanding of the Word of God. The next seminar is scheduled to be held in Dnipro, the topic will be "Sunday Worship."

James 1:27 admonishes us to take care of widows and orphans. Of course, it doesn't limit our ministry but this is a kind of work that every congregation of the Lord's Church should do. Last month a Children's Boarding School's Director let us have regular Bible classes for orphans and children from dysfunctional families who live there. Every Saturday we have a Bible class and spend some time with these children. I am also making arrangements to bring some of these kids to the Sunday services.

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of our local preacher Kostya Kisilenko. He still gets the necessary therapy but last week he was able to join our Sunday worship and mid-week Bible study. While he was unwell we took turns with the brethren to preach and gave our students a chance to participate in the services. As Paul stated in 2 Cor. 8:14 the help should be reciprocal. Currently the churches from the States demonstrate their generosity and love and I hope when it's our turn we would be able to joyfully respond.

God's blessings, Your brother and co-worker in the Kingdom of the Lord,
Dennis Sopolnik.