



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

John L. Kachelman, Jr.
Ukraine Missions
College church of Christ
2934 East Moore Street
Searcy, Arkansas 72143
Cell: 901-626-4538
john@kachelman.com

"THE GOSPEL CHANGES OUR LIFE'S PRINCIPLES...LORD ALWAYS HAS MORE FOR US TO SEE AND BE AMAZED AS HE GIVES US OPPORTUNITIES TO GET RID OF SINFUL LIFE'S TRAPS."

The month of March has been crammed with activity—we loaded four containers (pre-load labors, loading labors, mountains of paperwork!), constant communication with contacts in distant nations and stateside, travelled thousands of miles, picked up tons of donations, worked countless hours in the warehouse, continued writing the book "Accepting the Anger of God," preached and taught regularly at the Crosby congregation and other locations where I was invited to report on the mission work. WHEW!

April does not hold promise for much respite as we are scheduled to load four more containers, visit and speak at the Meridianville congregation where I will pick up personal hygiene items the "Young at Hearts" collected, conclude the writing on the book, speak at the Wayne Furnace Men's Leadership Seminar (Waynesboro, TN), and prepare for the upcoming trip to Ukraine (leaving May 1). WHEW!

I am often asked about such a hectic schedule. The actions that press each month are constant. The opportunities that are presented are amazing. Instead of things "slowing down" they have only sped up! The "Warehouse Warriors" in Searcy are phenomenal—they are all retired but they smile and say they have "retired to work." And work they do—exhausting labors, constant sorting, packing and pick-ups! Our hardy group is joined by the brethren from the WestArk congregation who works in their benevolent ministry (C.U.R.E.). They also operate on the "retired" level. In April two more "retired to work" brethren are coming to Searcy. Jim Akridge and Ray Stilwell are bringing two trailers that will be added to a container going into Ivano-Frankivsk where Jim plans to use the shipment to assist in the planting of a new congregation in western Ukraine. They will overnight and help load the container. Then there are those assisting Kathy Cadden in Columbus, MS in preparing, sorting, loading and many, many other tasks that are essential to their efforts to join with us in sending benevolent items overseas in the Name of the Lord.

I, and those mentioned above" are often asked "WHY wear yourself out like that? Life is too short to spend it like that." Seriously? Yes "life is too short." I think the foundational reason has been often mentioned in these newsletters. Those who are wearing "themselves out" share the attitude that Paul expressed *"I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls"* (2 Corinthians 12:15).

There is the realization that life here only offers a limited amount of days...you can work for only a limited time and then work ceases. Paul's focus is stated in 1 Thessalonians 2:9, "For you recall, brethren, our labor

SISTER ANNA'S 92ND BIRTHDAY!



"Anna is the oldest member of our congregation. She is a flower woman, she takes care of the flowers in our church building. She makes schedule for other sisters as for the watering flowers and put it on the bulletin board every now and then. She types it on her little old, almost ancient typing machine. Anna is an amazing woman who came to Christ in her 80s and was very sorry that did not do it much earlier. We all love her very much and very proud to be a part of the family where Anna is."

and hardship, how working night and day." Yes "Life is too short."

Our Lord emphasized that the years spent in this life are few and thus action and not leisure is required. "We **must** work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4).

The word "**must**" communicates urgency. There is no option. There is no discussion. There is no exception for personal days or personal time.

Wisdom exhorts, "Remember...your Creator...before the evil days come and the years draw near...before the sun and the light, the moon and the stars are darkened...then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it...The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:1, 2, 7, 12).

Whatever you "must" do in earthly living "must" be done focused upon serving God's purposes on earth.

All are governed by "musts" in their lives—these set the priorities for life here and will assigned one to life hereafter. As you awaken each day what "must" you do? As you plan for your retirement, recreation, and free times what "musts" have you planned? Is the focus of your "musts" that of Self or God?

Earthly living is brief. James reminds us, "You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away (James 4:14). Your personal significance in the chronology of the world is reduced to the simplest metaphor—you are a vapor that vanishes. The term translated "vanishes" is translated from a term that communicates disappearing ("a flash in the pan"). You are "here" and then in a blink of an eye you are "gone." Here is the epitome of insignificance.

The wise response to man's vanishing life is to seize every moment. Do not let anything pass you by because it will be forever gone. You have only a limited number of days and then the night comes "when no one can work."

When you are exhausted grab some rest then get up and *challenge* the opportunities. When you think that there is no way, understand that it is not your abilities that provide completion but it is God's power. Do not succumb to the weariness that Satan tempts. Do not wear the blinders offered by Satan to hinder you from seeing God's power and provisions in the opportunities. Do not retreat in fear or be intimidated by what appears to be insurmountable problems or hindering people ("Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them," 2 Kings 6:16).

How sad to hear God's People speak resentfully expressing their reluctance or selfishness saying "This is NOT what I thought..." How tragic to observe resentment as an evil governing in one's speech as critical words are expressed or snide, accusing words slip out exposing the true heart. Such are always unhappy because they see only the worldly opportunities they are missing and are blind to the truly valuable opportunities that are laying up treasures in heaven.

We are in a spiritual battle fought on a worldly plane. The number one principle of warfare is "*Mission number ONE!*" Nothing is to take our focus off mission. Nothing! In battle you will be exhausted, stressed, strained and

A USEFUL TOOL FOR EVANGELISM

"We are not without visible evidence of reaching the community as already two saints have been baptized into Christ as a direct result of the camp and the American teachers who come every year; we are Ambassadors for Christ! I am hopeful that the Starry Lysets "camp" builds on this success as the plans are to host sixty underprivileged children of the 3rd-5th form (grade); age groups not previously served in the previous two years."

pressured. In battle you will have unexpected situations popping up. In battle you can be distracted and lose focus (1 Kings 20:40 offers an excellent point here). It will be tempting to cry "No more!" You want the war to stop. But the only acceptable response is to continue fighting (1 Timothy 6:12).

Be sure that one day soon your opportunities for serving on the battlefield of earth will stop. Your duty to fight is only for the briefest of time ("vapor"). Will you be insubordinate? Will you fight with hands hanging down? Will you demoralize God's troops with your negativity? Will your fight be marked with resentment? Will you compromise the security of God's People?

There are always opportunities before you. How do you "seize" the opportunities (Ephesians 5:16)? May all strive to join Paul in his selfless declaration "I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls" and consequently affirm when our vapor is vanishing "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

Those commended by God are those who "most gladly spend and be expended" in God's service!

Please notice that in Paul's words his focus in his mission was "I will" and then his report at the end of the mission was "I have." This is what God expects. Too many begin with a boastful "I will" only to fail to resentful "I have to."

We have only a few days; only a limited time; only so little time to do so much.

Read the March reports from our brethren overseas. They are striving to serve faithfully the Lord. Their situations are at times desperate and discouraging but they look to the Almighty God for strength. Their allegiance is under attack. Their physical issues are often distressing. They have a limited amount of time to do tasks that constantly multiply. They are exactly like you in serving the Lord. Read and be encouraged by their commitment and dedication.

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

REPORT FROM PAIZY'S FAMILY ...

Every winter our congregation and some members of other churches of Christ and their friends are meeting together at the wonderful place in Svyatogorsk (30 miles from Kramatorsk) for fellowship. Thank you brother Jeff Abrams and many other Christians for your love and support and making it possible every winter. It surely strengthens the churches here and makes the input for the future growth of the Christians here. Summer camp *Amerikraine* is doing the same thing. Christians are taking their friends and families with them where there can here many great lessons prepared by our American friends and Ukrainian preachers and teachers. Read more about camp below.

Three baptisms took place in Kramatorsk Church of Christ this time. One young man Oleg is from Konstantinovka, he used to attend charismatically congregation and two other men Alexander and Valeriy.

Our family grew up in number with four great families plus individuals due to a split in Central Library Congregation. It is an old story and many of you are familiar with it. These families are very happy to join us and we try to do

"THEIR FAITH IS STRONGER"

"I visited our elderly sister Zoya Grigorieva and helped her - the shell burst in the corner of her house and all the windows were knocked out."



our best to welcome them as they had gone through some difficulties in making this decision.

Anna is the oldest member of our congregation. She is a flower woman, she takes care of the flowers in our church building. She makes schedule for other sisters as for the watering flowers and put it on the bulletin board every now and then. She types it on her little old, almost ancient typing machine. Anna is an amazing woman who came to Christ in her 80s and was very sorry that did not do it much earlier. We all love her very much and very proud to be a part of the family where Anna is.

Christians from many places of East and West part of Ukraine got together for the seminar "Holly Spirit". About 100 Christians visited the event. We were honored to have these people and grateful for the facility we have to make this kind of activities possible.

Konstantinovka church of Christ You can see the dynamic of growth of this congregation which very delightful. For the last several months three families and neighborhood children (Sunday morning classes) were added to this congregation. It is a pretty crowded place on Sundays. I love to watch such a positive dynamics of the family. Right now we have 20 active adults and 10-13 children.

Thank you for your love, help and care! With love in Christ, Pazyi's Family

MIKE LAWSON SENDS AN IN-COUNTRY REPORT...

Since our forced exodus from Dzerzhinsk by the war in the east, the search to replicate the camp Bill and Lyuba Wharton started many years earlier has been ongoing. A move in that direction and an addition to our mission this year, our third year in Ivano-Frankivsk, is a "mini-camp" in Starry Lysets; a village on the outskirts of town. The "camp" will be two days in length and will be held on Thursday and Friday 1st and 2nd of June before the camp at School #1 begins. School #1 has been, and will continue to be, the central part of our mission in Western Ukraine as new ways are sought to bring more continuity to the length of time we have with these children and their families as measured over the years. We are not without visible evidence of reaching the community as already two saints have been baptized into Christ as a direct result of the camp and the American teachers who come every year; we are Ambassadors for Christ! I am hopeful that the Starry Lysets "camp" builds on this success as the plans are to host sixty underprivileged children of the 3rd-5th form (grade); age groups not previously served in the previous two years. For Americans of past camps, the school will feel like School #10 in Dzerzhinsk. The camp at school #1 will host 80 students from the 8th and 10th grades beginning Monday 5 June until the afternoon of 12 June. Some of these students will join us in Yaremche for the retreat

We also have our very first World English Institute (WEI) student, a doctor in Kyiv. Nataliya was excited to enroll in the program and is excited about the opportunity to better her English, but most importantly, "to learn more about the Bible." WEI is also a "hot" topic in Ivano-Frankivsk with many of the Church members planning to enroll. Emmanuel a medical student from Ghana, plans to introduce it to all of his fellow students at the medical college where he studies.

GREAT TRAGEDY!

"In the night of March 18-19 shells hit the house where our sisters Anna and Tatiana Tutunnik live...the windows and doors were knocked out, and the concrete fence was destroyed...In 2015 Anna lost her son, and Tatiana - her father who had a heart attack during a severe shelling. The recent tragedy shook them to the core. On Sunday following that terrible shelling these sisters did not stay to the ruins but came to the assembly to worship God. On March 24 the house of the Petrovs was also damaged. These Christians have left the occupied Gorlovka in the beginning of the war and moved to Artiomovsk."



IMMADI REPORTS ON THE GOSPEL'S IMPACT IN INDIA

My dear loving brother David and sister Gennie,

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

Sir, I am sending few pictures of widow Masamma and the women class on second Saturday.

Sir how are you? How is brother Ernie? I and the preachers here daily remembering you in our prayers.

Sir, I had been to Jabalpur city. It is a city in Madhya Pradesh State. It is 800 miles away from Jadcherla. I and brother Stevenson went to Jabalpur city. This is in central India. The congregation is good in number. I preached on Sunday morning in worship and in the evening. More than 60 attended. The congregation is very old. They need lot of teaching. They are not sound in doctrine. They asked me to visit again. I am planning to visit them soon. Next time I will visit other preachers/congregations in that area.

I started here on 25th and came back today. I bore the expenses of Stevenson also. I spent Rs. 6000 for travel and accommodation. The members there fed us. We did not spend any thing for food. Kindly pray for the spiritual growth of this congregation.

Sir, we once again thank you for your loving sacrificial helps. You are in our daily prayers kindly pray for us and for the work here.

Closing with love, yours Immadi

PAVAL TUZNICHENKO REPORTS ON HIS EFFORTS...

Peace and grace to you. I am happy to greet you with great love once again, my dear brothers and sisters in American. In our prayers, we always thank our Heavenly Father who has opened your hearts to help us both spiritually and financially and to pray for us with such love and sympathy all the time. It is through your love and care that churches of Christ in Ukraine are encouraged and strive to grow more. I would like to report to you on the work done within this month.

We continue distributing humanitarian aid that we receive from you all the time, such as food and clothes. If you could only hear the words of gratitude addressed to you and our Lord for the help that we give them! And the joy in their eyes makes one work even harder. I have also taught some evening Bible classes, have helped conduct our Sunday worship services to our Lord, and helped unload containers with humanitarian aid, for which we want to give you our big thanks. I continue helping our elderly Christians as much as I can and enjoy it very much as I realize that our deeds prove our being God's children.

I would like to ask you to continue praying for the Bible Institute so that the knowledge that our students gain will be used and applied to bring forth bountiful fruit in God's vineyard. Indeed, our main task is to bring to the Lord as many people as possible so that they can enjoy His love and care.

As always, I would like to ask you to, please, pray for my children, for churches of Christ to grow and mature in Ukraine and all over the world. Please, pray for those that think about following Christ but have not done that

GIVEN IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

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yet so that the Lord would add to His church as many as possible; for peace in this country, for this nonsense of the war to stop and for innocent people not to be killed any more.

I pray and ask our Lord to bless you in everything you do, to grant you good health and spiritual growth. I keep you in my prayers all the time wishing good health, God's love and blessing to you and yours.

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

IVAN SENDS NEWS OF IVANO-FRANKIVSK...

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters.

We had a lot of different activities in March. We received two containers of humanitarian aid. We received 100+ hospital beds, which we would like to give away in those areas where we plan to have evangelistic campaigns. Thanks to such a huge help we can reach out to people in these two districts. People from all over the districts and surrounding villages come to these hospitals for medical assistance. Thus, they will know that it was church of Christ that provided help. We try to put a Bible with Church's address and phone number on each bedside table.

Since more and more evangelistic opportunities open up we need well trained and educated ministers whom we could send to those areas on missions. Thus, our Bible Institute goes on with its operations. Our students do very well and we plan to conduct evangelistic campaigns together with our American brethren in these two districts, namely Sniatyn 60 kilometers away from Ivano-Frankivsk, and Yaremche 55 kilometers away from Ivano-Frankivsk. We have done humanitarian work in these areas for three years. In delivering the humanitarian aid we have met with the government authorities, directors of children's home and other people. This enables us to do evangelistic work there without any hindrances and arrange people into small groups for Bible studies and to plant church of Christ in future in those areas.

These are our plans for this year. We beg God to bless our plans. We need brethren to work together and pray a lot for this mission.

Our brother Emmanuel teaches a class to Medical School students. Four from that class come to Church regularly and Tetiana interprets for them as well as Natalia at times. We try to treat everybody with care and at this point we can do it as we are not that numerous – just 37, which is the maximum attendance this year. We also work with displaced families from Donetsk and Lugansk regions. Those people are going through difficult times having lost all they had in the material world but some have found Christ.

For example, Valentina Petrovna was baptized at the age of 80 and is trying hard to make up for the time wasted. She comes to Bible classes regularly and takes part in all activities in which the church is engaged. She is a good illustration of how God turns a reserved and hurt person into a joyful and happy one that rejoices having gained so many new friends in Christ. Valentina's husband was military and they used to live in Germany for a while where Russian troops were stationed. She says that they were threatened by Americans as the latter were presented as horrible, evil and ruthless people. But when she first met American brethren she was

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surprised and happy to see them teach and preach Christ and salvation.

The gospel changes our life's principles even when we have seen much and have learnt much. The Lord always has more for us to see and be amazed as He gives us opportunities to get rid of those sinful life's traps.

My family is doing well. Svitlana is doing her best to encourage members, she calls them and encourages those that missed worship due to sickness or other reasons. She keeps me in the loop when I do not see and understand things the way a woman does. Ruslan and Masha are enrolled in the Bible Institute. Masha applies herself to studies as hard as she can; she studies the Bible and wants to be baptized but does not want to be pushed because she would like to know the Bible enough to explain to her parents why she “betrayed” the Orthodoxy. Masha is facing a hard time with her relatives who do not want to understand her. She is more open to God than ever and visiting her family in the village she shares her feelings and thoughts with them. My daughter Anna is finishing her 11th grade and is getting ready to go to the Medical School. She'll have her trial exams the first of April.

We have started building our meeting place. Ground has dried and Andrew is working on the foundation now. We have also finished interior work in our assembly room, just a few final touches left to do, such as walls, flooring and furniture. We plan to have our first meeting in the new place to see the response from people. We might have to switch to two assemblies – in the morning and in the evening. Andrew and Marina will start going to Yaremche in April to meet with the people there and to prepare the ground for the summer evangelistic campaign and establishing congregation.

We have many needs now, such as funds for construction and financial support for four students that attend our Bible Institute. We have run out of funds for students. What we had was enough for three months as we started our school January 16. Our students do not have time to earn enough to pay their utilities and for some other needs that they have. I know this for sure because I have seen them try hard to study and survive within these last three months. Please, pray for us and our needs, dear brothers and sisters. We are in desperate need of your support now.

In Christian love, Ivan and Svitlana

С любовью во Христе Иван и Светлана

VOLODYA DIDUKH REPORTS ON STARRY LYSETS...

Greetings to you from Ivano-Frankivsk, dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Another month of our lives has flown by and I would like to share some of the news and plans for the future with you.

Many American brethren have come for a visit this month. Jerry Morgan and Dwayne Dudka visited us as well as Mike Lawson. Jerry was the first one to come and together with him we visited two children's institutions where needy children and orphans live and go to school. We rejoice to see how much desire our brethren have to help our children and this country. Jerry and Dwayne helped to buy student's desks for one of those institutions and gave funds for equipment for the other one. It is a great blessing to see God work through people and help those in need. We know the work like that will bring fruit. These efforts will not turn vain because we labor in towns around Ivano-Frankivsk where the Word of God has to be preached and His

**SHIPMENTS OF FOOD
TO CHILDREN'S
SHELTERS AND
ORPHANAGES.**



Church planted. Surely, all the help will bring us closer to people, which in its turn will allow us to preach to them. We thank our brethren, through whom God does so much for us.

Mike Lawson's visit was the next event. Brother Mike came to do preparatory work for summer children's camp that will take place in Ivano-Frankivsk for the third time. Brother Mike suggested that we should extend our camp this year and set up a pilot minicamp in Stary Lysets. We met with the Headmaster in Stary Lysets during Mike's visit. The Administration of the school is very open to such a camp at school and gladly agreed to it. Thus we will have a two-day minicamp in Stary Lysets this year. I rejoice because such activities will help bring us closer to the people there and talk to them about God. Please, pray for the camp and the preaching of the Gospel in Stary Lysets so that God's Church would have a strong presence there.

This month, a family from a neighboring town started attending our Bible classes and Sunday services. They are relatives to our brother Volodya Kuriy. They used to attend Baptist church but did not find God there and withdrew. Volodya had invited them several times. They attended once and now they are there every Sunday. We pray and ask God to give us wisdom and gentleness for them to find God and His truth in church of Christ.

It took me a good deal of time this month to prepare to teach classes at WBI that we have here now. It is a great responsibility to me and I pray asking God to give me wisdom and humility to teach His Word. Please, pray for me and this work.

We rejoice to see the construction of our church building resume this month after it was suspended for the winter, and now the foundation of the main building and assembly hall is being poured. We thank God and you for your help and prayers. Soon, we will have our own meeting place where we will enjoy fellowship, host different seminars and do other things preaching Christ.

We thank you for the blessings that you share with us and for all things you send us through brother John Kachelman. All of that helps us and Church greatly. That does help Church because humanitarian aid is a good tool to preach the Word of God as it opens up people's hearts. The family that started attending our assembly received some clothes and other essentials this month. They were very happy. Such work results in glory and gratitude being given to God. We thank you for such support.

Thank you for your prayers and we ask you to continue praying for all the work that is being done here for the Word of God to grow and spread.

With love, Your brother in Christ Volodya Didukh
З любов'ю ваш брат у Христі Вова Дідух

BROTHER ANDREW SHARES NEWS OF HIS LABORS...

Hello, dear brothers, sisters, friends, families.

I will start with the description of the events transpiring in the occupied territory. In March the President due to the pressure from the leaders of the volunteer battalions signed the decree of the total blockage of the cargo traffic to and from the self-proclaimed republics. In turn, Ukraine has lost about four dozens of plants and factories that worked under its jurisdiction regardless of the war actions, and paid the taxes into its treasury. These

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES!

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factories also supplied Ukraine with the necessary energy raw material and metal-roll. How was all that reflected on the situation in the territories controlled by the illegal military leaders? Many people who have been working on the factories that have now been confiscated by the illegal authorities have lost their jobs; in the stores and markets there are no Ukrainian products; retired people and the ones of the preferential status (to these groups belong the majority of the Gorlovka Christians) have been left without humanitarian aid that was also coming from the territory of Ukraine.

As for the tactical battle actions – their activity did not subside until the last moment. During my stay in Gorlovka some of the Christians also suffered from the shellings. In the night of March 18-19 the shells hit the house where our sisters Anna and Tatiana Tutunnik live. As the result of the shells burst suffered the roof of the house and its assets, the windows and doors were knocked out, and the concrete fence was destroyed. Before the war this family was farmers; they grew not only crops but also cattle. In 2015 Anna lost her son, and Tatiana – her father who had a heart attack during a severe shelling. The recent tragedy shook them to the core. On Sunday following that terrible shelling these sisters did not stay to dismount the ruins but came to the assembly to worship God. On March 24 the house of the Petrovs was also damaged. These Christians have left the occupied Gorlovka in the beginning of the war and moved to Artiomovsk. I visited our elderly sister Zoya Grigorieva and helped her – the shell burst in the corner of her house and all the windows were knocked out.

Amidst the raging war, sufferings and religious oppression the Gorlovka Christians retain their commitment to Christ. We gathered together not only on Sundays to worship God but also during the week to study the Bible. Daily hardships and danger of losing their lives have made their faith even stronger.

Even though the church of Christ is banned by the law in that region, I had the opportunity to visit our Christians in their homes and speak about Christ with their family members. I was very encouraged by their reaction to the Word of God. Maxim Gaikov's sister Marina and Luisa's son Peter came to the last worship service. I had individual Bible classes with them and I do hope they will obey the saving gospel one day.

We had communication with Christians who live in various countries of the world. Their support, words of encouragement and prayers mean so much to the Christians in Gorlovka.

We are very grateful to the brothers and sisters who have donated the funds for the ministry in the occupied region. Thanks to them I had opportunity to help financially all Christians in Gorlovka, help them buy the necessary but very expensive medications, and also support financially several families who were very desperate.

I thank God that on March 31, after two weeks of ministry in Gorlovka I was able to safely cross the demarcation line and return to my family in Bila Tserkva. For a month or two the sleepless nights because of the night shellings are left behind for me.

Now I am helping several congregations of the Church located in the central part of Ukraine. The Lord willing, we want to realize our plans of planting a new sound congregation of the Church. But our thoughts and hopes are directed to the ministry in our native city. We believe that one day

A NEW CHURCH PLANT INITIATED!

Andrew and Marina are going to Yaremche in April to meet with the people there and to prepare the ground for the summer evangelistic establishing of a new congregation.



the war and religious persecutions there will stop, and we will be able to claim back and restore the seized church building. We are looking forward to the time when we will be able to build up the Lord's Church together with those who are facing death every day now.

During the first half of the month before the trip to Gorlovka I taught Bible classes and preached on Sundays in the congregations in Bila Tserkva and Shevchenko district in Kiev. Before the trip to Gorlovka I had the opportunity to spend a lot of time visiting with several Christian families. This month my wife Veronica taught a ladies Bible class and participated in the organization of the ladies retreat in Bila Tserkva.

In our prayers we always thank God for all members who financially support my work in Ukraine. We also pray for those who encourage us in their letters. We wish you all rich God's blessings.

Your brother in Christ, Andrew

DENNIS REPORTS BELA TSERKA, UKRAINE...

Dear brothers and sisters,

We had a lot of interesting events in March. The work of Bible Institute can be divided into two logical periods. The beginning of the month was devoted to the studies and the rest of it was practical work. The practical part was the evangelical campaigns that engaged our students. This time our students helped the local congregations in Lviv, Bela Tserkva, Skvira, Slovyansk, Kremenchug, Ternopil and Liman. Many students wanted to work with the congregations where they plan to serve upon graduation. We employed different methods of evangelism starting with visiting the sick and ending with literature distribution and street evangelism. In Bela Tserka one of the efforts resulted in a new visitor - a lady who attended Sunday worship.

We have great news connected to the work of the church in Bela Tserkva. Last month our Instructor's son Ilya Zhuravlev was baptized into Christ. It always rejoices the Church and we wish him to be faithful to the end.

Also I am very encouraged by our work with the children's boarding school. We have reached there a new level of relationships when the boarding school staff lets us take the older children with us to spend some time together. It certainly set a new prospective. We are planning to use the time to teach the teenagers the Gospel.

I'd like to ask you to continue to pray for our local preacher Konstantin Kisilenko. He tries and comes to the Sunday services and even preached some but his physical health is still quite poor.

We are extremely thankful to the brethren who send funds to the Christians on the occupied part of Ukraine. The occupied territory is economically blocked away from Ukraine and for this reason the prices on food and sundries are higher than before. We ask to please pray for Ukraine and wisdom for its government.

I am very grateful to all congregations, families and brethren who keep supporting our Institute, our students and me. There are a lot of ways to invest money but perhaps the best investment is in giving a new eternal life yet to another soul.

God's blessing, Your brother Dennis Sopelnik