



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

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"I HAVE MET WITH THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF STARY LYSETS SEVERAL TIMES THIS MONTH AND HAVE DELIVERED WALKERS FOR SOME ELDERLY PEOPLE THERE...HOW GREAT A BLESSING IT IS TO BE ABLE TO HELP OTHERS. I CAN SEE THE LORD WORK THROUGH GOOD DEEDS, WHICH IS SO ENCOURAGING TO ME IN MY MINISTRY. "

The month of May was spent in travelling to Ukraine and then reorienting body and mind from the jet lag following the trip! It was a wonderful month and the time spent in Ukraine passed much too quickly. This spring trip took me to six major cities and from there to several smaller towns in those regions. I was in Kyiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kramatorsk, Zaporozhye, Odessa, and Vinnytsia. As usual I sent back reports with information on the trip. These are available online and if you missed any you are welcome to log on and read them. Supporters will receive the trip report within the next few weeks.

Another development in May was the completion of my most recent book "Accepting the Anger of God." This should be available in the early part of June. I taught the lessons at the Crosby church of Christ and that assisted in the writing of the manuscript. I will teach the material at the College church of Christ beginning June 14. I found the study to be rewarding. The most amazing reaction for me was to realize that the biblical material is so clear but there are many who are deceived by modern culture and think the holy LORD God of heaven does not feel wrathful angry at sinners and sin. Most are deluded and think "God is too nice to be angry." These lessons were posted on the website in rough format but then polished and reformatted with questions suitable for a Bible class setting.

During May we shipped two more containers of benevolent commodities into Ukraine. Kathy Cadden's work crew in Columbus, MS shipped a container of hospital supplies into Odesa. The second container was shipped from Neelyville, MO and was coordinated by Jerry Morgan. Together these two containers shipped 39,496 pounds of benevolent commodities into Ukraine. The total value of these two containers was \$493,285.00!! We did have to pay shipping on both of these containers and that cost was \$7,332.00. So far this year (2017) we have shipped 14 containers. We could ship more but shipping funds (raised by Jerry Morgan, Kathy Cadden and myself) are in the red at this point. When you calculate the amount of pounds shipped, the total value of the commodities shipped and then look at the cost of shipping the cost is amazingly low. And then consider that these shipments are sent and delivered in the Name of the Lord and His Church and this provides the Lord's Church with a phenomenal reputation and respect, the fruits for the Lord are even greater.

LETTING THE LIGHT SHINE!

"Greetings John! The two women with Andrew and Marina are Tatiana and Marina. They are medical nurses from the village of Mykulychyn. The administration set up a medical and obstetrical unit in the village attached to the hospital in Yaremche. There are 15 medical nurses working there that give medical assistance to 5,000,000. These nurses came to know us through humanitarian aid that we gave to the hospital. Many people know of church of Christ thus Tatiana and Marina want to be our partners and are willing to help get to know the local people."



URGENT NEED: The Lord's Church will conduct a medical seminar in Ivano-Frankivsk. Drs Gary Jerkins and Ron Swang are coordinating things on the USA side and our brothers Emmanuel and Nada are coordinating in Ivano-Frankivsk Medical University. We will be shipping necessary medical supplies for this workshop in a container going to Ivano-Frankivsk. But at this point we do not have the \$4,500.00 required for shipping. Can you help us? If we could get 5 congregations to donated \$1,000.00 this problem would be resolved. This medical workshop will focus on basic medical practices. There will be 100 medical students attending. Those attending will represent numerous nations from Africa, Iran, India, and other nations. This will provide an outreach with amazing potential. The Ivano-Frankivsk congregation will be involved in various support actions (giving refreshments, making Bibles available, etc). Emmanuel does an amazing job in inviting medical students to the Lord's assemblies and he has organized this program to offer critical medical instruction but especially an opportunity to offer spiritual instruction to those willing.

Just sit back and imagine the potential that this holds for the spreading of the gospel. This offers us the possibility of introducing the Lord and Hids Church into Iran! BUT we need funds to ship the container. Look below for more communication on this action.

While in Ukraine I marked my 64th birthday and came home to a number of kind cards. Among those cards was one from Don and Lynn England expressing thanksgiving for all the good that is done for the "Church internationally." As usual I appreciate brother Don's words and want to use his phrase as the beginning of several bullet points summarizing the spring mission trip.

As I have recovered from the trip and my body and brain are back in sync from jet lag I list the following highlights from the spring mission trip. The international scope of our work is highlighted by the fact that we have worked in 23 foreign nations thus far. The designation of our work as "international" underscores the fact that the Lord's work is "unto all the world" and not restricted to the walls of our meetinghouse, the borders of our state or the language with which we are comfortable. The gospel is for all mankind and applicable regardless of language, nationality, ethnicity, gender, economic status, or civil position. As the hymn sings, "The gospel is for all." When you travel to any nation and assemble with God's People in worship you find a common bond that is possible only by biblical authority.

The spring mission trip to Ukraine serves to emphasize the internationality of the gospel in these ways (and if you can add more please send me the points so I can add to the list!). These ways are illustrated by the Lord's congregations that I visited in Ivano-Frankivsk and the Lord's congregation in Kramatorsk.

The internationality of Christian brotherhood

The biblical affirmation is that we are "all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). None are superior. There are no elite positions. All are priests.

The singular factor that binds one to another is a visible love that is visible when forgiveness is accessed by the blood of Christ.

In a sense all are connected in a "brotherhood" of humanity. Ananias thus greeted Saul as a brother (Acts 9:17) but in his Epistles Paul greeted Christians as "brother" (Romans 16:23).



“My son Ilia taught his first Bible class to children in Bila Tserkva. He did a great job and is eager to continue this work in the future. I see in Ilia a future minister and a good helper in God’s work in Brovary.”

The Christian brotherhood is guided and guarded by a serving/sacrificial love that is focused on doing all possible to help each other as they struggle through earthly life’s trials and “lay hold” of eternal bliss with God (See Romans 12:10; 14:10 and a long list of similar points).

When you visit with our brothers and sisters in Ivano-Frankivsk you are embraced with this love and enveloped in the wonderful spirit of Christian brotherhood. I remember brother John McMeen commenting on the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation saying “You cannot help but love them!” Such is a fitting comment on the wonderful atmosphere of Christian assemblies internationally! A similar atmosphere of brotherhood is found with the Lord’s congregation in Kramatorsk where Vlad and Oksana labor.

On this mission trip my time in Ivano-Frankivsk was brief but it was delightful. I was able to meet with the brethren several times and examine how the congregation is progressing and how the construction of the building is developing. We enjoyed fellowship meals and discussed how the Lord’s work is progressing and what goals and objectives should be in the congregation’s vision.

In Kramatorsk I enjoyed an even briefer period with the congregation. The worshipping assembly was delightful and the members, as always, greeting one another with loving smiles and warm embraces.

The internationality of obedience to God

That which sets the boundaries for the “brotherhood” of Christ is obedience to Christ’s commands. As noted above one can be a “brother” in the generic sense of humanity but one can be a “brother” in Christ only by obeying all of Christ’s commands (Matthew 7:21). Obedience is not optional. Failure to obey God’s commands is a failure to be a “brother in Christ.”

The choice of obedience is a personal choice. It is a choice of the heart. One cannot be forced to obey as that is only an outward action void of the heart’s desire. Too many have been “talked into” obedience but never told that discipleship involves much more than immersion. Obedience is submission to and acceptance of God’s governing for your life. It means you will submit to do exactly what God says in the way that God says. This is why “repentance” is a condition of salvation—one is turning from Self toward God; one is denying that self direction is the right way.

Obedience to God is possible on the international theatre! God’s commands of obedience are not formulated so they must be performed in a specific city or nation or culture. God’s commands are internationally applicable. No matter on what continent or what language or what gender or position or epoch in civilization one is able to obey God’s commands! The Ethiopian Eunuch illustrates this. He was traveling on a deserted roadway but when he desired to obey God’s commands he did (Acts 8:36-39).

One of the most impressive factors in the scheme of redemption is how practically God designed the plan of salvation and the daily requirement for the “walk” of Christianity. God designed the requirements in a manner that are internationally possible. It does not matter where you live in the world you can obey the gospel’s commands and be saved. After salvation you are able to do exactly as God commands to worship in spirit and truth and live live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age! (Titus 2:12)

One of the amazing examples of divine wisdom in the scheme of

REPAIRS TO THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL



"The repairs on one more hospital ward in the maternity hospital are almost done. I have been able to do the repairs with the donations provided by you. Very soon, there will be one more nice and cozy room where our mothers will feel more comfortable. I will provide pictures of the repaired room in my next report."



redemption is how mankind can appropriate the blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins. God's commands are simple, believe, repent, confess, be immersed in water. These are actions that can be performed anywhere on earth! Anywhere! You do not have to travel to a specific "holy place." You do not have to find a particular "holy man." All you have to do is possible to be performed exactly where you are.

Another amazing example of divine wisdom in God's plan of salvation is seen in how He commanded worship. God requires only a simple expression of devotion that was specified. God has stated specifically how He wants to be worshipped—acappella singing by the entire congregation with songs that all know and that all sing with understanding; the observance of the Lord's Supper (with unleavened bread and unfermented grape juice) as a memorial reminder of the Lord's sacrifice and our commitment; the free-will offering of our possessions back to God; the prayers offered in humility and sensitivity to those assembled; the public teaching of God's Word that exhorts obedience and inspires devotion. In order to worship God one does not have to go through a contorted program or be led by some clerical hierarchy. This simple worship is possible in any location in the world!

How amazingly wonderful are God's international commands!

- ✓ *God's commands are possible.* There is not a single command of God that cannot be obeyed on the international stage. In every nation God's commands can be performed.
- ✓ *God's commands are simple.* The specifics commanded by God are "not grievous or burdensome" (1 John 5:13).
- ✓ *God's commands are urgent.* One cannot ignore God's commands and expect to be saved. One cannot modify God's commands and expect to be saved. One cannot excuse disobedience. God expects ALL of His commands to be obeyed (Matthew 7:21).

Each member of the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation has a story that touches your heart. Their desire to obey God and follow God's revealed will is encouraging. They have a hunger and thirst for the Word of God that is encouraging. They seek to worship according to the simplicity of the congregational setting. They are relatively babes in Christ but are studying and maturing in the Word. They are concerned about fidelity to God's Word. They vigorously shun any form of compromise. They "try" the teachings that are presented (1 John 4:1). It is a true joy to be with them.

Our brethren in Ukraine are very concerned that they obey *exactly* the commands of God in proclaiming the scheme of the gospel's salvation and in worshipping only as the Scriptures command. This concern ought to be shared by the Lord's Church internationally—especially in the USA!

The internationality of duty and devotion to God

God expects His People be become leaven, light and salt. God expects His People to "go" and to "do." Inactivity is unacceptable. Failure to prioritize is treason. We are to "seek FIRST" God's Kingdom and righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

The LORD God Almighty expects His People and His Church to be involved in "good deeds." This requires Christians to be ready to seize whatever opportunity is presented and serve as God's beloved children

"We studied the Book of Judges last week and discussed how bad a nation of God's People can fall if parents do not teach their children to be faithful. That encouraged many to give more time to bringing children up in the truth so that the upcoming generations of Christians in Ivano-Frankivsk will be stronger and more steadfast as compared to us. I thank God who opens up our eyes to these truths."

(Galatians 6:10; Titus 3:1).

There is no place on earth and no nation nor language that prevents this international duty.

As Christians we must look for ways to satisfy this duty in service to God. Even a simple "cup of cold water" is capable of devoted service.

This international duty is accepted by our brothers and sisters in Ivano-Frankivsk. They are active in distributing the containers of humanitarian aid that are shipped. One of the more practical ways that I saw this happening on the spring trip was when the congregation took some garden seeds and gave them to the village Ugorniky. The Mayor was very surprised by this gift and she said that many in the community would be so thankful for this practical gift. She said that "never before" had anyone been so thoughtful of the community's welfare!

Duty and devotion to God are matters of practicality. Such does not have to be performed by stations of prayers, numbers of candles lit, or amounts of money that is donated.

God has devised His Church in such a way that members can perform duty and devotion in the simplest of ways—even a "widow's mite" brings great pleasure from God. Let us not "despise the day of small things" (Zechariah 4:10)!

What "small things" are you doing, where you are with what you have?

What a blessing we have presented to us. God's scheme of redemption is deliberately designed to be simple so whosoever is willing can obey it. The commands are not burdensome. How sad that some refuse this simplicity; some redesign God's practical plans; some deliberately scoff at the urgency of obeying.

There is a negative thought associated with the internationality of God's efforts—the Evil One also maneuvers on the international stage. There is jealousy, bitterness, and resentment found in the midst of actions focused on God's commands. There is division and hurtful words causing discouragement in those who are striving to work for God. This is illustrated by King David saying, "I am weak today, though anointed king; and these men the sons of Zeruiah are too difficult for me. May the Lord repay the evildoer according to his evil" (2 Samuel 3:39). All will face their own "sons of Zeruiah" as fellow workers become discouraging. Others find a painful betrayal from those who are friends and had enjoyed "sweet fellowship" (Psalm 55:12-14). Others find adversaries from the community seeking to harm and destroy and share the same trauma as the beloved Apostle Paul (2 Timothy 4:14).

Regardless of the opposition and even if all alone, we must neither relent nor retreat! Those who struggle against the terrors of Satan's evil often fail to see the international scope of God's majesty and focus on the local issues. But while struggling to remain focused on the international may they find strength in Paul's affirmation: *"At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me...But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished...and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen."* (2 Timothy 4:16-18).

Graduation Time!



"Anyia has finished school and is about to enter Medical School. Please, pray for us."



How thankful we should be that God's plan is an international plan and that reality provides a comforting spiritual security! We find strength in God's salvation. Godly Hannah sang, *"The LORD is a God of knowledge and with Him actions are weighed...the feeble gird on strength"* (1 Samuel 2:3-4)

I am thankful that I can report that those brothers and sisters with whom I visited on this spring mission trip have surrendered to the Lord's will and are following the divine commands. What a refreshing visit and wonderful fellowship!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

AMAZING...SPRING 2018 SEMINAR: "BECOMING A GREAT PHYSICIAN, THE CHRIST FACTOR"

Now here is a *REALLY ENCOURAGING* development for the Lord's Church in Ivano-Frankivsk. This medical seminar has the potential of assisting the Lord's Church in many nations and even making inroads into the nation of Iran!

The workings of God's providence are truly amazing. The deliberate actions of the Almighty are certain but the specificity of His actions are often unseen and unknown until you can look backwards. I am often reminded that even the Apostle Paul shared this unknowing confidence in divine providence as he could only say "perhaps" providence manipulated events (Philemon verse 15). Providentially God will take seemingly unrelated and dissimilar threads and weave them into a masterful and amazing result.

Over 20 years ago those of us involved in Ivano-Frankivsk did not know each other (I knew Gary's dad E. Ray Jerkins by name and reputation but that was the extent—never knew Gary until the World Cataract Foundation contacted Larry Jackson asking about sending a donated eye surgical microscope to Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Hospital and Larry put me in touch with the World Cataract Foundation in Memphis who put me in touch with a Dr. Gary Jerkins). But in those 20 years the lives, works and mission of those involved in Ivano-Frankivsk were woven together. Through these years we have made a concentrated effort to improve the community's infrastructure and gain respect and recognition for the Lord's Church. Ron has done so much in the dental community and Gary has taken surgical teams and worked with the physicians in the Regional Hospitals. John Durham has carved out a place in the higher educational communities. Jerry Morgan and Kathy Cadden have labored beyond strength to assure the continued shipping of humanitarian supplies and food. Add the recent activity of Howell and David with the WBI extension school. And, there are so many more involved in the providential tapestry of Ivano-Frankivsk. As Hebrews 11 sates "time will fail me if I tell of" all who have been partners with us in the fight to assure that the Lord's Church in Ivano-Frankivsk is present and active.

Amazingly providence has woven a masterpiece in Ivano-Frankivsk and has positioned the congregation to be the hub of evangelism in western Ukraine and the near nations.

And now factor in the coming medical seminar. With Russia's invasion the Medical School in Donetsk was moved to Ivano-Frankivsk. With that move brother Emmanuel came to Ivano-Frankivsk and quickly assimilated into the

GIVEN IN THE NAME OF THE LORD



We continue distributing humanitarian aid that you ship through brother John Kachelman. People are grateful for clothes, hygiene supplies and household items; hospitals are grateful for beds and medical supplies. This work has made church of Christ known to many people, which is a blessing that gives us ground to preach Christ. We thank everybody taking part in this ministry.

congregation. His zeal for the Lord has touched many in the Medical School. On the 2016 fall trip it was casually mentioned that many in the school could benefit from a practical seminar that Gary and Ron could provide. That casual comment was the catalyst which has now developed into an amazing opportunity.

Below is the communication from Gary on this opportunity. The congregation will assist in whatever capacity it can to help the "Christian light" of God's Church shine. Note: Gary needs medical professionals to go and participate in the instruction sessions. We will be able to provide the supplies requested from the donations we receive (we can use the expired dated items for this and we have LOTS of those items).

IF YOU ARE A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PLEASE CONTACT ME. IF YOU KNOW OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS INTERESTED PLEASE GIVE THEM MY CONTACT INFORMATION.

"John, I'm not sure I have the words to tell you how excited I am about the seminar! The Church has provided Emmanuel's organization ("Help Motherland International") and his fellow students a platform for spiritual outreach.

"John Durham and I met with Emmanuel's 15 member committee and I do not have enough good words to say how encouraged I was as we made tentative plans for a Spring 2018 seminar ('Becoming A Great Physician, The Christ Factor'). Their level of organization is impressive, their willingness to share their faith and their eagerness to learn is contagious! We are planning for 100 participants!!

"This is one of the brightest moments and most exciting projects I have experienced in 20 years of Ukraine visits.

"I need help in recruiting participants for the spring seminar. I will have the spring dates soon and can send you the tentative seminar topics. I especially am looking for health care providers who might want to be a part of this effort either as a participant or to help with supplies.

"The attached is from Emmanuel. It is a scan of the 'committee's wish list' for the seminar. I told them to think big so the list is ambitious but feel sure there are many things on their list that cross your path. I am going to need manpower help but more importantly supplies. I loved the suture removal kits that you sent photos—put them in our seminar 'basket.'

"Please pray for God to touch the heart of the right people to be a part of this amazing opportunity. Do put out the word for potential participants. I am quite anxious to make it happen correctly!! Thanks, Gary"

IVAN SKOLEBA REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK, UKRAINE...

Dear brethren!

We thank you for your support of our ministry and prayers on our behalf.

Since our last report we have visited several churches in the USA and



have reported to them on the work done. Thank you for your warm hospitality. Upon my return to Ukraine I talked to the Church here about my visit.

Construction of the meeting place is going on in Ivano-Frankivsk and I am attaching some photos to this report. We are almost finished with the storage facility. The storage will be completed by the congregation here. We are working on it and finishing it with our own money. The foundation to the main building is being prepared thanks to a special donation for that purpose. And at this point we are happy to let you know that we are almost done with the foundation for the church building. Big thanks to you for your help and prayers. It is our joint victory. Many people in the Catholic ruling as well as some who are not Catholic ridiculed us saying we did not have way to do it. These did everything they could to destroy us so Lord's Church would not have public recognized church building. They wanted us to stay in obscurity in buildings and closets where they could say we are evil and dark sect. In this culture the public church building is significant because it shows that Church is true. So opposition was great and at times it seemed impossible but what is impossible to men is possible to God, because God has His children, who understand how crucial it is for God's Kingdom to grow on earth and God makes it possible for them to have things and to give. Glory to our Heavenly Father and honor and praise to Him for His mercy to us in Christ Jesus and for His mighty Kingdom on earth.

We know that material church building is not important to God. We are mindful of our spiritual temple as well and conduct worship services and teach classes continually. We extend our big thanks to our brother John Kachelman for his humanitarian work, for his profound Bible knowledge and Bible lessons; for his care and support of churches of Christ in Ukraine. Big thanks to our brother John Durham who taught classes on Ephesians for almost a month. Those were very good and instructive lessons for us. Thank you for having made it possible for our brothers to come to Ukraine. We thank you and your families for patience and sacrifice of your time on our behalf.

Our brothers are well trained and have been coping with church work very well while I was gone.

Volodya Didukh taught classes and preached on Sundays. During my absence students of the WBI have been very busy helping with classes, Lord's Supper, prayers and other ministries. They have started putting together shelves for our library. Svitlana works with sisters, helps with different needs, and visits families. She teaches children on Sundays. There are certain inconveniences related to that work as our children are of different ages (from 18 months to 13 years old) and the room for children's classes is very small. We cannot wait to have our new church building where we will have enough room to divide children into age groups.

Bible School continues operating effectively and our students gain both theoretical and practical knowledge as they do various church assignments as well as benevolent work. Thus, they are being trained for practical ministry based on the biblical teachings that must be upheld by churches of Christ.

We continue explaining baptism to those that have been visiting us but have not entered the covenant with God. They are very serious about baptism because they were baptized earlier at either Catholic or Orthodox

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churches and thus they need a little more time to understand it and to make sure they are doing what’s right.

God’s adversary is always hard on heels when we do all that work for the Lord. He tries hard to strike us in every way. That is why we are desperate for your encouragement and prayers.

John Durham has with us. We appreciate his time and efforts to be with us and to teach English at schools in Ivano-Frankivsk as well as to talk to them about salvation and the Lord’s Church. We pray about this work and trust it will bring forth good fruit in this area.

Our daughter Anya interpreted for John for the first time and she did a good job.

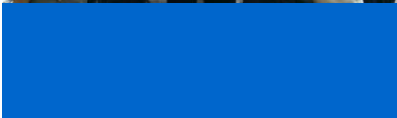
John Durham has been teaching classes on Ephesians. The medical students came to the classes and we used interpreter Natalia to translate for the English speakers. She has learned her Bible better since first coming. She even participates in biblical discussions when women get together for fellowship and English. This has drawn her closer to the Church. When Svitlana first met Natalia the latter did not even have a Bible. She was brought up under the Soviet Union, and her father was a policeman. Christians were persecuted in the Soviet Union at that time and she was brought up an atheist. We pray for Natalie to open her heart to Christ.

Some relatives of our brother Volodymyr started coming to worship services. Volodya’s parents passed away when he was a boy. His aunt that he lived with and her other sister with her husband travel from a village that is 30 kilometers away from Ivano-Frankivsk to be in Sunday worship. And when they go back they talk about the Church to people in the village. The village has received some humanitarian aid from us – we have helped some disabled families and orphaned children. They thank God and those that have taken part in that work.

All members attend all classes, except when they are sick or there is a conflict with their jobs. But nevertheless they are on Skype or phone. Svitlana makes sure that is done and calls all members to find out about their health and needs, and invites quests. Then on Sunday the whole Church has an opportunity to help others.

Pavel (Pasha) helps those elderly members that cannot change a light bulb, have problems with heating, and other minor domestic needs. He was in charge of the repairs and remodeling in the second room at Maternity Hospital. The Chief Doctor of the hospital has thanked the church of Christ on behalf of all the administration. A sign was put up in the first room saying that it was possible for patients to be so comfortable because of love from church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk. Pavel talks about God there and has become known as minister of God in the hospital!

This month Pasha finished repairing the second ward in the Maternity Department, for which John Kachelman provided funds that other brothers and sisters donated for this benevolent work. We are about to take hospital beds with mattresses and bedside tables there. Now there are two wards in the hospital with the plaque “From Ivano-Frankivsk church of Christ.” The administration proudly shows those wards to everybody. They are very open to the Lord’s Church. We take Bibles and Christian literature there all the time. Pasha is also in charge of the Bible School that uses materials by mail. Gennady, a brother from Moscow, Russia, came and helped us set it up and



brought translated study materials. All members are enrolled in the school.

We have already mentioned to you that we started the ground work for church of Christ in Yaaremche, which is 60 kilometers away from Ivano-Frankivsk. Svitlana and I help Andrew and Marina with advice and other things. We went to Yaremche last week and met with the Mayor Vasyl Vasyliovych as well as the Chief Doctor of the City Hospital whose name is Aleksander Petrovich. The administration of the town is open to us as they have received humanitarian aid shipped by our American brethren, which enables us to work with people legally and freely. We met some young doctors from the village of Mykulychyn, not far from Yaremche. We also met with their families. And those people put us in contact with three more families. So work is going on. Please, pray and ask God to send our way people that seek Him; to give Andrew and Marina energy and courage since it is their first independent ministry. Seeing them work reminds me and Svitlana of how hard it was for us to trust God in everything and how much patience we needed to reach our goals.

Volodya works with children at school in Starry Lysets. We are on good terms with that school due to the fall evangelistic outreach that we undertook together with our brethren from Dalraida. Volodya is expecting Mike Lawson and his team to come as together they plan to have classes at school again. The administration of the school is open. We pray and trust the Lord to open doors of salvation to many.

Ruslan and Masha help me and Sveta with our church ministry and they work with IDP's. All brothers participate in conducting Sunday worship; they wait at the Lord's Table, preach and teach classes at times.

We have many classes at Church besides Wednesday Bible class and Sunday worship. We have fellowship at homes. Such fellowship draws us closer and makes us one family. We are always open to those that need help or advice.

Maximum attendance was 45 this month. The room was crammed full. We pray that God will make it possible for us to move to the new building soon and to keep all the people that visit Church now.

WBI has completed the spring semester and all students did very well in their exams.

Anyas has finished school and is about to enter Medical School. Please, pray for us.

We love you and thank God for our spiritual family.

In Christ, Ivan and Svitlana

VOLODYA DIDUKH REPORTS ON HIS EFFORTS IN THE LORD'S WORK...

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I am sending you greetings from the Ivano-Frankivsk area. We have lived through one more month of our lives and I would like to share some of the news and plans with you.

I would like to start with some news from Stary Lysets. We will have a Christian mini-camp in the school there at the end of this week. It will be a pilot mini-camp and will only last two days. But I am very anxious about all

"I'm not sure I have the words to tell you how excited I am about the seminar! The Church has provided Emmanuel's organization ("Help Motherland International") and his fellow students a platform for spiritual outreach."

that. Brother Mike and his team are coming in a few days and we will go to Lysets for the two days of the camp and Bible classes in the school. The administration of the school is open to such partnership and I trust that work should bring forth fruit and glory to God.

I have met with the Mayor of the village of Stary Lysets several times this month and have delivered walkers for some elderly people there. I cannot but let you know how great a blessing it is to be able to help others. I can see the Lord work through good deeds, which is so encouraging to me in my ministry.

We continue construction of the church building in Ivano-Frankivsk and the foundation of the building is almost complete. It is another great blessing and source of encouragement to all members of the congregation, as we observe God to open up people's hearts to donate money towards construction. We thank God and all those who have been giving towards this project. All this will ensure a strong presence of the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk for many generations to come.

Our Bible School goes on. We studied the Book of Judges last week and discussed how bad a nation of God's People can fall if parents do not teach their children to be faithful. That encouraged many students to reconsider their relations with their children and to give more time to bringing them up in the truth so that the upcoming generations of Christians in Ivano-Frankivsk will be stronger and more steadfast as compared to us. I thank God who opens up our eyes to these truths. And now we ask Him to give us strength to conform to His teachings as we live, which is where our power comes from.

We continue distributing humanitarian aid that you ship through brother John Kachelman. People are grateful for clothes, hygiene supplies and household items; hospitals are grateful for beds and medical supplies. This work has made church of Christ known to many people, which is a blessing that gives us ground to preach Christ. We thank everybody taking part in this ministry. It is of a great value to us since Ukraine is going through difficult trials. We thank God and you. We pray asking Him to bless you hundredfold both spiritually and financially.

I have spent some time with my parents in the village as well to help them hill potatoes. My father got into a drinking spree again but, thankfully, it did not last as long this time and he was able to avoid bad health problems. Please, continue praying for him so that his eyes would open up to reality and he would be converted to Christ.

Thank you for our unity and fellowship in Christ, your support and prayers. May God bless you. We always keep you in our prayers.

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

PAVAL TUZNICHENKO REPORTS ON HIS EFFORTS...

Peace and grace to you! I am sending my loving greetings to you with a great joy once again, dear brethren from America.

As we pray to our Heavenly Father we always thank Him for your hearts opened up and filled up with such love, understanding and sympathy towards us that you support us spiritually as well as financially and pray for



"In May the battles resumed with a new force. On May 18 the house of our brother Igor Davydov suffered because of the shelling. The territory where this brother lives outside the city limits of Gorlovka suffers almost daily shellings."



us.

It is through your love that churches of Christ in Ukraine are encouraged spiritually and strive for maturity. I am thankful that you support our American brethren that come to Ukraine and teach such wonderful lessons from the Holy Scripture. Especially am I thankful for our Brother John Durham. I thank God who gives him so much energy that he is able to work so hard in the mission field.

I would like to present a report to you on the last month's work. I take part in Bible classes and Sunday assemblies where we worship our Lord. On top of that, I am part of the life of the Church which is very busy. I visit with people trying to encourage them spiritually; help with humanitarian aid distribution. People appreciate help and thank you and God as they see God work through you and me here on this earth.

I would like to let you know that the repairs on one more hospital ward in the maternity hospital are almost done. I have been able to do the repairs with the donations provided by you. Very soon, there will be one more nice and cozy room where our mothers will feel more comfortable. I will provide pictures of the repaired room in my next report.

And as always, I am asking you, brothers and sisters, to pray for my family, my children, growth of churches of Christ all over Ukraine and throughout the world. Please, pray for those who are not Christ's followers yet but would like to be, for the Lord to add as many people as possible to His Church; for peace in this country and for this nonsense of a war to stop killing innocent people.

I ask the Lord to bless you in everything you do, to keep you healthy and to build you up spiritually. I pray for you continually and wish good health, God's love and blessings for you and your families.

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

ANDREW GIVES INSIGHT TO THE LORD'S WORK...

Hello, dear brothers, sisters, families, friends.

The month of May was filled with events, news and God's work for us. Also during this month a new perspective in ministry was opened for me and my family. We are filled with excitement and desire to be involved in this work.

Situation in Gorlovka.

We continue to pray and hope for a successful resolution of the war conflict. Unfortunately, almost always a period of ceasefire ends in the escalation of the war activity. In May the battles resumed with a new force. On May 18 the house of our brother Igor Davydov suffered because of the shelling. The territory where this brother lives outside the city limits of Gorlovka suffers almost daily shelling.

I have already purchased the tickets to visit Gorlovka in the beginning of June. Both I and the Christians in Gorlovka are looking forward to the time when we'll spend many hours in worship, study of the Bible and fellowship. I have already planned meetings, visits and preaching opportunities for the friends and relatives of our fellow Christians.

“On May 25 three years since the time when armed people rushed into the church building during the worship service. We still remember how we worshipped God, trained ministers, taught adults, teens and children the word of God and visited with each other in that building...Such things happen in human history when godless people with the help of political influence exercised a severe pressure...The children of God have only one option in situations like this - to keep faith, have patience, endure injustice and humiliation knowing that the final word is always God's.”

I am going to talk with my brothers and sisters again about the possibility of leaving such a dangerous for life and health region where the Church of Christ is outlawed, and temporarily moving to a peaceful and quiet part of the country. Of course, they are afraid to leave their houses on the territory where there are no laws, but life without cannonade and ruins, and, most importantly, the possibility to serve and worship God according to His will without fear for one's life and freedom, is worth of trusting God and following the example of many other out-migrant Christians.

On May 25 there's been three years since the time when armed people rushed into the church building during the worship service. We still remember how we worshipped God, trained ministers, taught adults, teens and children the word of God and visited with each other in that building. Now it is turned into a military object and it's impossible to recover it at this moment. Such things happened often in human history when godless people with the help of arms and political influence exercised a severe pressure on the Church of Christ. The children of God have only one option in situations like this – to keep faith, have patience, endure injustice and humiliation knowing that the final word is always God's.

Ministry in Kiev region.

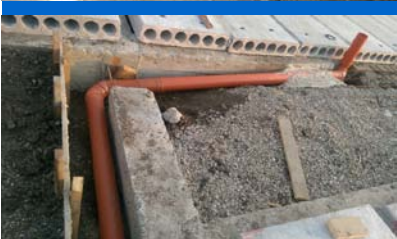
The war in the eastern part of Ukraine (where the churches of Christ were most numerous and strong) and religious persecutions in the occupied regions caused many out-migrant Christians to move to peaceful regions of the country. This fact has considerably strengthened the already existing congregations and also planting new ones. During the years of Gorlovka being occupied I made many trips preaching in many congregations of the churches of Christ in Ukraine, encouraging the brothers and sisters and directing them in the sound doctrine. Since there is no indication that the war will end in the near future, my family and I have a plan of planting a new sound congregation in the city where there is none. Having considered several variants we decided to go to Brovary. This city is very close to Kiev and not far from Bila Tserkva where I teach many Bible subjects during the academic year. I am grateful to the brothers who support me and gave their consent to start a new work. We decided to join our efforts in this new work in Brovary with Victor Semikoz who also has been serving as a minister and teaching in the Bible Institute for many years. After I return from Gorlovka we plan to move to Brovary with our families and start working for the Lord there. If I'm alive and the Lord is willing, I will write you about this work in detail in my July report. In May I preached and taught Bible lessons in the churches of Christ in Bila Tserkva and Shevchenko district in Kiev.

My son Ilia taught his first Bible class to children in Bila Tserkva. He did a great job and is eager to continue this work in the future. I see in Ilia a future minister and a good helper in God's work in Brovary.

I thank Gary Workman for giving graduates and students of the Bible Institute the opportunity to work as full-time preachers, and to gain work experience during the summer practice in the congregations of the Church in Poltava, Dnepr and other regions. During the last weekend before I go to Gorlovka I plan to go to Kamenskoye to visit with Gary and his wife Nadia, and also to see and encourage our graduates who work for the Lord there.

I thank all who read my reports, pray for my ministry and my trips. You are in my heart and prayers. In His service, Andrew

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSES!



CONSTRUCTION OF THE MEETINGHOUSE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN IVANO-FRANKIVSK...

The laying of the foundation is at its final phase.

Contractor Andrew Ivanovich and his team are working on the sewerage. We will have to pay more than initially planned

because they had to lay foundation in deeper in some areas where they had to dig more to get to good and firm soil. It is as deep as 2.7 meters in those areas instead of 1.2 meters planned. It is due to the bad soil. Since there used to be a landfill there, 60% of the foundation is 2 to 2.7 meters deep. This situation was explained to you as you visited the construction site. But now all of foundation is on solid ground.

As you can see we have storage underneath for members' potatoes, beets, and cabbages during winter.

I do not know the total foundation cost yet and Andrew Ivanovich is supposed to make calculations towards the end of the week and I will write to let you know next Monday. Engineers say that such a foundation will hold two more additional levels without problem. This is where it stands now. You saw it with your own eyes. Andrew Ivanovich took photographs and recorded every expense and is preparing that report.

We are continuing to work on meeting place inside the building. Brothers are working as often as possible. It will give us rooms for children's classes and larger assembly room. Recently we have had other buyers looking at the building where we rent so it is relief to know this will soon be available (in fact it is at point where we could begin meeting there if present building is sold and we have to move).

