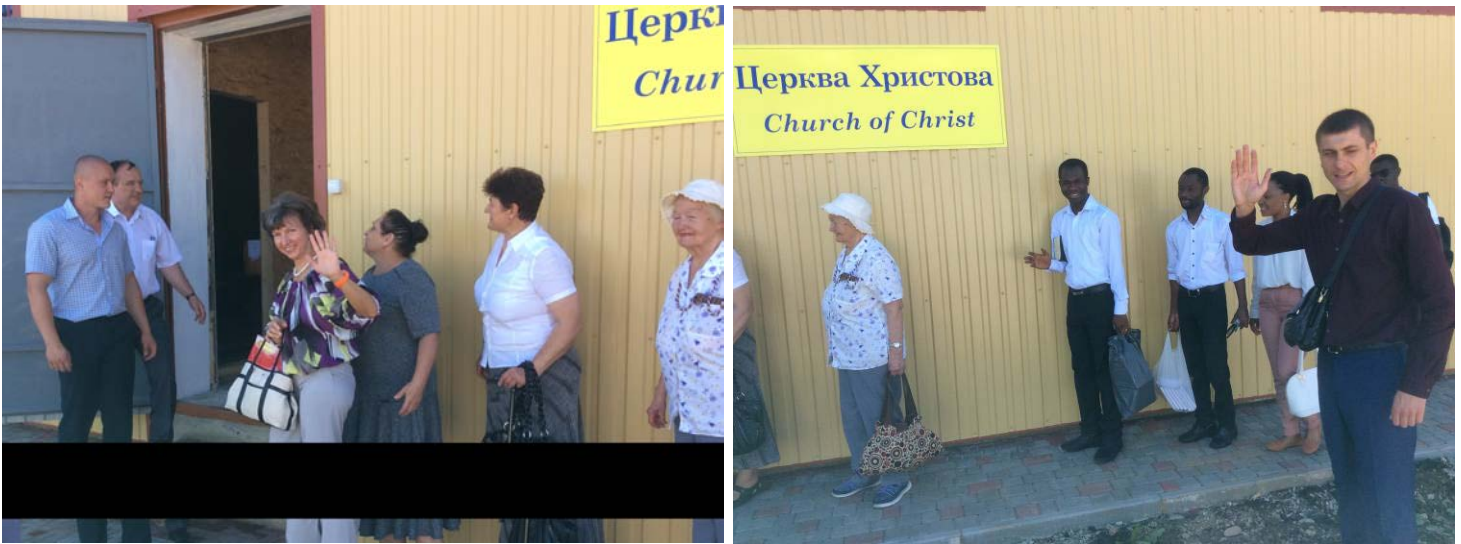


# CHURCH OF CHRIST IN IVANO-FRANKIVSK FIRST MEETING IN THE NEW CONSTRUCTION



We have been working on a permanent meeting place for the Ivano-Frankivsk church of Christ for two years. This building project was forced upon us as we were about to lose a prized plot of land that had been gifted the Lord's Church. The process has tested us in many ways. And, as Hebrews reminds us "testing is not always pleasant." But Hebrews also reminds us that there is an "afterwards" to the testing!

Sunday 02 July 2017 was one of those "afterwards" moments!

The building project has been planned for two sections. The first was to construct a storage facility for the containers of humanitarian aid that would be shipped to and distributed by the Lord's Church. Within this storage facility we wanted to make an assembly room that would be available for the Church if they had to vacate their current meeting place. We also wanted this storage facility to be an identifying connection of distribution of benevolent commodities with the Lord's Church. We have been operating out of a rented warehouse row and those coming are told the goods come from the Lord's Church but there will be a definite connect when they come to the storage facility where there will be a large sign stating that the property is the Ivano-Frankivsk Church of Christ!

The second section focuses on constructing a large assembly room that will accommodate at least 200 in worship, then provide 6-10 separate classrooms for Bible study, and have a large room that can be used for various functions (probably most commonly called a "multi-purpose room" in our understanding).

The construction of the first section is complete except for a few final touches—the upstairs over the assembly room will have two rooms that are not yet completed. These will be used for classes. The Ivano-Frankivsk congregation is working on these two rooms as one of their parts in the construction.

The storage facility is ready to receive shipments but we first have to provide a beginning start for an access road. The building is located on the main highway of Ivano-Frankivsk and traffic laws do not allow one to turn into the property. In order to access legally the property you have to go past the property and then turn into the property but that is not really legal and is only allowed for construction. There is no way the containers can maneuver that turnaround. Hopefully soon we will begin work on the access road and it can become legally accessible.

The foundation for the second section has been poured and completed. This was made possible by the generosity of a family who visited the congregation and site and wanted to see the building completed! We are at a standstill on the construction of the larger assembly room because all funds have been spent.

Here are two emails that Tanya sent about this historic event of the Lord's Church in western Ukraine. THANK YOU to all that have supported this effort and whose support has brought us this far!!!



### **SATURDAY'S PREPARATION & CLEANING...**

Inna came at 2:00 p.m. and Ivan picked us up. Sveta, Luba and Larisa were in the first group that cleaned in the morning and Marina joined them a little later. Then Inna and I came and we worked till 8:00 p.m. Ivan found out the water pump broke. He said the workers had used it mercilessly and would not turn it off for days. It should have lasted much longer than that. Ivan tried to repair but it was beyond repairing. So there was a need for a new one since without it we couldn't use toilets tomorrow and Ivan did not have money for it. But I told him I would give (\$100.00). I am taking money from our emergency stash.

On Lord's Day we are getting together at 10:30 a.m and there will a bus to take us to the new place. We were not able to get the pulpit and communion table there that had been shipped but it will be there soon. We do have sign posted on the building and a larger sign is ordered for front as soon as access road operates. Ruslan and Pasha worked on toilets today! (But with water pump problems toilets take forever to fill up BUT they work.) So looks like everything is ready for the group.

After worship tomorrow I will send you a more detailed report. T



### **SUNDAY 02 JULY 2017...the Church of Christ meets for the first time in the new assembly room!**

Hi John! How are things going with all of you there? We need some of your hot temps here as it has cooled off again and is going to be around 72 F these days.

We assembled in our new building yesterday! We were expecting a large group to worship with us and needed a larger assembly place. There would be no way all could fit into flat we usually use. That was one of the reasons why men decided to worship in the new

place. The visiting group also motivated us to clean and start using the place ASAP. Had it not been for them we might be still indecisive as to when to move out there.

We had a work day on Saturday and there were two groups that came to clean—one in the morning and the other one in the afternoon. I was in the second group and we stayed there working till almost 8:00 p.m.

At first, we were going to clear out area for children's classes in one of the corners of the warehouse proper but while cleaning we discovered





mice droppings and decided it was not a good idea to bring little children there as they would touch everything and then stick their fingers in the mouth. Marina decided not to bring hers as Sasha has a bad habit of biting his fingernails and he does it subconsciously. Inna decided not to bring Svyat as well. I think it



was a good idea because kids would have been everywhere even if adults were with them. If it was a room with walls where they could not go out it would be different. But before we can bring little kids to such a setting we have to do rat control. Everybody had good time working together.

Ruslan and Pasha built two toilets that are just like inside houses with commodes (not holes) and tile on the floor.

Transportation was no problem. Everybody got together at church office at 10:30 Sunday morning. Some drove there and picked a few members up and there was a bus that picked up everybody who came to office. There were Valentina, Inna, Ludmilla (a friend of Inna's that comes from time to time) and five of our African visitors that brother Emmanuel and brother Nana invited.

When we arrived everybody else was already there. The visiting group counted sixteen people. They were Americans and Ukrainians working in a nearby children's camp headed by EEM. Inna was there and it was good

to see her. Olya was there, too, and interpreted the lesson. She did a very good job as usual.

### **The new place was full!**

It was wonderful to see so many. And we did not have all members of the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation as some of them were out of town. Had we had everybody present the place would have been packed full!

Ivan preached on faith from Hebrews. My understanding was that an American would preach and so was Ivan's idea. However, there was some misunderstanding and Ivan wound up preaching. It was a good lesson talking about basics of faith. After that Ray, one of the team members, said a few words about their work at camp.



It was also wonderful to see Dima. He has not changed much. He led singing and did a very good job. We had missed him in that way and many others. His parents were also there as they had come to the camp to spend some time with him. It was good to see them, too, as I had not seen them for years.

After worship we had a brief time for fellowship and then everybody went to look at the foundation and some even went downstairs to check out our cellar. Then we all climbed on the foundation and took pics. The foundation looks AWESOME!!!! Very firm, unshakable and infallible!!!



We also have our sign now and it is made in Ukrainian colors - yellow and blue - and looks very good. We plan to have a bigger and more presentable one later on but the one we have works well for now.

I think everybody was happy and pleased. It was special for the Church as it was our first worship assembly in the new place and I think everybody sensed the solemnity of the day. I

cannot wait to hear brethren talk about it! It really was a wonderful and a very special day for us!!!



**I cannot but give BIG thanks to all those that encouraged us, supported us, told us off at times, motivated and donated their funds, time and prayer to this work!!! THANK YOU A MILLION TIMES!!! May God bless you hundredfold and more!**

In Christian love, Tanya

