



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

" GOD'S BLESSINGS FILLED UP THIS MONTH AT THE VERY BEGINNING...IT HAS ENCOURAGED US A LOT AS WE CAN SEE THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD...PROVING THAT HE IS IN CHARGE AND OPENS UP HEARTS. THIS IS A GREAT BLESSING TO THE CHURCH AND TO ALL WESTERN UKRAINE. "

JIM AKRIDGE AND RAY STILLWELL SENDS NEWS OF A CHURCH PLANTING!

Jim Akridge & Ray Stillwell have just concluded a visit to Ivano-Frankivsk. Here are some of Jim's comments on the work there.

"Dear John, Ray and I just worshipped with the brethren in the assembly room of the storage/distribution building that has been constructed. I was honored to have preached the first sermon by an American in the building. Ray was the second. We had good crowds and think when the main meetinghouse is complete that it will soon be overflowing.

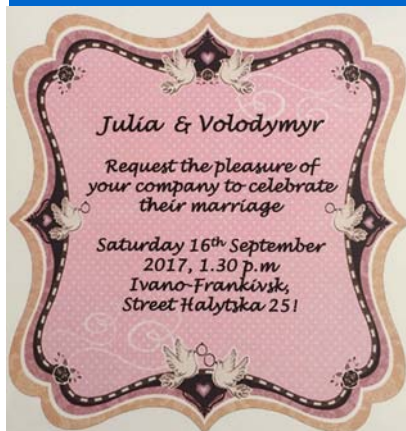
"I came to decide about establishing another congregation. I think that it would be best to work just outside of Ivano-Frankivsk in another direction north of here. When the new facility is done here, the Church will already be in the other end of city. Maybe we could call the work "Northside Ivano-Frankivsk Church of Christ." I could start this under the direction of the Clarkson eldership and let it be separate from the work that is here now.

"The two congregations would work in unity and help one another. For instance if one congregation was having a VBS or campaign or lectureship, they could support each other with teachers, etc., and the members with their attendance in the sister congregation would be a great help. I am having a meeting with group here after services today and discuss this. I will take Velodya tomorrow to this area and the hospital and make a judgment call as to what to do. Ray said it is possible that they could work with this also."

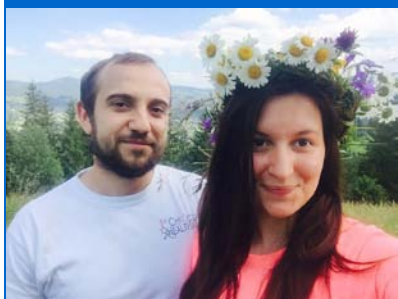
After the meeting Jim reported..."The response from the congregation was very enthusiastic so I have decided to start a congregation in Lysets and Sary-Lysets. This will be one Church for both locations. One is a city and other is a village. There are plans to start a school in Lysets around first of the year for children and adults teaching them English by using the Bible. Ray will work on this through his congregation. With the preacher doing his thing and his wife working with the children in the community I think we can get this work moving at a fast pace. Ray and I will return in October.

"Today we had the director from the hospital in Lysets to come to the storage and get some supplies from Clarkson container. He took 10 beds

VOLODYA & JULIA TO WED SEPTEMBER 16!



"Julia and I need your prayers as well. We will get married in September, and upon it we will serve God as a family. I ask God to help us be useful in His Kingdom and bring forth fruit for Him."



and mattresses, 3 potty chairs, 2 rolling walkers, personal hygiene items and 5 cushioned chairs for waiting area. I was surprised he didn't take more. There are 49 buckets that we will use in October as a door opener to get acquainted with people. The hospital Director is to return next week and get much more from shipments to help the hospital."

NEWS ABOUT SHIPMENTS INTO UKRAINE...

We are very busy now and are drained by the heat—temps outside are +37C-40C (97F-104F).

According to the distribution plan and our agreement we split this shipment in three parts—Sniatyn, Tysmenytsia District that embraced Lysets and Stary Lysets. We gave the ultrasound machine to Kolomya. Kolomya agreed to take it because some time ago we gave them something like that plus they had been asking for help. Regional HAC together with deputies asked the Church to help them find an ultrasound machine. They promised to write a thank-you note because with the help of this machine they can examine and diagnose more than 3,500 children in their area. Ivano-Frankivsk is too far from them to bring children for exam. Regional HAC and deputies that had helped us with our registration asked us for help and they in turn will help Jim in the work in Lysets, if need be.

Everything that we have done serves Church's best interests, because we would like to plant church of Christ there.

Jim chose Lysets and I introduced him to Taras Yaroslavych—Chief Doctor of Tysmenytsia District that includes Lysets, Stary Lysets and Cherniyv. We have helped these villages for many years. This time they took hospital beds for three wards. They came back and took exam tables, for which they were very grateful. Taras Yaroslavych asked Jim for a washing machine and diapers.

Thank you so much for your work and support of Ukraine. Thanks to Jim and Ray for their desire to work in the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father. We would like to thank Jim for paying shipping expenses for this container. This work helps us make good contacts and opens up people's hearts to accept the Gospel in this area. Sincerely, Ivan

PAVAL TUZNICHENKO REPORTS ON HIS EFFORTS...

Peace and grace to you! My dear brothers and sisters, I am happy to send you my greetings and love again. I always thank our Lord who opened your hearts to support us and pray for us with such love, understanding and sympathy all the time. You are always in my prayers to the Lord as I ask Him to bless you for your support of churches of Christ both in Ukraine and all over the world. It is through your love and care that churches of Christ in Ukraine find encouragement and strive to grow more. Thank you for supporting our American brethren who make trips to Ukraine to teach great lessons from the Holy Scripture.

Besides, I would like to report to you on my work through the month July. We continue distributing humanitarian aid to people, such as food, medical equipment and many other things that you ship here. We also repair and refurbish hospital beds that are given to medical institutions.

REPAIRS TO THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL

We completed repairs in the Maternity Hospital and another renovated ward was dedicated in July. Our congregation has been giving humanitarian aid to this hospital for four years.

Jim Akridge and Ray Stillwell cut the red ribbon and officially opened the ward. I wish you could only hear the words of gratitude to us and our Lord for the aid we give to people and see the joy in their eyes. This encourages us to work more for whatever we do, is done for the glory of our Lord.



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Besides, we evangelize in surrounding villages and towns and, Lord willing, will plant churches there as well so that the Church of our Lord would grow. Please, continue praying for our Bible Institute and students that are enrolled in it asking the Lord to give them wisdom to understand the Holy Scripture and to help them use the knowledge they gain to spread the Word and apply it in their private life.

As always, I would like to ask you, brethren, to pray for my family, my children and for the growth of churches of Christ throughout Ukraine and all over the world. Please, pray for those that have not become Christ's followers yet but would like to be; for the Lord to add as many people to His church as possible; for peace in this country so that this absurd war would stop and innocent people would not be killed any more.

May the Lord bless you in all you do. May He bless you with good health and maturity in spirit. I keep you in my prayers all the time wishing you good health, God's love and blessings. With love your brother in Christ, Pavel

VOLODYA DIDUKH REPORTS ON HIS EFFORTS IN STARRY LYSETS...

Dear brothers and sisters, I am sending you greetings from Ivano-Frankivsk on behalf of the Church here! Time flies constantly and so we have lived through another month of our lives. I would like to share some news with you and tell you about events that have taken place this month.

God's blessings filled up this month at the very beginning. Church in Ivano-Frankivsk conducted two Sunday worship services at our construction site where the new church building is being built. We had a few days of preparatory work when we cleaned, built restrooms, furnished the assembly room that we have in the storage facility. Thus, we have had our first two full Sunday worship services there. It has encouraged us a lot as we can see the mighty hand of God in this construction proving that He is in charge and opens up hearts. This is a great blessing to the Church and to all Western Ukraine.

This month, our American brethren that work with EEM have visited us twice. They work at children's camp preaching the Gospel and teaching good Christian character to children. The camp is forty miles away from Ivano-Frankivsk. Our interpreters working with these teams invited them to worship with us. It was a wonderful time spent with God and our brethren.

Together with other men of the congregation we worked at warehouse repairing hospital beds and giving them away. Doctors are so thankful for such aid. We have visited some District Hospitals and have seen their needs and all of them basically are in a great need of hospital beds. Patients in these hospitals have to use beds that were made in 1970's and they sag so badly that patients lie in them with their backs on the floor. Of course, it is not how they should receive their treatment. That is why we are so thankful to all brethren that collect humanitarian aid, medical equipment, and ship all that through John Kachelman. We know such work is not a piece of cake and we want you to be aware that we do need your help—people are so

In the Lord's Name!

"Today the director from the hospital in Lysets came to the storage and got some supplies from Clarkson container. He took 10 beds and mattresses, 3 potty chairs, 2 rolling walkers, personal hygiene items and 5 cushioned chairs for waiting area. The Director is to return next week and get much more from shipments to help the hospital."



thankful for it and give thanks to God for help.

Julia is teaching the children's Bible class at Sunday Bible school. It is wonderful to see children study the Scripture and learn about God. I am blessed by Julia as she knows very well how to approach children. Since we plan to set up a Christian school for children I know it sure will bring forth good fruit in the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father. Please, pray for this work. (This school will be offered in addition to their secular education. We hope that through this teaching we will help families become aware of God's Church plus help children become good citizens).

My dad has gotten off his drinking spree and is back to work now. Please, continue praying for him asking the Lord to help him understand what state he is in and be converted. Please, pray for me as well asking God to help me be a good example and good teacher for my dad.

My grandma is back to Church but she is not a Christian. She is fearful of the community and of her son, my uncle, and I ask God to give her courage to be with Him. Please, pray with me for her, too.

And, of course, Julia and I need your prayers as well. We will get married in September, and upon it we will serve God as a family. I ask God to help us be useful in His Kingdom and bring forth fruit for Him.

Thank you for your support and prayers. Thank you for all the aid that we receive from you. We thank God for your hearts and ministry.

With love, your brother in Christ, Volodya Didukh

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

Dear brothers and sisters!

The month of July was very hot, especially the last 2 weeks when temperatures went up to 45-50°C (113F-122F) in the sun. The heat caused several deaths in Ukraine as many people cannot afford air conditioning. Despite such hot weather our brothers and sisters did their best to help with the work of the Lord's Church.

We completed repairs in the Maternity Hospital and another renovated ward was dedicated in July. Our congregation has been giving humanitarian aid to this hospital for four years. With the funds raised by John Kachelman we were able to refurbish the second ward in the hospital. We have stayed in contact with Julia Mykhailivna, the Chief Doctor of the department and she is open to the Gospel and church of Christ. At the dedication of the second ward Svetlana invited Julia to church for Sunday worship. She agreed and did come. Julia said that she felt at ease being with us and agreed to read the Gospel even though she was very busy at work.

This department of the Maternity Hospital sends their big thanks to John Kachelman and Christians from America for financial help with the repairs. Julia says that they have not received any help like that for 20 years. We put Bibles with the Church's address and our phone number on bedside tables in the ward. There were a few phone calls to thank us for such a cozy and convenient ward. They also asked whether it was OK to take Bibles home. There is a plaque on the door that reads, "Refurbished and equipped with

GIVEN IN THE NAME OF THE LORD



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the help of church of Christ.” We continue studying with Olga, the nurse manager of the department. Olga brings her family to worship. Her mother is very ill and cannot walk. Church has helped this family as well.

We have made friends with Olga Stepanivna, the chief lab doctor at Police Hospital. These three medical workers are open to the Church and read Scriptures with us. Olga Stepanivna comes to Bible classes when she is not busy at work.

We continue visiting the village of Zelena, which is one hour away from Ivano-Frankivsk. We visit with four families and study the Bible with them. At times some other residents of the village join us. All of them thank us for humanitarian aid and Bibles. They ask Bible questions. They ask about church of Christ and are overwhelmed when we open the Bible and show them verses saying that God has only one Church. It is quite a challenge to talk with older people. As for the youth, they are more open and intelligent.

Ruslan and Masha evangelize in village of Mala Kamianka, close to Kolomya. Masha comes from that village. People there are very thankful for humanitarian aid and are open to talk about God. Masha set a goal to give Bibles to all families there. Those living in the village see the difference between the Orthodox Church and church of Christ. Some understand what they should do but are afraid lest they should make their relatives feel bad about them. They want to be in good terms with their families and friends. But nevertheless, the situation in Masha’s village is encouraging to us because people read the Bible and if they continue they will understand the truth sooner or later.

Andrew and Marina evangelize in Yaremche where we have been helping the hospital and people for eight years. They try to keep in contact with local medical workers and together with them they visit families, help them and give out Bibles. They talk to people about God, explaining how imperative it is to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sin. The Lord is the only one able to change the life of a family. Many people do not have the right understanding of their life and life’s values and it is the main problem that people face. These wrong principles are being handed down from generation to generation. Orthodox Church does nothing but collects “taxes” and tells stories instead of teaching the Bible. Thus, people do not have the knowledge and do not realize how much they need Lord’s mercy and grace.

Volodya and Julia are getting ready to start their own ministry in Lysets. They plan to get married on 16 September and move to Lysets. Julia helps Svetlana teach children’s classes. She is putting together materials to work with children in Lysets. We pray for them asking God to encourage and help them in their ministry. Jim Akridge and Ray Stillwell were visiting with us and helped a great deal. Jim was first American to preach gospel in the assembly room in the storage/distribution room. Ray also worked hard and preached. They were great encouragement to us!

When summer comes all people try to take their families and especially children away from the city. Some take them for recreation to the countryside where their relatives live. Weather report says that we are in for a cold snap after such bad heat.

Volody Kuriy evangelizes his home village and some of his relatives come to Sunday worship. We have used humanitarian aid to help the village. Villages are in a desperate need of washing detergents, warm clothes and

A Very Fruitful Month



"Last month was very fruitful for many congregations and about 20 people were baptized. Seven of them were baptized during the camp, a young family of two was immersed in Bila Tserkva, and two young ladies were immersed in Dnipro."

shoes. Volodya's relatives come to Church and his uncle would like to study the Bible at WBI. Lord willing, there will be three more men enrolled in the institute beginning September 1, if we find scholarships for them.

Our daughter Anya continues talking about Church with her former schoolmates. Julia, one of her former schoolmates, has a sister named Elya. Both live with their grandparents as their mother has to clean houses abroad to provide for the family. Their father has a drinking problem which takes a heavy toll on both girls. They are left to themselves. Older sister takes care of the younger one. Anya visits them and takes things from humanitarian shipments to them and together they read the Bible. We pray for this family.

Pavel is in charge of a correspondence school to study the Gospels for all those in Ukraine that cannot come to our classes. This is the purpose of the correspondence school.

Our Bible Institute will resume in September but we are in need of scholarship funds. Please, help us in this area for we really need trained men and families to work in Western Ukraine. Catholic priests, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses know their doctrine well. We need well-prepared and trained Christians and Christian families to plant churches and to teach people who hold to traditions more than the truth to turn to the Truth of God.

All people consider themselves religious in this area and they watch us—our lives, actions and words. It is an important factor for the local people. We are thankful to you for financial and spiritual support. We thank all that pray for our work. We thank all those that find time to come here. And now that we are expanding our ministry beyond the limits of Ivano-Frankivsk we need your support even more.

Big thanks to all that take part in this ministry together with us, to all American brethren. In Christian love, Ivan and Svetlana

DENNIS SOPELNIK'S GOOD NEWS FROM JULY...

Dear brothers and sisters,

I would like to share with you some events that happened last month.

In the beginning of the month my family had a wonderful opportunity to go to the Christian camp in Dnipro. It is a wonderful time when a lot of Christian families get together. Big thanks to Jeff Abrams' team and all people who were actively involved.

Last month was very fruitful for many congregations and about 20 people were baptized. Seven of them were baptized during the camp, a young family of two was immersed in Bila Tserkva, and two young ladies were immersed in Dnipro.

It is just amazing because we can see our graduates and students in action. I am very happy to have this productive team of workers in the Lord's Vineyard who had studied with us and now became the workers in the local congregations or qualified to teach the new generation of students.

They are Vitaly Rodichev and Vladimir Pazyi from Kramatorsk, Albert Bagdasaryan from Slovyansk, Stanislav Kuropyatnikov from Lviv and Andrew Zhuravlev and Viktor Semikoz from Brovary. I am happy to be a part of the team.