



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

December 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

- Amazing things the Lord did in December



KRAMATORSK... "Vladmir came at the invitation of one who recently become our brother. He studied with us in our Bible classes and after made decision be a Christian."

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"In December the Lord's Church touched four hearts that came to our assembly...Thank you, dear brothers and sisters, for your sacrificial hearts, for all that we have done together with you."

This issue of UKRAINE MISSIONS completes the year 2017! Wow! What a year it was. Through the year we saw amazing doors open for the Lord's Church to be involved in the everyday lives of thousands. 2017 brought the "breaking of new ground" for the preaching of the gospel in several locations in Ukraine where the benevolent shipments have been a positive factor for the gospel's progress. In this month's newsletter Ivan's report highlights some positives of the gospel's progress that will cause rejoicing. There are also selected portions of reports from Pasha and Vlad, and Stas in Ukraine, and from Aniefiok in Nigeria.

Every day we are bombarded with the most depressing and distressing news that permeates this world controlled by Satan. How wonderful to be reminded that in this dark world there is the presence of God and that reminder causes joy. I am reminded of the words in Nehemiah 8:10, *"Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."*

I am writing this from Columbia, TN where I am in the middle of cataract surgery. I have had one cataract removed and a corrective lens implanted and the second surgery will occur in a few days.

Usually the end of the year and the beginning of the New Year are slow but we closed 2017 by loading FIVE containers in December (loaded from Judsonia, AR, Jonesville, IN and Neelyville, MO). The New Year has arrived and we already are planning for the loading of 5 containers out of Little Rock, AR, Columbus, MS, and Neelyville, MO.

As the transition from AR to AL continues our efforts are definitely not slacking but opportunities seem to be multiplying!

THANK YOU for your involvement, encouragement, partnership and financial support. With the ending of one year and the beginning if another there is always a loss of some financial support (due to death, economic factors, retirement, etc). Such is true as 2018 begins. If you know of a congregation or individual who would like to partner with us in one of the most effective ways of broadening the gospel's impact please contact me (contact information is in the front bottom side bar).

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

HELP US ACHIEVE AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT IN 2018!
PLEASE COMMUNICATE
YOUR WILLINGNESS TO PARTNER WITH US!

THE GOSPEL'S HARVEST IN UYO, NIGERIA



"Please join us to celebrate the birth of a new child in God's family. A young man we reached out to last week worshipped with us for the first time today. I had a private Bible study with him on Friday. He listened to the sermon I preached today with keen interest. When the song leader gave the song of invitation, he stood up before we reached the third line of the first stanza of the song. All could see the joy in his heart from the smile on his face as he confessed Jesus Christ as the son of God and the Saviour of the world. We gladly led him to the stream and got him baptized into Christ. Please keep him in your prayer that he will grow in the faith and join other Christian youths to be dedicated in serving the Lord. My wife and I and other Christians have a lot of work to do on him.

In Christian service,
Aniefiok Akpan, Uyo, Nigeria"

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

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters.

We thank God for 2017 that we have lived through it and have been used by Him for His work. We thank Him for His blessings and opportunities that He has opened for us to spread the Gospel and His Kingdom on earth.

My wife Sveta and I prayerfully thank God for our brethren in America who have brought the true teaching of church of Christ to Ukraine, for the right understanding of the pure Biblical Gospel that we have received through you, that has power to revive people's souls and change lives that are so corrupted by sins handed down by our ancestors' generation after generation. We believe in the power of the Gospel with sincerity and see the fruit of its work in our lives and in the lives of people that live in Ukraine.

2017 was a special year for us; it was filled with different events. First of all, we got to meet wonderful brethren – missionaries from America, who came to Ukraine using their talents and potential to do great work and build up churches of Christ in Western Ukraine.

In December the Lord's Church touched four hearts that came to our assembly. Two of them were relatives to our brother Volodymyr Kuriy (he used to be a taxi driver). Those women began attending our worship services and Bible classes. One of Anya's teachers brought a woman by the name of Galyna to Church, asking us to help her with some paperwork and clothes. This Galyna is a former elementary school teacher. Her husband mistreated her badly. When her husband died her children kicked her out of the house. She lived in an old abandoned house without water, power and natural gas. When we came to see where she lived we were shocked by the conditions in which a human being was living.

Our sisters provided clothes, shoes and food for her, found a place where she could take a bath, wash her clothes and change. Because of Lord's Church Galyna has a new passport now, has clothes and shoes, and is looking for a job. However, we have not been able to find lodging for her yet as everything is very expensive, minimal rent is \$150.00 plus utilities. As of now, she stays with her friends. Galyna started attending worship services. As for Miroslava, the teacher that brought her, she was very impressed by all the help that church of Christ had provided for Galyna. The latter had lived without official identification for several years and thus could not earn her living. Miroslava said that nobody had helped at the many places they had been to and had asked for help. God brings people to Church through sufferings this way. The Lord's Church here is known for assisting in

REMEMBERING THE “FATHERLESS”



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ways that are often denied and people suffer. Please, pray for Galyna and Miroslava.

Besides, I would like to share an amazing event that took place in the lives of Bogdan and Galyna. These are my relatives who live in the Carpathian Mountains. They went to Yaremche in 2014 when a group of missionaries from Hillsboro came to launch an evangelistic outreach and a weekend retreat with full Bible teaching was possible. Galyna and Bogdan were touched to the quick by what they heard in Bible classes taught by our American brethren. That weekend seminar has resulted in wonderful blessings. One couple that also attended were Yaroslav and Luba. They were baptized a year after that campaign and have been a strength in the congregation. As for Bogdan and Galya, it was only in 2017 that they said they were thinking about baptism and would like for us to teach the Bible to them so that they would understand baptism (so God’s Word has been working in them for 3 years since being planted by our American brethren who taught Bible). Bogdan and Galya cannot assemble with us since their village is in the mountains 60 kilometers away. This distance makes the trip to Ivano-Frankivsk for worship a challenge (This is the village where John, Johnny, Will and David visited and celebrated village day several years past). Bogdan says he knows he has to repent and be baptized but he is conscious of people’s opinion and is fearful lest people in the village should accuse him of being a traitor to the Orthodoxy – the religion of their fathers. But the humanitarian aid that we have given to the village has had a powerful impact on people. The mayor of the village mentions that aid every time there’s a gathering in the village. Vitaly, the Mayor requested humanitarian aid for the village and John Kachelman shipped furniture and medical supplies for their medical unit and kindergarten. Humanitarian aid that churches of Christ provide has a great impact on the minds of people that used to think that the collecting of tithe is all that church is about instead of helping people. All the Orthodox Church does is for the purpose of taking money from people—everything it does is with a charge of money that must be paid to church.

Bogdan has had a job-related accident and is praying to God for his eye to be healed. While loading logs in the mountains one of the straps, used to fasten logs, came loose and hit him in the eye. He has had four surgeries already. Galya, his wife gives thanks to Church for help, for prayers and support.

Sveta and I try to encourage Marina and Andrew in their mission work in Yaremche. Together with them we visited a children’s home in Mykulychyn, Yaremche District last week. The home has 70 children – orphans and children from problem families. We gave away new shoes, clothes, rice mixes, toys and holiday presents to the children. Svetlana had a class with the children and played games with them. As for Andrew and Marina, they gave away presents to the children from large families living in the village.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SHOES SHIPPED IN SEPTEMBER CONTINUES!



One of the very important events of the year was Volodya and Julia's decision to get married and work independently in Lysets, where the village administration as well as teachers at school are open to us due to all the humanitarian work by John Kachelman and Bible classes taught in Starry Lysets by missionaries from the Dalraida Church of Christ headed by John Kachelman III. Volodya and Julia teach English from the Bible in the village school now. Many children come to these classes. We hope that adults will join them as well and in the near future a Church will be planted there. These are three very important moments.

There is still another important event. We moved to a new facility about two months ago. The place is larger and more convenient allowing us to have larger assemblies. We ask God to send here those that seek Him to fill up the room. And we hope that the next time we move it will be to our new church building, which can seat 300 people.

Thank you, dear brothers and sisters, for your sacrificial hearts, for all that we have done together with you. Our expenses have come down some as we do not have to rent warehouse any more, which cost us \$300.00. Now we can use our own storage facility built on the Church property.

Besides, the storage building being completed, we built the foundation and underground lines in 2017. By God's grace we were able to do all that through our joint faith in His power in us.

Big thanks to you for your labor and faith. May the Almighty recompense you and yours for your sacrifices and credit these good deeds to you when we stand before Him.

In Christian love, Ivan and Svetlana

PAVAL SENDS END OF YEAR THOUGHTS...

Love and greetings to you, my dear brothers and sisters! I always pray to the Lord thanking Him for your open hearts, for the great love, understanding and sympathy that are evident in your constant prayers and support. I ask the Lord to bless you always for your efforts in helping church of Christ grow all over the world.

I am sending you Christmas and New Year's greetings as well.

Last year was filled with both pleasant and not very pleasant events in our lives. Most encouraging is probably the growing number of new people that come to hear the Word of God. But, unfortunately, many of them have not repented of their sins and have not been baptized with true Biblical baptism. I trust the Lord to open their hearts for that.

We distributed tons of humanitarian aid (medical supplies, medical equipment, clothes, shoes, food and the like). It makes your head spin trying to remember everything that was given away last year. It makes your soul fill with joy to see the love that God's children show to others. Indeed, you and I know that we gather our treasures in heaven. I continue teaching correspondence Bible course to those that would like to be enrolled in the WBI



but cannot do it for different reasons. On one hand, such studies are convenient for the students, on the other hand, they are time-consuming for the teacher, since all students study at different times. But this hasn't been a restricting factor in our progress. Students had their final tests on "How We Got the Bible." Judging by the grades students had a pretty good grasp of the material taught. Our next courses will be the following: "How to Read, Understand and Apply the Word of God" and "Life and Teachings of Christ in the Gospels." I trust that the students will show even better knowledge at finals on these topics. The curriculum is intended for four years and I ask the Lord to grant wisdom and patience to all students to complete the curriculum and apply the knowledge they will gain. There are many interesting courses worked into the curriculum, which I did not study when I was enrolled in the Bible School, thus I also learn while teaching my students. Brethren, please, pray with me for wisdom and patience to get the truth across to my students without twisting it.

This year I would like to increase the number of students to help as many as possible have the right understanding of the Word of God to apply it in their lives and in the lives of their dear and near ones. Please, pray for these things with me.

We continue working on the storage area where we could make some construction materials for our main church building. I cannot begin to thank you for your great input in this project. Indeed, it is your support that has allowed us to complete the majority of the work. I trust that we will complete construction next year.

Besides, I would like to thank you for the campaigns that you conducted in the course of the year. There were many great lessons taught and good advice given that caused more people to welcome church of Christ. I trust that you will continue coming here to encourage us and be encouraged by us in the spirit. I would like to thank you for your invaluable help in our joint work. I pray and ask God to bless your holiday season with love and many more wonderful blessings.

I am wishing you a holiday season that overflows with joy, God's love and all type of blessings.

In Christian love, brother Pavel

BROTHER EMMANUEL SENDS YOU GREETINGS ...

Hello My Dear Brethren! Greetings in the name of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from the Ivano-Frankivsk Congregation!!!

As today happens to be the last day of the year 2017, and counting the many uncountable blessings the good Lord has showered upon me and my family, the more I became humble and awe of God on how He brought you all into my life to Edify, Encourage, Educate, Counsel, Advice, Prayers, Support, Inspire and above all, the AGAPE LOVE I received.

How I wish, I could be at each of you doorstep today to express my profound GRATITUDE AND THANKFULNESS in person but this seems not feasible at this moment. So, I will like to use this medium to say; THANK YOU ALL for your awesomeness and showing up to be a vessel for God to fulfilled His purpose for me this year.

**"In Mykulychyn
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GOD BLESS US ALL AND HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL SOON IN 2018 to forge a strong Alliance, Collaborations and Partnership to serve HUMANITY through HMI (HELP MOTHERLAND INTERNATIONAL) to the best of our abilities and gifts given unto us by our CREATOR in service for His Glorification.

Lord willing, the year 2018, there is going to be more opportunities especially our Medical Conference "BECOMING A GREAT PHYSICIAN, THE CHRIST FACTOR" to impact and share the Gospel with many. Please, kindly continue to remember this project, my wife, Children, entire family and and me in your prayers.

May His peace and grace be with us all.

Happy! Happy! New Year in Advance to you all, Brethren in The Lord!!!

Yours Brethren, Emmanuel

THE PAZIY FAMILY REPORTS FROM KRAMATORSK

Dear brothers and sisters, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! We love you and appreciate your love and support!

Kramatorsk.

We had some guests and events during this time. So good, as always to see the familiar faces of great people of faith, knowledge and wisdom. Thank you for dedicating your time doing the work here in Ukraine. We do appreciate that and never, never take it for granted.

Some work accomplished for the period: Visiting local schools, places of ATO Zone, keeping on humanitarian work, bible classes, visiting people (see the pictures).

Trips to Izum (Kharkov region)

Twice a month the Kramatorsk congregation is going to this place to conduct worship services. There are four Christians there who do want to hear the Word and looking forward for the visits of the Christians.

ABC school

The school is working at its full speed, ready to have a winter break to start again January the 9th. It has about 130 students this year.

Konstantinovka Church of Christ.

They have some growth in children's number. Sometimes it is really the issue—the children's room is too small for the number of kids arrived for the Bible class.

STAS AND ANNA IN LVIV...

Dear brothers and sisters!

Previous two months were filled with fruitful internal work in our congregation. At the beginning of November, we taught Bible classes and were spreading Christian literature and Bibles on the streets and at the libraries. Also in this month we have finished our English through the Bible program taught by our guests, the McConnell family. Due to



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this program we have more and more contacts with people for further evangelization.

At the end of November, we had our second annual seminar on the church growth. As a guest speaker we invited a preacher from Slavyansk Albert Bagdasaryan (we invited him last year as well); the topic of the seminar in this year was «The history of the church».

On the last Sunday of November, we celebrated the two years that our congregation exists in Lviv. I want to remind you that we have baptized 5 people during these two years.

In December we were getting ready to the New Year seminar «Kuroparty» that we have had for 5 years in a row. The topic of this seminar was «You are not alone» because of the loneliness that people feel even being around family and friends.

We continue having all of our regular Bible classes and singing practices.

During 2017 our small congregation had many evangelizing projects, multiple Bible classes and personal meetings with people in order to spread the Gospel. There was one baptism. The church in Lviv continues bringing fruit to the glory of God!

I am so grateful to God that together with you we can do this ministry in Ukraine and preach Jesus Christ and stand for God's biblical truth. Thank you for your prayer and financial support.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

God bless you abundantly!

Stas, Anna and Alice

SEASON'S GREETINGS ...

Happy New Year!

We hope that 2017 passed as you wanted, and 2018 will be even better! God's blessings in everything, good health, prosperity in the family and many happiness!

With big Christian love,
Ivan Skoleba's family, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine

Happy New Year, May the Lord bless you with peace, health, happiness and prosperity.

May New Year 2018 be the better year for you, your family, friends and everyone you cherish.

Wish you all the best!

Lela Kakachia, Poti, the Republic of Georgia