



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

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January 2018

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- Amazing things the Lord did in December



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“THIS YEAR STARTED WITH PRAYERS, STUDIES OF THE WORD OF GOD AND PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL...IN SNIATYN ALL WE HAVE BEEN HELPING ARE VERY THANKFUL AND HAVE STARTED READING THE BIBLE. PEOPLE WANT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST TO COME INTO THEIR TOWN. THEY HAVE HEARD HOW LORD’S CHURCH ASSEMBLES AND STUDIES BIBLE AND THEY WANT TO STUDY THE BIBLE.”

Dear Friends,

Another New Year has begun and I am waaaay behind in sending out the year’s first newsletter. So far 2018 has been crammed full of urgent action and activity. I began the year having cataract surgery and that consumed basically three weeks, then closed on the house in Montgomery bought three doors from Johnny & Monica, then packed and moved the first truckload to Montgomery, AL which was my office and some things for the house, then set up my office in the room provided by the Dalraida elders, then communicated incessantly concerning a number of shipments into Nigeria, the Republic of Georgia and Ukraine and wrestled with trucking companies that would schedule a load and then cancel at the last minute, then worked on remodeling the house bought, and then tried to do the usual actions.

I begin teaching a Bible Class in Dalraida’s Spring quarter on “The Restoration Movement” and am scheduled to teach a class on “Church Leadership” in the preacher training school in Ivano-Frankivsk in March-April while on my spring mission trip.

With resources and materials scattered between Arkansas and Alabama I have yet to put together the fiscal report for the end of 2017—but it is coming!

In spite of the constant urgencies of the last 6-8 weeks, this transition is going well. The elders at Dalraida are doing all they can to encourage and assist me, Patsy Thebo (church secretary at Dalraida) is fantastic in her help and record keeping, the Dalraida Mission Committee has been very supportive and volunteering in so many ways, and the Dalraida congregation has been so accepting and eager in many ways.

A special appreciation must be given to those in Searcy who continue to assist in the transition. The “Warehouse Warriors” remain involved in picking up donated items and loading containers. The hardy partners in Neelyville, MO and Columbus, MO continue their good works and have loaded containers for Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia. All in all the transition is going well...I just need the energy and joint-juices I had twenty years ago!

FOOD DELIVERED TO THE NEEDY IN THE LORD'S NAME



“Thanks to your prayers and aid we are able to help people all over Ukraine, even those that are situated in the war-zone. We send clothes, shoes, bread, butter and sugar. Older people starve to death, because they cannot walk past the mined zone.”



I continue to be confronted with the fact there is so much to do and so many pleas from so many foreign nations. THANK YOU for your partnership, encouraging words and financial support.

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

THE IMPACT OF OUR EFFORTS...

(I received this email from brother John Denny, Chase Park church of Christ in Huntsville, AL, regarding distribution from a container we shipped into the Cherkassy Oblast. This is from the preacher of the Cherkassy church of Christ.)

Greetings in the name of the Lord from Cherkassy, Ukraine!

It continues to be very icy. The snow started melting a few times, and then froze right back. Sidewalks are dangerous. There are some pictures in the attachment that I took on the way to the church building a few days ago.

Sveta is almost over with the virus that I had earlier. She got it too, and it was not fun. Sveta thought that TJ had a sore spot in his throat, but when she tried to get a closer look and pressed his tongue with the spoon for a little too long, TJ showed us what he had for lunch. Now my mother and my sister are having this virus as well. Several people at church are sick with it also. It took brother Leonid over two weeks to get over it.

I recently took my father to the hospital to have the shot that he gets every three months. I always watch it when the nurse is doing it, to make sure there is no foul play. The shot costs approximately \$230, so a person with a certain mindset may try to switch it to something cheap and resell the real one. Stories like that are rather common nowadays, since it's the patient (or their relatives) who have to buy the medication and bring it to the hospital, the nurse just gives the shot. Having watched the nurse now for several times, I think that she is an honest one (it is the same one every time).

So, when I was in the procedure room with my father, I actually saw the sharps collectors in use. These are the fancy trashcans with a one-way lid for disposal of syringes that we donated to the hospital last year (from the container project). There is a picture of them in the attachment.

These sharps collectors are actually quite expensive in Ukraine. According to the new regulations of the Ministry of Healthcare, every procedure room has to have them, but hospitals are reluctant to buy them because they are expensive (this is what I heard from brother Igor the medical equipment guy). Under these circumstances, the sharps collectors became an instant hit among our donations. This is something to maybe keep in mind if another container project becomes possible again in the future.

May the Lord bless you and your family in your service unto Him!

In Christian love, Slava

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

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters. This year started with prayers, studies of the Word of God and preaching of the Gospel.

REMEMBERING THE FATHERLESS AND THE WIDOWS



One more family has started attending worship and Bible studies of the Lord's Church – Brother Volodymyr's (taxi driver) aunt and uncle. Volodya is enrolled in the Bible School. He studies until 2:00 p.m. and then works as taxi-driver until 1:00 a.m. preaching the Gospel to those he gives a ride to and in the village where his relatives live.

Andrew and Marina continue working in Yaremche. They help people and in so-doing preach God to them. They stay in touch with the children's orphanage and doctors. They talk about God and church of Christ to the families they meet there.

Ruslan and Masha go to Sniatyn. We have a very good contact there Dmytro Onufrievych, who is a local deputy and is open to church of Christ. Ruslan and Masha took shoes for the children at the orphanage there as well as families of the ATO veterans. The two young men in military uniforms in one of the pictures are ones that have been to war. In another picture, there are orphaned children that received shoes from church. Unfortunately, the smallest size of the shoes we received was 35, while the majority of children wear sizes 30, 32 and 34.

All the people we have been helping for many years, are very thankful for that and only now have they started reading the Bible. Dmytro says that there are people in Sniatyn that want the church of Christ to come into their town because Ivano-Frankivsk is very far away from them. They have heard how Lord's Church assembles and studies Bible and they want to study the Bible. Since we have a correspondence school we can put together lessons for them. Pavel is in charge of the correspondence extension school and there are already eleven students enrolled in the studies.

Volodya and Julia work in Starry Lysets and teach English through the Bible to the children at school. Besides, Volodya teaches Bible classes in a neighboring village. Brethren do mature as they grow in the spirit and, Lord willing, will soon bring forth good fruit.

We continue assembling on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is a sermon preached and worship service conducted.

Our Wednesday Bible class discusses such topics as "God's Providence in our lives," "God's grace in our lives" and "What is the Gospel and why it is so powerful." Friday is a day of prayer and singing.

Our family is doing well. Anya is enrolled in the Medical School and she likes it. She has to study a lot.

Ruslan and Masha do much work at church. Ruslan conducts Lord's Supper and preaches at times. Masha helps Svetlana with needy people. Masha brought pictures from her village where men and women put on their national costumes and had pictures taken of them for American brethren. All of them send their love and gratitude for helping the village, for the Ultra sound machine and dental clinic that you gave them, as well as food, clothes and shoes.

Thank you for prayers and support of our ministry in Ivano-Frankivsk. Thanks to your prayers and aid we are able to help people all over Ukraine, even those that are situated in the war-zone. We send clothes and shoes to them. Christians that are situated in the war-zone and are not afraid to come out to the area that is under Ukraine's control help us with that. Thus, thanks to these brethren some of the needy there can have bread, butter and sugar.

REPORT ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF CONTAINERS!

“I recently took my father to the hospital...when I was in the procedure room with my father, I saw the sharps collectors in use. These...we donated to the hospital last year. These sharps collectors are actually quite expensive in Ukraine. According to the new regulations of the Ministry of Healthcare, every procedure room has to have them, but hospitals are reluctant to buy them because they are expensive. Under these circumstances, the sharps collectors became an instant hit among our donations.”



Anatoly is one of those brethren. He is from Lugansk and delivers aid to the needy. Anatoly says that the conditions that people live in there are horrible, older people starve to death, because they cannot walk past the mined zone and checkpoints are too far to walk. So many elderly people live by their trust in God and believers that deliver help running a risk for their lives.

Ukraine is facing a lot of problems nowadays, the root for which is ungodly lives of our ancestors that handed it down to us. And it is such a great mercy and grace from God to have sent American missionaries here that preached the pure Gospel to us instead of a twisted one and opened our eyes to the realities of this world.

Please, keep Masha in your prayers. She is so vigorous and does a lot for the church but she cannot make her mind to be baptized. We see God change her and if she is baptized she will be a wonderful helpmeet for Ruslan in his ministry. With love,

Ivan and Svetlana

PAVAL SENDS END OF YEAR THOUGHTS...

Dear brothers and sisters, I am sending you my love as I greet you again in the New Year. May peace, love and grace be with you at all times. I thank the Lord for you and your prayers every time I pray to Him. I hope that you had great Christmas and the holiday season was a time of joy for you. Besides, I ask the Lord to help us grow in wisdom, love, understanding and ability to care for our neighbors so that we can labor more in God's vineyard, gather as much treasures in heaven as we can, and save as many souls that are in dire need of God, His love and grace, as we can.

I went to Kryvy Rig during winter break and took my boys with me to visit with their grandmothers. We took as many family buckets as we could with us and gave them out to people in need of those things. They asked us to thank you for the buckets. Besides, we gave away Bibles so that those people could study the Word of God on their own instead of listening to all the nonsense that denominations are trying to impress on them. I was also introduced to a single mother with 3 children that can hardly make ends meet. Her children are 13, 9 and 6 years of age. Upon my return to Ivano-Frankivsk, I send them several boxes with clothes and shoes. Having received those boxes, she called me and there was so much joy and gratitude in her voice that it made me feel as if I was the one to have received those boxes. She begged me to send big thanks to you on her behalf for your help to others. To which I said that she had better thank the Lord in the first place as He opened our hearts and gave us ways to help. I trust that even our smallest evangelistic efforts will help open hearts of people so that they will have room for our Creator and Savior to dwell there.

I continue taking part in the busy life of the Church, which I enjoy very much. I visit people trying to encourage them and help distribute humanitarian aid. Besides, I help members to solve their domestic problems and concerns as much as I can. How wonderful it is to hear their words of appreciation and to understand that you can use your God-given talents to help them. I continue teaching Bible correspondence course. Soon we will have more tests and I hope that students will be well-prepared to do as good as they did at their previous tests.

SHOES...

"Masha brought pictures from her village where men and women put on their national costumes and had pictures taken of them for American brethren. All of them send their love and gratitude for helping the village, for the Ultra sound machine and dental clinic that you gave them, as well as food, clothes and shoes."



We have almost completed the storage area where we plan to make construction materials to build our church building to praise our Lord there. Dear brethren, please pray with me and ask God to help us grow wiser and stronger this year and bring as many as possible into His army.

I pray and ask God to bless you in everything you do and to make you stronger health wise and in the spirit. I keep all of you in my prayers. I wish good health, God's love and blessings to you and your families.

In Christian love, brother Pavel

VOLODYA & JULIA SEND NEWS FROM LYSETS ...

Hello dear brother Jim. How are you?

I want to apologize that I did not immediately answer the question about the Bibles that the priest asked. I just did not understand completely his intention. It seems like he teaches some lessons in the public school and told that the Bibles will be there. To tell the truth I am in doubt about this. In this month, I have ordered about 100 Bibles and 100 Bibles for kids and many other Christian literatures. That is why I am going to suggest that we use that kind of translation of the Bible that is printed. This is not what he was talking about and if he will not want these Bibles let the Catholics pay for their translation of the Bible. Those Bibles, which he wants, cost about 140 grievna each.

After our coming back from east, we have started to communicate more with Volodya's siblings, about whom I had written before. One time I came as a guest and the second time we gathered together for studying the Scripture. We agreed to have the classes each week on Wednesday about 3 p. m. On Sunday, I continue to take them for the Worship to Ivano-Frankivsk. They are coming from Baptists that is why I am not sure about their baptisms. Now we are talking a lot on this topic. The husband and wife (they are the base of this family) also attended Pentecostals. When the situation will be clear, we will start to gather together in our home or at one women who is lives in Lysets. They were baptized but I do not know for what reason they were doing this: for the forgiveness of the sins or to became a member of the denominational church. However, I believe that God will help to figure out this because these people are looking for the true God. The husband, who is the leader of the family, take serious to the studying the Bible. We studied some moments from the Bible together with him a little bit before and after the worship on Sunday and I saw that, he is open for the studying. (He started to read the Scripture three years ago.)

Also, we have met the family and it seems that they are also looking for the true God. This is a young family, they have two children and the elder one is having a cerebral palsy in children. The father of this young women is Pentecostal. They live in Stariy Lysets close to us. We had an opportunity to help with some things for this sick child. I think we will continue to communicate with this family. Maybe we have met each other that to bring them to God. I talked with the father of this young women he is attending the Pentecostals. He was asking me about the teaching of churches of Christ. We will continue to communicate with them. Probably they will be also open to the gospel.

I have already told you that we ordered the Christian literature and we made a stamp for putting on books on which is said that we are Church of Christ,

BRICKS BOUGHT!

"We have spent the last funds collected for construction. We have bought bricks and sand and gravel for the mortar. We were able to order all construction materials before prices went up. At present we haul bricks and other materials to our property unloading them day and night."



my phone number and the opportunity to study the Bible. Now we plan to stamp all literature we have and spread it. The first it will be school and village libraries and those people, who we have already known here.

I am sending to you the pictures of the chairs about which I have written in a previous report. This is a simple chair, a little bit smaller than usual because they are for the 10 years children. The teacher who is teaching them told us that these chairs was brought by kids from home, that is why they are all different and not in a very good state. The total is 50.

Thank you for the prayers and support!

With love, Volodya and Julia

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES...

Dear Brother John.

We have spent the last funds collected for construction. We have bought bricks for construction of the base, for inner laying, for the outside laying and sand and gravel for the mortar. With this last money we were able to order all construction materials before prices went up. Prices on construction materials went up by 25-37% at the beginning of this month. At present we haul bricks and other materials to our property unloading them day and night because it is a huge order and we need to move it from the brick plant as soon as possible. Bookkeeper will provide a detailed report after February 20. We send you copies of receipts.

In Christ, brothers Ivan, Andrew, Ruslan and Pavel

FROM THE MAIL BOX...

From: ма́рія бушко

Subject: ЛИСТ

Good day! My name is Maria. I am from Zaporizhia, Ukraine. I have read many good things about church of Christ and about your work and your aid all over the world. It is wonderful to have such groups that help needy people. So, I decided to ask you for help as well. Could you, please, help my disabled parents (deaf and dumb)? Do you have hearing aid for people with hearing problems? They also need a blood pressure device as they are elderly and have to monitor their blood pressure every day.

We will appreciate if you can help us find these devices. With their pensions they cannot afford such necessary things. I, in my turn, cannot help them because I am a single mother with two children receiving the minimum salary.

I trust that you can help my parents. Success and prosperity to you!

Sincerely yours, Maria