



# UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

April 2018

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Amazing things the Lord did in April



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**“WE HAVE GIVEN HUMANITARIAN AID TO MANY PEOPLE AS WELL AS DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS THIS MONTH. PEOPLE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE CHURCH. SOME OF THOSE THAT RECEIVED HUMANITARIAN AID HAVE STARTED COMING TO SERVICES.”**

The month of April was consumed by the last weeks in Ukraine and then returning to Montgomery to go to Nashville, TN for my final check up after cataract surgery to a few days in south Alabama at the Gulf then back to Columbia, TN and then to Waynesboro, TN for reporting and preaching and then back to Montgomery!

The work amazingly continues. Charita ([worldofconnections.org](http://worldofconnections.org)) messaged that there was a container of hospital supplies for Gambia but the shipping funds never developed. Charita asked if we knew of anyone in Africa that would want the container and pay shipping. We received several replies...brethren in Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda! Charita has worked with the donor organization and ALL the interested locations will be able to receive a container. These containers are all NEW commodities! The retail value is \$230,000.00+ but they are donated with only a small charge for paperwork. These are loaded, with NO charge, at different locations and shipped to their destination. These containers will be loaded out of KS and northern IN. Amazing!

Another amazing development focuses on *LIBERIA!* “Hello Brother Kachelman, I am brother William S. Cassell, a graduate of Bible and Ministry from Harding University, a Liberian. I once visited the Judsonia warehouse and requested the brethren’s help to supply to Liberia for a medical clinic. I have completed the clinic and I am not in the US but would like to receive the container. Thank you so much for your willingness to help the Liberian people through the Lord’s Church. Attached is the listing of material for Brackett Christian Health Center. God bless the brethren that work so hard to ship this container. In Christ Love, William”

In Neelyville, MO we will load another container for Ukraine and Searcy, AR will load a container for the Republic of Georgia! Searcy is *MORE* than busy...they picked up 200+ mattresses...they continue to receive calls from hospitals to pick up donated supplies...they continue working at the warehouse, especially on Thursdays. Columbus, MS has sent containers to Ukraine this year and Kathy has been in Haiti following up on shipments (most of you have probably read her post about “Mile Mark 19”).

The summer months are filling the calendar...VBS at Dalraida (June 10-13)...preaching a gospel meeting in Gurley, AL (July 22-25)!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support of our efforts!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

## HOSPITAL ROOMS REFURBISHED!



*This a room in the hospital where our church made repairs that brother John Kachelman and other American brethren helped raise funds to complete.*

*Because of this church members are allowed to use this room without charge.*

*We are sending our heartfelt thanks to all of you for your love and prayers.*

*In Christian love,  
Your brethren from  
Ivano-Frankivsk*

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## FROM NIGERIA ENCOURAGING WORDS...

Dear Brethren,

Greetings and happy Lord's day to every one of you and others who truly love us in the faith! We cannot wait to share amazing and exciting news with you.

Four precious souls were won for Christ today at the Campus church of Christ, Rhema Christian Academy, Uruk Otong, Nigeria. Three baptisms and one restoration were recorded this morning. Two teenagers who are students of World English Institute (WEI) and one young woman from our neighboring village, who has a child in our kindergarten, accepted Christ and were baptized today at the Campus Church. An elderly woman who was baptized 30 years ago in 1988 at Inen Abasi Atai church of Christ, but who left the faith few years after her baptism was restored today.

Below are the names of the four souls being added to the Lord's Kingdom at Uruk Otong today:

- (1) Imo Effiong Sam - a teenage boy & WEI student (baptized)
- (2) Blessing Uduak Jonah - a teenage girl & WEI student (baptized)
- (3) Mfon Okon Obot - a young mother and parent at RCA (baptized)
- (4) Affiong Okon Akpan - an elderly woman (restored)

Please join us to pray that these souls and many others who will come to the Lord in subsequent weeks, months and years will be steadfast in the faith, and that we, older Christians will be good examples to them.

Thank you for your prayers, materials and financial support which have made these achievements possible. After just one year of training our ministry students, the gospel is spreading like wildfire in our community and is going viral.

We are expecting over 300 individuals to gather again at Rhema Christian Academy for a one-day Bible seminar on Saturday April 28, 2018. Please we solicit your prayers and financial support to enable us conduct the seminar effectively.

In Christian service, Aniefiok & Queen Akpan

PS: Due to bad internet we can't send pictures as email attachments.

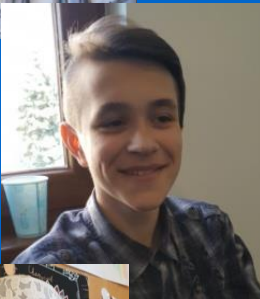
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## A BRIEF NOTE RECEIVED...

Greetings Johnny! I have already written that together with your dad we had very good and important meetings with people that might be helpful to the church in Ivano-Frankivsk and the region. Your dad will fill you in on the details. Besides, we had two immersions yesterday—two medical students were baptized. Newton and Jill had been coming to church for several years and had studied the Bible diligently. We thank God that they have been baptized. Today (Sunday) we greeted them on behalf of the church and gave them English Bibles.

Many people would like to be baptized but some are concerned for their families' reactions and are afraid to lose family ties that would bring about financial problems. People need time and more assurance. We do what we can and are looking forward to have your help in the fall. Everything that your

THE CHILDREN OF THE  
IVANO-FRANKIVSK  
CHURCH



dad relayed to us on the behalf of the Dalraida Elders has been done and now we are making plans as for our work in the village of Ugornyky.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Greetings to all. In Christian love, Ivan

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

Report for April 2018 Church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk.

Greetings dear brothers and sisters!

We always remember you in our prayers and thank you for your prayers on our behalf.

Our ministry in Ivano-Frankivsk goes on. We continue assembling twice a week – Wednesday and Sunday. In our Wednesday classes we study such topics: “Our Prayer,” “The Church of Christ in the New Testament.” On Sunday we preached a series of sermons on Biblical Faith and Christianity in the Modern World. We have many guests who ask good questions on these topics. All the men take turns ministering at worship services. They wait at the Lord’s Table and pray, lead singing and those that are about to graduate from the World Bible Institute (WBI) take turns teaching Bible lessons.

We have had two baptisms this month – two medical students have been baptized. They came to Church for several years and since we had our lessons and sermons interpreted into English, Newton and Jill could hear and understand them. It is a joyful event. There are a few more now that are willing to be baptized. These are Natalie, an interpreter, and Masha, Ruslan’s wife. Please, pray so that they will choose to overcome their fear of their aggressive Orthodox relatives.

On behalf of the congregation I would like to thank brothers John Kachelman and John Durham for good Bible classes as well as moral and spiritual encouragement. John Kachelman taught leadership classes that stimulated our men to be more active, which has lifted some burden off my shoulders. So now I can devote more time to my direct responsibilities as a preacher. Besides, we thank our brother John Durham for his classes and help with our work.

We have given humanitarian aid to many people as well as different institutions this month. People are grateful to the Church. Some of those that received humanitarian aid have started coming to services. Our attendance is 30-50 people. This is a time of the year when many are busy planting their gardens and work hard. Some members have to go to neighboring countries for seasonal jobs. Thus, they can join in attendance of the Church only a few times a month.

The men of the congregation continue to take part in the construction of the church building. We are keeping the construction costs under close control. We check prices on materials, delivery and quality of materials counting every penny. We try to purchase the materials ourselves to save cost.

It was a hard day today as we brought in lumber that is needed for our tall walls. All men helped. It is wonderful to see everybody take part as much as they can and look forward to the end of construction. We do all we can to consolidate the congregation.

## SMILING EYES OF GRATITUDE!



New Socks for the FIRST time!

“We continue distributing humanitarian aid to people. We constantly give out clothes and food that you send us. I wish you could hear the words of gratitude addressed to you and to our Lord for the aid people receive from us. Joy in their eyes motivate us to work harder.”

We have started building walls with the structure bricks. We pray that our good Lord will help us see the construction of the whole building through and we will have the sign posted so all will know it is church of Christ and not denomination. We will feel secure in our own building. While now with a rented facility we are being asked by owners not to put any signs out (not even to announce free benevolence help) because the Catholic Church is against us having a sign. The business men are fearful that Catholic Church will hinder their businesses.

But despite all these problems we see the power of the Gospel and we see the Word of God change people and their attitude toward others.

My wife and I want to thank all of you, dear brethren, for your prayers and support of the church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk.

In Christian love, Ivan and Svitlana

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### PAVAL REPORTS ON HIS MINISTRY...

Peace and grace to you. I am happy to greet you again and send my love to you, dear brothers and sisters from America. As we pray we thank our Heavenly Father who has opened your hearts to support us both financially and in the spirit with such love, understanding and sympathy. We thank you for your prayers. The churches of Christ in Ukraine are encouraged by your love and care and grow stronger.

And here is my report on the work done within this month.

We continue distributing humanitarian aid to people. We constantly give out clothes and food that you send us. I wish you could hear the words of gratitude addressed to you and to our Lord for the aid people receive from us. Joy in their eyes motivate us to work harder.

Besides the constant work in distributing humanitarian aid, I try to help members of the Lord's Church as well as those that are not members of Lord's Church. Even though there are many in this country who are sincere in religion many others are hardened in their hearts. I try to help all as much as I can and I do it with great pleasure since our deeds should be those of God's children.

Please, pray for our Bible Institute so that the students would apply the knowledge they receive and would bring forth fruit in God's vineyard. Indeed, our main task is to bring to the Lord as many people as possible so they will enjoy His love and care.

I continue teaching the correspondence course to my students. We have studied Historical Evidences of Christianity. We studied historic documents associated with the historical personality of Christ. We have also studied archeological researches of the Bible, archeological proofs of biblical characters and cities, and many other things that prove and back up Bible stories. And soon the students will have their test on this topic and as usual I hope that everybody will do great in it.

As always, I am asking you to pray for my family, my children, growth and maturing of churches of Christ all over Ukraine and throughout the world. Please, keep in your prayers those that have not become followers of Christ but would like to do so. Please, pray for the Lord to add to His Church as many people as possible, for peace in this country, for this madness of a war to be over so that the innocent wouldn't be killed any more.

## Not Weared By Well-Doing!



*“Our persistence in doing good to all has been bringing forth fruit little by little. Hearts of people are more open for discussions with each trip we take. Relief supplies that we take there to give out to large and needy families, the out-patient hospital in Mykulychyn, the local hospital in Yaremche, and the boarding school causes a bond between us with the people of that area.”*

I pray for the Lord to bless you in all you do, to give you good health and maturity in spirit. I keep all of you in my prayers and wish you good health, God's love and grace.

In Christian love, brother Pavel

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### **ANDREW & MARINA SEND GREETINGS AND NEWS...**

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

We trust that you are doing fine. We continue our ministry in Yaremche and Mykulychyn (Yaremche District).

We have been to the boarding school in Mykulychyn three times already. There are seventy-six children of different ages in that school. About half of the children go home and stay with their relatives during their school breaks. The rest never leave the school.

We gave shoes, clothes and craft supplies to the children and visited with them some. Children, in their turn, recited poems about St Nicholas that they had learnt at school. The Headmaster and children were very appreciative and asked us to come back.

Together with the medical nurses from the local out-patient department we continue visiting large families that have received food, shoes and clothes from us. Children in these families are not being cared for properly. Thus, they need someone to support and protect them. Nurses have told us that there were situations when they came to check on the children and the latter would be hungry and there would be no food at their home, and their parents would be gone. Or they would come to check on a family to find the mother feeding her three-year old child with uncooked millets that she had just soaked in water because there was no natural gas (the cooking gas had been cut off because they had no money to pay) or wood to start the furnace to boil water and cook. Stories like that are countless as each family has their problems. Nurses help these children as much as they can. The nurses feel for those that are facing hardships, which is very commendable. Thus, we partner with them to help those people. It draws us close to one another.

We stay in contact with the Chief Doctor and the personnel of the local hospital. We give them aid that comes in through our benevolent funds. When we were there recently with Dwayne Dutka, Oleksander Petrovych, the Chief Doctor, showed us around the hospital where each department had some supplies they had received from us in shipments of containers. Everybody there gave big thanks for the aid received.

Our persistence in doing good to all has been bringing forth fruit little by little. Hearts of people are more open for discussions with each trip we take. Relief supplies that we take there to give out to large and needy families, the out-patient hospital in Mykulychyn, the local hospital in Yaremche, and the boarding school causes a bond between us with the people of that area.

The distribution of humanitarian aid has a great importance in Lord's work here. Because of our work in distributing the benevolence items, people wonder and are amazed. Those who receive ask questions showing their perplexity: Who are we and why do we always visit them and always have something for them and do not ask for anything in return? What is our purpose? Such questions allow us to explain, even though not at length, what the source of our inspiration to do good is and to talk to them about God's

## REMEMBERING THE FATHERLESS AND THE WIDOWS



principles of living in a truly Christian society. We explain to them that we are Christians and members simply in church of Christ and want to help their community as much as we can. In response to this they say, "This is good. We also give to the established Orthodox Church but the latter does not give us anything."

People in that area are very sincere and religious, they go to Church, keep religious holidays, and fast. They practice those things in their everyday life from their very childhood as their parents and grandparents taught them. However, it is all nominal and is performed as a ritual with no understanding why they do that and whether it is actually pleasing to God. They explain that they do that because their parents practiced those things. This is a blind faith; a blind trust in priests that does not bring forth the fruit that the Lord expects from His children. And we need to show them a different reality so that they would understand the message. It is very important for they face many a problem in their lives and do not know how to solve them but at the same time they are not open to hear. It takes time, especially in this area.

Brethren, please, pray for our work and the people we have met and keep in touch with. Please, pray for the Lord to show His mercy.

In Christian love, Andrew and Marina

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## DENNIS SPOELNIK FROM BVBIU...

Dear brothers and sisters, churches and families,

I'd like to share with you the news about our Institute April's events.

This year we graduate 7 of our students. The graduation is May 26th and it's a very joyous day. Two years ago, 11 students had joined the program but unfortunately 4 of them didn't cross the finish line. Some of them were expelled as a result of some disciplinary actions but some decided to quit due to the rigorous study requirements. We are sorry that it happens but I'm not sure I know how to avoid such occurrences. We have a set of requirements for our potential students. First, they have to get a reference letter from their home congregation men's business meeting or eldership. Secondly, a student has to be an active member of the Church for at least three years prior to joining our program. Then they have to have a formal meeting with our recruiting staff members and produce the medical card. We are very determined to choose the right people stopping those who are not interested in preaching the truth. However, only after the first few months of the program we get the real picture.

This year so far, we have a few recruits hoping to find more potential students during the summer time. So, I'd like to request prayers for new students of the Ukrainian extension.

The other big news is that I have an opportunity to study with people who are confused by denominational teachings. We found a group of people who gather on Sundays and worship with no leadership. They asked us to come and preach for them on Sunday afternoons. So, I had a chance to meet them and have a Bible study. I taught about the true Church and we had started the discussion of the plan of salvation. We pray that these seeds grow and produce good fruit and their hearts will be open to receiving the truth.

In April our first-year students had Ezekiel (taught by D. Sopelnik), Book of Daniel (taught by A. Bagdasaryan) and the Gospel of Luke (taught by Viktor Semikoz) while the second-year students had 1 and 2 Corinthians (D.



SHOT ON MI 6  
MI DUAL CAMERA

## CONTAINER DISTRIBUTION



"We stay in contact with the Chief Doctor of the local hospital. We give them aid that comes in through our benevolent funds. When we were there recently and Oleksander Petrovych, the Chief Doctor, showed us around the hospital where each department had some supplies they had received from us in shipments of containers. Everybody there gave big thanks for the aid received."



Sopelnik), Personal Evangelism (A. Rodichev) and the Book of Revelation (taught by A. Zhuravlev).

Now we are getting ready for the summer evangelical practice. Usually the students return to their home congregations where they have to practically apply their knowledge. We discuss the details of the activities with the local preachers and they come up with a plan of what needs to be done by our students. This time of the year is interesting in the way that each of them can try and see how they feel in the position of a preacher. Each of them has a list of activities for every month usually including visiting the sick and those who are not faithful in attendance, pulpit preaching, active participation in Sunday services, etc.

And also, our students are still very active in street evangelism. They purchased a microphone and a speaker. Some people stop and listen, usually very interested in the Scripture reading, but unfortunately that's the extent of their interest. During the whole last year only one person visited the Church being attracted by the street evangelism. It reminds me of God's words addressed to Ezekiel 33:32, "And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one who hath a pleasant voice... for they hear thy words, but they do them not."

Thank you all who keep us in your prayers and supports the ministry of BVBIU. We are very thankful for your generosity and care.

Your brother in Christ, Dennis Sopelnik

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## FROM TBILISI, REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA...

Dear Mr. Kachelman, Please be informed that both containers ROG 118 and ROG 218 have finally arrived.

We conducted a duty-free customs clearance and unloaded commodities at the warehouse and the containers were released on time. Both seals were intact.

Thank you for your great support and assistance!!!! We will start a distribution process and will collect necessary feedback for donors.

Indeed, this time of year is great, everything is green, lots of flowers! But what can we do to express our great appreciation—we appreciate your efforts together with Charita's and all who collect and load these containers on the USA side. We hope to continue our successful partnership!

We would like to invite you (you, Charita and all team members who assist in loadings) to Georgia. We would arrange formal meetings with Central and Local Government of Georgia, visit IDP settlements and various vulnerable groups including disabled that your team has helped greatly. As we have invited you before to bring churches of Christ so we can join in God's work! Besides we would like to take you for some sightseeings trips and inform you about Georgian culture and history.

Thank you once again for your constant support and care! Best Regards! Irakli

***"Brethren, please, pray for our work and the people we have met and keep in touch with. Please, pray for the Lord to show His mercy."***