



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

May 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

- Tanya's reflections on the Spring mission trip
- Reports from our brethren in Ivano-Frankivsk, Lysets, Bell Tserkva



"This is Galya and her child. This woman came with her child from the mountains to attend worship services and Bible study with us."

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"IT IS HARD TO CHANGE TRADITIONAL BELIEFS THAT ARE FIRMLY IMPRINTED IN PEOPLE'S SUBCONSCIOUSNESS. BUT WE ASK GOD TO GUIDE US AND HELP US FIND BEST WAYS TO REACH OUT TO PEOPLE."

The news in this month's UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWSLETTER is encouraging! Throughout the month I have received many reports, photos, and communications on the progress of the gospel in many locations. Every day I receive communications regarding our efforts and am often amazed at the worldwide response to our efforts. There is a wonderful network of hearts and souls that working to propel actions and words of God's great compassion. Several months ago, I received this email: *"Good day brother John, Church of Christ Paget, Bermuda was glad to help out with benevolence. We believe in helping others when we can. Dave & Jocille Blakeney."* This is not the first time these brethren have assisted efforts. When we were spearheading efforts to send relief to IDPs in northern Somali this Church sent a contribution to help that action.

The Church in Paget, Bermuda exemplifies the wonderful attitude of those following the New Testament. Such an attitude was commended by the Apostle Paul, *"For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God"* (2 Corinthians 8:3-5).

What a WONDERFUL attitude! What a WONDERFUL devotion! What a WONDERFUL sacrifice so that those in need would know of the surpassing love and grace of God!

And...the result recorded by Paul is mirrored in the sacrificial giving of our brethren in Paget, Bermuda. *"For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you"* (2 Corinthians 9:12-14).

As you read through this month's newsletter you will find great encouragement in the news that doors of opportunity are opening for us. Please join with us as we step forward to seize these opportunities!

For those who support financially I want to say THANK YOU for your support. Without your donations the good news actions reported in this newsletter would not be possible!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

TANYA'S REFLECTIONS ON THE SPRING MISSION TRIP...

ТИМОФЕЙ СКОЛЕБА!



“He had scarlet fever. Had to have his heart checked because scarlet fever can cause heart complications.”



“Привет с Украины”
 (“Greetings from Ukraine”)



Greetings, my dear brethren! Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ! I thank our God for you and that your hearts are open and willing to do good to all men and especially to those of the household of the faith. You do not lose your heart and this encourage us so much, giving us strength to persevere and grow in spirit so that we could imitate you and your good deeds just like the Apostle Paul encouraged his brethren in 1 Corinthians 4:16. You help and lift us up in so many ways with your prayers, your words and deeds of encouragement, your financial support, your mission trips here, the relief items that you tirelessly collect and ship here.

BIG thanks to you for your great support, for being a wonderful Christian example to us! May our good Lord bless you beyond measure and may He meet all the needs that you might have in your lives.

Your love, care and help are manifested through the support of missionaries that come here as they refresh our spirit and zeal for the Lord, they teach and help us have a better insight into the things from above and into God's will for each one of us and for His Church. Such visits also help remind us that we are not alone and that there are brethren all over the world who care even though they may never meet us.

John Kachelman is one of those missionaries and he has been a source of strength and encouragement to us as well as an ambassador of your love and care for us. We always look forward to his trips and his good practical lessons.

His recent trip was, as always, full of activities. The first part of the trip dealt with follow-up visits to places that received humanitarian aid that you, dear brethren, collected and shipped here. Much has been said about humanitarian aid already but it is impossible to describe the joy, excitement, gratitude that you see in the eyes of those receiving relief items. When their faces light up in amazement and joy you know it is worth all the trouble, headaches and hassles that we face sending relief shipments. Thank you so much for providing funds to pay transportation. Thank you for going out of your way to collect, sort, load and ship those much-needed items.

I cannot but mention our trip to Zhytomyr where John was invited to two disabled schools where some of the shoes were given away. You saw some of the photos in John's reports. I wish you could have been there to see the light and excitement in the eyes of those children! We visited some needy families and brought some relief items to them together with our partner in Zhytomyr the Benevolent Fund Vzaemodia. Some of those families are really in dire straits. Living below the poverty line some of the men have a drinking problem and even steal the food from their children that they receive as benevolent help. They steal and sell this food to get themselves some booze. It is incredible that someone would do such a thing to any child but especially to his own children!

There was a meeting with the Director of a group that gives aid to people and medical institutions in the buffer zone of Luhansk. They dropped out of the process for some time but were willing to resume the work. So hopefully there will be containers going that way to help those abandoned and forgotten who live in the buffer zone.

ENCOURAGING EMAILS OF ACTIONS FOR THE LORD!

TANZANIA...

From Searcy comes this
note from sister Lola
Crouch:

*Hello, John,
I am needing a contact in
Tanzania to baptized one of my
WEI students.
He is in Mwanza city.
Thank you for any help.
Love in Jesus,
Lola*

Sister Crouch is involved in
teaching the gospel in
many locations of the world
via World English Institute
online classes!

COSTA RICA...

Tom Brandon is traveling to
Costa Rica to teach a
course in Timothy & Titus
in the preacher training
school. He is taking some
materials that I prepared.

*John with your permission I
am changing your power point
slides into a modified outline
to teach my class in Costa
Rica. I have attached how I
have done the first lesson as an
example. Just wanted to check
and make sure it was ok. I will
be teaching from this outline.
I've tried to design it so they
will have enough room to take
notes on their copy.
Thanks, Tom Brandon*

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP
SPREAD THE GOSPEL?**

As always, there was a wonderful visit to Kramatorsk where besides seeing distribution sites we also got to spend time with our dear Kramatorsk brethren. Meeting with Valery Ivanovich, our humanitarian aid partner of many years, was one of the highlights of the trip as well. We stayed in the same hotel where the military used to have their hospital but this time they were gone. I missed seeing them although their absence was a good sign that danger from Russia's war is not as bad.

The trip to Zaporozhe was, as always, full and overflowing with meetings and follow-up visits. Our consignee there is the group called "Veterans of Chernobyl" and they always amaze me with their enthusiasm and sincere will to help those in need. All in the group were in Chernobyl at some point right after the meltdown so all of them have bad health problems BUT they say they do not have time to pay attention to those health issues because they are busy doing good and helping others.

Another distribution point was in Vinnytsia. That location helps retired people more than anyone else. We were taken to a distribution place where pensioners can come and select clothes for them. We met with some at the Center and they were so grateful for clothes, shoes and other relief items they had received. There is a group of volunteers there that come and sort clothes and help others find what they need. They even take clothes to those invalids shut-in who cannot come to the distribution center on their own. It was an encouraging and humbling visit. It made me feel good to realize once again that there is actually a good number of Ukrainians that care for others and want to help. As long as we have them we have a hope for this country.

One actually does not have to have a great amount of world goods to help because there are always those that have less and can afford less. We just need to have the desire to watch out for those and be willing to help by showing our faith through our deeds. And your faith shines brightly through your deeds as you make it possible for us to help those in need. Had it not been for your loving and caring spirit and your self-denying efforts to collect, sort and ship relief items the majority of those people would never have had that light of hope and excitement shine in their eyes! May the light of our Lord shine brightly in your lives and may it reflect in those whose lives you touch with your benevolent hearts!! I send a million thanks to you!!!

Besides the visits to follow up on humanitarian aid distribution John taught classes on Leadership at our branch of the World Bible Institute. Those were lessons that covered all areas of the life of a leader. They revealed many aspects and problems that would not even come to your mind otherwise. Thus, the lessons were very practical. Ivan wrote in his report that those lessons motivated our leaders to be more active and self-denying. I have noticed it as well. So, we thank our brother John for this good motivation to do better, to be better servants of our Lord and His church. However, it is not only his lessons that are so encouraging and motivating but John's whole life and attitude is a great incentive to us as he always cares, he is always willing to help in any possible way, always willing to walk that extra mile (and very often it would be extra 10 miles...).

John's sermons were profound and timely. He preached and taught a Bible class on the Restoration Plea. Those lessons clearly stated the purpose of God's Church and how worldly minds often corrupt God's designs. The lessons explained the importance of earthly Church and that we should not just go to any "church" but seek the one that was established by the **Lord**, that exists to serve **His** purpose, and is designed according to **His** pattern.

SMILING EYES OF GRATITUDE!



Mykulychyn where Andrew and Marina gave away pillow case dresses that Kathy sent and shoes from the shoe container. Thought you both would like to have these. Love and hugs to both of you, Tanya



In this religious area the points in the lessons are things that people do not think of as they attend their traditional church thinking that is all God wants them to do. They do not study the Bible because they think the priest is the only one who can understand it. So, they are willing to let him study and tell us what to do.

The lessons urged us to be aware of Satan's evil and the subtle attacks to destroy God's Church.

It does not happen overnight but little by little Satan pulls people away from God. He does not need to make people openly blaspheme God. All he has to do is to lure them to compromise God's pattern, God's purpose, God's ordinances and they have a religious façade but are a counterfeit church.

We see this tragedy all over the world and Western Ukraine is no exception. In fact, we can see it even more clearly in this religious area with its traditions and prejudices. People are very religious and they would stop by multiple shrines to make the sign of the cross but the question is do people understand or want to understand what they are doing or is it just a mere tradition, a ritual that they perform similar to the brushing of their teeth???

The majority of church members here come from such families with such understanding so it is very important for us to remember that God does not accept just any worship, any church but only that which is done by His standards and to be able to explain that to our kin. It is important to know why there are so many churches and why all claim they are true but in reality they are counterfeits.

So, you see that the lessons John taught were truly vital and practical as they explained how God's Church can fall away from God and how God has warned us to be alert and to make sure we do not turn into a counterfeit church.

Big THANKS to all of you for being supportive of John's mission efforts. You have been such a great help and encouragement over all these years he has been coming to Ukraine. He has come to refresh, lift up, edify, build us up, to help us mature to be better servants of our Lord, to urge us to be alert and to warn us against the many ploys that are typical of Satan and his evil horde. And you are inseparable part of this great work and success.

As you know, we are building our own meeting place, which will be a great tool to evangelize and draw more people to the Lord. As said above, this area has very strong, deeply rooted Greek Catholic—Orthodox traditions believing that church is a fancy building, anything less than that is viewed with suspicion and reservations. So, it is quite a challenge to impress on people that Lord's Church is not a place but an assembly of people and wherever a group is gathered in the name of the Lord, there His Church is. But you do not change such traditions overnight. And our own assembly place will play a very important role helping people that are open and interested to feel better about coming to Church; and an assembly place like we are building will be a proof for them and their families, relatives, friends that we are not some kind of cult trying to trap them out and scam them for everything they have. Such fears are very evident here as traditional churches impress that on people as a method for controlling the members.

It is hard to change traditional beliefs that are firmly imprinted in people's subconsciousness. But we ask God to guide us and help us find best ways to reach out to people. I strongly believe that our own assembly place will be one

Not Weared By Well-Doing!



I was shocked by one meeting with children in Yaremche where Andrew and Marina gave away peanut butter to starving children and their parents. Marina spread peanut butter on bread and children enjoyed it so much. Those children looked weak and fragile due to malnutrition and would ask for more all the time. We left some peanut butter, bread and rice for them and asked their mother to make sure she did not give them too much so that they would not overeat and get sick.



of those efficient tools. I want to thank you, dear brethren, for your great help with this project, for all the funds that you have collected to help us see the project through.

There is still a lot to do and a great amount of funds to raise but we trust and believe the Lord will provide, and we pray asking Him to take care of things and thanking Him for blessing us in amazing ways. We thank Him for you, for your big kind hearts that are open wide onto us, for helping us bear our burdens, for being a refreshment to our souls, and just for being our beloved brethren in Christ!!! May the Lord guide you, protect you, take care of you, strengthen you, outpour His love and mercy abundantly on you and may His light always shine in your lives!!!

I have been reading through Ezra and Nehemiah these days and it has been so exciting to see so many parallels with our construction. Just like Israel, it took us awhile to begin the construction. Just as Israel, we faced a lot of opposition, open threats and slandering reports. And just like Nehemiah and his people we have “a mind to work.” Our men are at the construction site every day, doing different jobs, monitoring how the Lord’s money is spent, when construction materials are bought and doing what they can to lessen expenses. There is not much that women can do there at this point but we pray and encourage our men. Soon many opportunities will come for us to be a “working” part of the construction when we clean, decorate, put things in order, set up classrooms, do landscaping, etc. And I cannot wait for this time to come.

In fact, this Friday we are planning a cleanup at the site. And as we join in together to work for the Lord and for the good of His Church we will rejoice and thank God who has opened up many doors for us to preach and to serve Him, His Church and community, to draw people to Him and to show what true Christianity is. And my prayer is that just like with Nehemiah and his group God will guide us, protect us and give us wisdom. Please, continue praying to God on our behalf.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:21, 22).

—Tetiana Zozuliana

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

Dear brethren, greetings to you on behalf of the church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk.

We have a lot of work to do and some days are very hot. We continue preaching the Gospel of our merciful Lord to all people who are willing to listen. We try to use all of our resources and opportunities for that service.

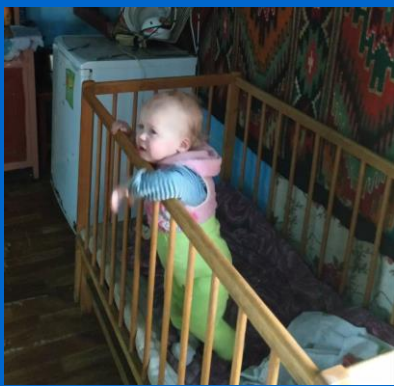
We often pray and thank God for your prayers and support for us and our brethren. Many people in Ivano-Frankivsk and the Region see our deeds and lives. We try to help others, which brings us close and opens their hearts to the Gospel.



I had a few meetings with Lubov Zinovievna, Mayor of Ugornyky, in May. She told me that the aid they received from us provided by our American brethren was vital to the village and they are willing to cooperate with us as much as they can. Lubov Zinovievna gave us a room in the library to have children's classes teaching English through the Bible. Her heart is wide open to God. She asked me to pray about our work asking God for help and that our heavenly Father will give us wisdom so there will be no cause for any opposition on the part of the Orthodox Church.



Besides, we continue giving away humanitarian aid to different groups and individuals both adults and children. I was shocked by one meeting with children in Yaremche where Andrew and Marina gave away peanut butter to starving children and their parents. Marina spread peanut butter on bread and children enjoyed it so much. Those children looked weak and fragile due to malnutrition and would ask for more all the time. We left some peanut butter, bread and rice for them and asked their mother to make sure she did not give them too much so that they would not overeat and get sick.



Appalling things take place in the 21st century in Europe! Sin and ungodliness make people cruel and unsympathetic. Many people are indifferent to children, even to their own children. "Dry soil" it is and it is horrible. Priests deceive people saying that everything is going to be well with them if they just believe, trust in all words of the priest and give every cent to the church. It is a big lie because to have a good life one must read and believe the Gospel; one must let the Lord change his heart and mind through His Word. Nothing is going to change if there is no faith and knowledge of truth.

We need Christians with firm faith to spread the Gospel. With this purpose in view we persist with our studies of the Word of God and construction of our meeting place that will give us freedom and room to invite many more people to Church. Last Wednesday we had a room full of people and this Sunday we expect to have around 70 at worship.



Mike Lawson and his team have been visiting here. They teach schoolchildren. Mike and his family have done a lot of good in Ukraine this year.

Our men would like to ask Bill and Luba Wharton to teach classes on Christian Family in Ugornyky. This topic will help Lord's Church make great impact. When our brethren from Dalraida come in the fall we can continue teaching different Bible classes there.

The construction of the walls of our church building is going on. We pray and ask God to help us finish walls and put the roof. All members that had an opportunity came to help the builders. After that we collected all construction materials that were scattered all over the place and then we fed everybody. At the end everybody was invited to look for some clothes. All present were so appreciative of the American brethren for prayers and strong faith, for the willingness to expand God's Kingdom on this earth.

Thank you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord!

In Christian love, Ivan, Svitlana

REMEMBERING THE FATHERLESS

“Appalling things take place in the 21st century in Europe! Sin and ungodliness make people cruel and unsympathetic. Many people are indifferent to children, even to their own children. I send you photos of hungry children we found in village. We give food and clothes”



PAVAL REPORTS ON HIS MINISTRY...

Grace and peace to you! I am greeting you again with great love and joy, my dear brothers and sisters.

I always thank our Lord for all those whose hearts are open to love, understand, feel for and support all those who are in need. Big thanks to you from the brethren whom you support in efforts to spread the Word of God all over the world. I am thankful to the Lord who brings his children together in such ways where we can fellowship and work together with you. There is special thanksgiving for those you support to come to Ukraine and preach the Word of God here.

I would like to report to you on the work done during last month (May). I continue taking part teaching Bible classes and conducting services where we worship our Lord. I continue working in the busy life of the Church, fellowshiping and encouraging people, and in the distribution of humanitarian aid.

Thank you very much for the relief container that we have received recently loaded by Kathy Cadden's team in Columbus, MS. I also help members to take care of their household problems as much as I can. It is so wonderful to hear words of gratitude and realize that you can use your God-given gifts to serve others.

In addition to these activities, I am in charge of home Bible studies for those who want to study the Bible but for certain reasons cannot be enrolled in the Bible School. Together with the students we have studied "Hermeneutics." We touched upon such topics as "The Importance of Proper Interpretation of the Bible," "What Kind of Person a Bible Hermeneut Should be," "Types of Hermeneutics," "History of Hermeneutics," "Types and Their Forms" and many other interesting and informative topics.

As usual, I pray to the Lord and ask Him to bless with spiritual strength those who have decided to follow Him. And even more I pray asking Him to give me more wisdom and greater love so I will be a better servant in His vineyard.

Dear brothers and sisters, please pray with me for the Lord to add to His Church as many people as possible; for the Lord's Church to grow all over the world; for those that have not arrived on the righteous path to follow Christ to choose to follow Christ; and, for peace in this country. Please, keep my family in your prayers as well, my children and their health. Please, pray for me to be a worthy father and spiritual mentor to my children. Please, pray on behalf of my sister for the Lord to open her eyes and heart so that she would follow Him.

I always pray for all of you and thank you for your help, love, and support. I wish good health, God's love and blessings to all of you!

Your brother Pavel

“Your love, care and help are manifested through the support of missionaries that come here...they refresh our spirit and zeal for the Lord, they teach and help us have a better insight into...God's will for each one of us and for His Church.”

CONTAINER DISTRIBUTION



“Kolya hid himself and ate quietly saying his mother would take his food from him and give to younger kids when everybody was gone.”

ANIEFIOK & QUEEN AKPAN...

Dear friends & family,

In this report, we intend to summarize our activities and achievements during the month of May. It was indeed a great and memorable month in Nigeria with special days such as Workers Day, Mothers Days, Childrens Day and Democracy Day.

Hours before the month of May began, we had two baptisms at the campus church. ODUDU FRIDAY JOHN, a native of Ikot Ubo village was baptized on April 28. Prior to his baptism, he served as a pastor/prophet with a denominational group called the “Mountain of Fire & Miracle Ministries.” He is the second pastor we have converted from that denomination. The first one was EMMANUEL ASUQUO ETIBENG who was converted together with four other converts which included another pastor, DAVID PETER UDIOR and his wife LOVETT.

A denominational prophetess named IMAOBONG EFFIONG UDOM was baptized on April 29. That brought to TWENTY-ONE the number of persons baptized at our campus church this year. Brother Iboro Dick Akpan baptized four souls at Inen Nsai in May to bring the number of new converts to TWENTY-FIVE precious souls! TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!

Because we received a large amount of eyeglasses on the container we scheduled a give-away of eyeglasses and connected the event with our need for spiritual eyesight. The free medical services and eye check-up/treatments sponsored by our Campus Church for the villagers which started on April 29 extended to May 1 & 3. Over 300 persons attended to and majority of them received free eyeglasses which were donated by brethren who loaded the container in Searcy, Arkansas. Many people could not find eyeglasses that fit them. Dr. Udemé Ikpeme who helped to dispense the eyeglasses reported that most of the donated eyeglasses carried Minus (-) lenses whereas most people eye problems required Plus (+) lenses. Seven of the individuals who were referred for eye surgery are very poor people who cannot afford the cost of the eye surgery. Three of them are members of our Campus Church.

On Sunday, May 6, I was a Guest Speaker at the Gospel Meeting organized by Uruk Ata Nsidung Church of Christ. The theme was UNITY OF FAITH and it was rated a great Bible lecture. I taught again on May 20 during the Youth Seminar at Ikpe Akpa Ewe Church. The theme was ARISE & EVANGELIZE. It was designed to challenge our Christian youths to see personal evangelism as a Kingdom lifestyle.

On May 13, our Campus Church set up a 7-Man Welfare Committee to help distribute food items and other relief materials to the poorest and vulnerable members of our Campus Church. My wife Etang was selected to serve as an Adviser to the committee. Members who have food items and other relief supplies to share with others have been asked to submit them to the committee for distribution to others who are suffering hunger and starvation due to the current economic crises and food scarcity.

I joined other preachers of the gospel from all over Nigeria on May 16 to participate in the 2018 Annual Preachers Workshop. I was invited to serve as Moderator during the workshop on May 17, but unfortunately, I had an appointment with the Nigeria Immigration Service on that day. Hence, I took permission from authorities to be absent and they picked a replacement. I

have been a keynote speaker at lectureship and workshop in many occasions. It may interest you to know that I am an NCBC alumnus.

The 12th birthday anniversary of our daughter, Nancy came up on May 16. She gave her life to Jesus and was baptized two months to this special day. We had a special family get-together that night which featured singing, Bible reading and prayers of thanksgiving to identify with Nancy during that glorious moment in her life. Unfortunately, there was no money to present her with any special gift apart from the birthday cake and meal prepared by her mother. Nancy appreciated this so much and thanked us many times for making the day a special one. Four days after Nancy's birthday, Etang celebrated her birthday by giving out food items and household items to widows and orphans of our campus church.

On May 21, I left for Port Harcourt from where I boarded a bus to Abuja on May 22. I was in Abuja to collect the Letter of Approval for our container shipment project. We borrowed \$9,000 and paid customs duty & tax, demurrage and other clearing charges to clear the container in January because our government refused to give us the approval. But the government later released the approval when they learned that the United States Department of State through Senator Coker of Tennessee and the United States Embassy in Nigeria were consulted. I had to collect the letter from the Federal Ministry of Finance in Abuja to help open our file and create antecedent for subsequent container. While in Abuja, I had the privilege to talk with Michael Carney of the US Embassy in Nigeria on phone and also communicated with Susan Garro by email to communicate our appreciation to the United States Department of State. I left Abuja to Port Harcourt on May 26 and returned home on May 27.

I returned home on May 27 early enough to worship with the Campus Church and also conducted the monthly edition of our WEI seminar that afternoon. A large number of participants attended the seminar. It was so challenging as participants asked series of relevant questions relating to true worship and sound doctrine. The next edition of the WEI seminar will be held on June 23. On June 30, I will be traveling to Abak to teach our Christian youths at the seminar to be conducted by Ebom Avenue Church.

This great and exciting mission work at Uruk Otong and its environs would not have been possible without your prayers and support. Thank you for your heart of love, compassion and generosity. We solicit your continued prayers and support to help with our areas of needs.

Please remember to greet all the saints with you for us. If your congregation could help in raising, collecting and sending funds for our special mission projects, please do not hesitate to contact us for such partnership. Kindly help us tell your congregations and friends about these special needs.

"Thank you for your heart of love, compassion and generosity. We solicit your continued prayers and support to help with our areas of needs."

DENNIS SPOELNIK FROM BVBIU...

Dear brothers and sisters, I would like to share with you the last month's news.

This year BVBIU had seven graduates. They received their graduation certificates and memorable gifts. It was a great honor for us to teach these



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Nigerian News...

“Our government refused to give us the approval. But the government later released the approval when they learned that the United States Department of State through Senator Coker of Tennessee and the United States Embassy in Nigeria were consulted. I had to collect the letter from the Federal Ministry of Finance in Abuja to help open our file and create antecedent for subsequent container. While in Abuja, I had the privilege to talk with US Embassy in Nigeria on phone and also communicated by email to communicate our appreciation to the United States Department of State.”

people during the last two years. They took all courses assigned by the Institute's faculty and successfully passed them all. Since the studies at our Institute are so intense not all people who had joined the program two years ago were able to complete it. So, these seven graduates made us proud and thankful to God and we will continue to pray for them and help them be faithful workers.

I would like to write a few words about each of them.

Alexander Belorusev returned to his home town of Zyrhess. That territory is occupied by pro-Russian terrorists but thankfully the church of Christ continues to gather for services. He will be preaching in this congregation and implement the knowledge that he obtained with us.

Valentin Tsiopa will most likely stay in Bela Tserkva. He has proved himself to be a very diligent student who has demonstrated good results. He has found a secular job but he is still able to assist the Church in Bela Tserkva and is planning on joining our Masters' Program. He has a lot of potential to become a great Bible teacher and hopefully serve our Institute in the capacity of Instructor later in life.

Arthur Ivashkiv returned to Kramatorsk. He plans on helping the church of Christ in Slovyansk by preaching and teaching the Bible classes. By his first education he is a History teacher, so he plans to get this kind of job again and serve the local church as well.

Dmitriy Levenets returned to his home city of Ternopil. He also helps the local congregation. At present he's got a job at a local factory where he is employed as a security engineer. He and his wife serve the local congregation after work. His wife Kristina teaches the Sunday school and is actively involved in other church activities.

Arthur Litvinenko returned to Lviv. He plans on actively helping the Church as a youth minister. He will become an irreplaceable helper for brethren (our former graduates) who planted the church of Christ in Lviv some years ago.

Iliya Semikoz will be working with the Church in Brovary. The congregation was established by our Instructors a year ago. Now they need help with their youth ministry. Iliya has a lot of potential and desire to serve in the vineyard of the Lord.

Marina Gurkova was a very disciplined and knowledgeable student. She will stay with our Institute as a secretary, librarian and interpreter. She has a kind heart and has always helped the congregation with ladies' and children's classes.

Last month Jim Sherman worked with us. He does so much for our Institute every time he comes. He taught "Life and service of a Minister" and "Epistle of James" courses. We are very thankful for his service and his love for Ukraine. For the next school year we have four recruits, potentially our new students. And there are a few other men who haven't committed to the Program just yet. It's time for our summer practical work. The students who got promoted to the second year of studies also returned to their home congregations. We have 8 second year students and we are actively preparing for the next school year.

Your brother and co-worker, Dennis Sopelnik.