

HELPING VISION!

"The LORD opens the eyes of the blind" (Psalm 146:8)



Above photo: February 2018. A container arrives in Ivano-Frankivsk and is unloaded into the Church's distribution center. This container carried supplies for the Medical Seminar, Humanitarian Aid items, and an eye-surgical operating microscope that was given to the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Hospital.

In the autumn of 2017 we received word that an operating microscope was being donated for us to ship to the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Hospital. This is the hospital where Dr. Gary Jerkins has taken operating teams over years. The partnership has been phenomenal and the results have been very encouraging as the thousands in western Ukraine have had eye surgery that restored vision.

The cooperative partnership between Dr. Gary Jerkins and the Regional Hospital in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine has spanned many years. He has taken surgical teams from Nashville, TN and worked in the Regional Hospital. He and a number of others have worked to secure deliveries of critically needed humanitarian aid commodities to the hospital and other medical facilities. The first contact I had with Gary was on a request from the WORLD CATARACT FOUNDATION (Memphis, TN) asking me to ship a microscope into Ukraine. This is a report on the most recent surgical microscope that was shipped into Ivano-Frankivsk and was distributed by the Church there.

In March 2018 Dr. Gary Jerkins, Dr. Ron Swang and John Durham spearheaded a hands-on medical seminar. This connected a number of Christian healthcare providers with the medical students enrolled in The Medical Institute in Ivano-Frankivsk. Our good brother Emmanuel from Ghana was the point man in Ukraine working with his fellow medical students to plan and coordinate that wonderful event.

To assist the seminar, we shipped a container that held critically needed medical texts, instruments and expired medical supplies for the seminar.

Also, in that container was a two-piece ophthalmological operating microscope valued in the tens of thousands of dollars! It was an amazing donation that would make seismic waves throughout the national healthcare system.

To be sure there were headaches, ulcer inviting situations, governmental barriers, customs contortions and, not least, traumas from the taxation department. But ultimately all hurdles were successful crossed and the microscope was delivered to the hospital!

Here is a brief summary of the mission and a good report on the first surgical use!

The BACKGROUND

"John — the microscope came from St Thomas SurgiCare in Nashville, TN (where you had surgery in January). After the donation it had to be removed from the hospital and it was stored at Woodmont Baptist Church. It was serviced and cleaned by Jackie Simons (Microscopes of Nashville), transported to Healing Hands International by my HHI friends and

then trucked to Judsonia, AR where it was loaded onto a container destined for Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. It is a really good piece of equipment with a very high value!"

The SHIPPING

We received the microscope and the "fix-it gang" of Life Resources warehouse built a shipping crate to protect this valued donation!



The container arrived and after wrestling with opposition and holding our breath for certain approvals to be signed and stamped and phone calls and calling in some favors...the container was approved and released for distribution. The hospital sent a truck to pick up the microscope and then upon its arrival at the hospital was stored until all of the Taxation and State documents could be completed. Finally, it was given official release and the hospital put the microscope into use after some modifications.

The FIRST surgery has been completed and the results were exciting. Read the communication below and rejoice in the great good that has been accomplished!

The FIRST SURGERY

From: Dr Gary

Sent: Wednesday, July 4, 2018 2:58 PM

Subject: Fwd: Good news!

Just received this from Sergiy at the Eye Department in Ivano-Frankivsk —Thanks to everyone for your part in making this happen — many people in western Ukraine will benefit from this microscope!! Best to all —J

From: Сергей Вершинин

Date: July 4, 2018 at 11:00:37 AM CDT

Subject: Good news!

Hello Dear Gary! Send the message to you with big pleasure and thankness!

Yesterday We perform first operation day on new mikroskop! It was a long way because of big problem with electronic part (a team of engineering fix it, change and renovate biggest part of microscheme. The reason is unknown, but we decide that it was some electric problem due to transportation, may be kinetic energy in container), it has problem with optic and I decide to change oculars, find the foot control and make it work together. The bulbs, which you give me, not from this unit, they absolutely another power and fixation slots. I ordered bulb from ebay and connect it. Anyway, it's all behind and yesterday was good day. It absolutely another world of view!!!



It provides so close and so small detail, amazing red reflex and fullness of volume! First few patients I think they have huge floaters in vitreum, and after 3-4 I realize, that it is benefits of good deep vision from mikroskop! Today I show to all doctors and nurses, how turn on and use it and it will stay on main table in surgery room! After that, will check video system and go on!! Thank you and all your team once and once more!!