



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

September & October 2018

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"Greetings, dear brother and sisters. We want you to share in our joy on behalf of these people. We have had four baptisms this month."



Victor's confession and immersion



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"I HAD HOPED TO GET ENTHUSIASM AMONG CHURCHES HERE BUT NOW REALIZE THAT I NEED TO BE THE PERSON TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN."

FINALLY! I have the September-October UKRAINE MISSION Newsletter ready to send. The two months covered in this newsletter were crammed with appointments, travel, and actions that individually would consume a large chunk of time. When the events and actions are combined, I sit in amazement that such was accomplished. I have tried to send out brief updates via the web site blog page and we will soon make the combined Dalraida mission trip report available online and I will mail to those who receive snail-mail reports.

During the last two-years I have wrestled with the Ukraine Ministry of Social Policy on approvals for containers shipped to the needy. This developed into a much more intense situation as I met with the "Task Group" in Kyiv last month. It seems that this "Task Group" is intent on arrogating authority that is not given to them and refuses to follow the Rule of Law. I have exhausted all possible help in Ukraine and will soon ask you to contact your Congressional Delegate. I am working on compiling a succinct summary of the criminal actions and you can include that along with a personal letter, email AND fax to your Senators and Representative. Kathy Cadden has already contacted those representing Mississippi but the elections have hindered any response. Now that elections are finished, we are about to begin contact with Washington, DC.

This newsletter contains the reports from September and October. So much happened that it is very difficult to decide what is to be reported and what is to be culled. (Some of the reports will have news of events that have transpired because of this newsletter being tardy). You will read of immersions in India and Ukraine that are encouraging as commitment to follow the Lord's commands are visibly expressed in a self-surrender of will and being newly born as God's child.

I have also been busily engaged in looking for a suitable warehouse in the Montgomery, AL area. The other locations where loadings occur (Columbus, MS; Judsonia, AR; Neelyville, MO) have been busily receiving commodities for shipments and are struggling with full warehouses. We are trying to move those commodities to other nations as all shipments into Ukraine are stopped until the "Task Group" issue is eliminated.

Budgets for 2019 are currently being set. *I ask that you and your congregation seriously consider UKRAINE MISSIONS in your budget.* As usual our support is fluid and economic issues and health of supporters require discovering additional support. THANK YOU to those supporting our efforts!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

The Joy in meeting new brethren!

Victor and Valentina from Central Ukraine - Poltava Region. Valentina is an English Language teacher and Victor has his own business.



Inna and Luba...Inna is a retired Police General and Ludmila is a manager at a plant. Luda has attended church and studied the Bible for half a year before she was immersed. Bill and Luba studied with Inna and Luda.



IVAN REPORTS, BORN OF THE WATER & SPIRIT...

Greetings, dear brother and sisters. We want you to share in our joy on behalf of these people. We have had four baptisms this month. These are Victor and Valentina from Central Ukraine - Poltava Region. Valentina is an English Language teacher and Victor has his own business. They study and worship on Wednesday and Sunday through internet.

Inna is a retired Police General. She attended several retreats held by the Hillsboro Church and Mike Lawson's team. Inna decided to be immersed but asked us not to take photos. Ludmila is a manager at a plant. Her two children live in Russia. As for Luda, she lives by herself. She has attended Church and studied the Bible for half a year before she was immersed. Bill and Luba studied with Inna and Luda. There used to be another friend of Inna's, Tamara, who was a Police Colonel but she passed away a few weeks ago. She had been thinking about being baptized as well but did not make it. Her death shook and horrified both Inna and Luda and they decided to become Christians.

These people grew up under Communism and are afraid of publicity and pictures. In the past, they could have lost their ranks and jobs for doing for they did.

I AM CONVICTED TO DO MORE...

John,

I want to ask if you are still sending containers to Ukraine and other places? I have brought many different items from time to time to the warehouse there to you in Arkansas. I live in Arizona and we have had people bring items to us and I have brought them to you.

MY POINT IS seeing photos of Ukraine (and having been there in 1995 and from 1998 to 2001 I am convicted to do more to help them. IF YOU ARE STILL sending shipments to them and other places around the world, I WILL BE GLAD TO try to spear head a collection place here and get more items to you and to them.

JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE Before sharing with my elders and My congregation and others. YOU ARE DOING A GREAT WORK and it is hard to imagine what all these people are doing through unless you have seen it. I am confident that you are doing a great work, but wanted to see where the work stands before getting a lot more others involved here. I had hoped to get enthusiasm among churches here but now I realize that perhaps I NEED TO BE the person to make that happen. Please let me know your thoughts as I am preparing to ask others to give and make this happen.

GOD BLESS YOU AND HIS WORK!

Keith Shepherd, Chandler, Arizona, Alma School Road Church of Christ

THE GOSPEL'S HARVEST IN INDIA!

"I visited a remote place, Sunni Penta, it is in Andhra Pradesh State. It is a forest area. No proper roads to this place. We can reach this village only by walk or two-wheeler or bullock cart. Tribal people live there. I arranged Gospel meetings for two nights there. Around 200 people attended. I preached about real God, Salvation and Church. Four responded to Gospel and are baptized. Since there were no rains, we walked for four miles for water. But the great thing is four souls are saved. I am sending few pictures. Immadi"



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

September 2018. Ivano-Frankivsk

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters! Thank you for your prayers and support of our ministry in Ukraine. It is through our joint efforts that the Gospel is being preached in Western Ukraine.

Here is a common situation we find every day. Some consider themselves Christians from their childhood, living in a Christian country, and say Church reads the Bible, now say they have read it for the first time! But they say they do know that there is Christ who somewhere at certain time died for people. And many are surprised to hear that the Bible's message is personal and should concern each one of us. They say that they have never heard such a thing before. These are very good people but their understanding and knowledge of God is almost absent.

We find that the people in Western Ukraine are ignorant of the Holy Scripture. This is true even though Western Ukraine is more religious than Eastern Ukraine. It is all because the Orthodox Church considers the Holy Scripture as important as tradition that has developed in the course of 2,000 years. So people are confused with inspired truth and human thoughts and feelings. It is sad that often they believe and practiced more tradition than they do inspired teaching. Many know nothing of Bible content and so Bible stories are viewed as myths.

We are looking forward to having the Dalraida Church of Christ team here to join with us in a campaign in three towns of the Ivano-Frankivsk Region – Ugornyky, Lysets and Sniatyn/Yaremche. People in those places are open to the church of Christ as they have received humanitarian aid from us for many years.

The challenge we face at this point is that some of the topics are Bible stories that no one here has ever read. Some think these are not real facts but some imagined myth used to encourage a cult.

The campaign will last five days – October 8 – 12. Dear brethren, please, pray for us, for the Lord to open doors for those that seek Him. Please, pray for wisdom and power to secure those souls and to help them mature in the spirit. We desperately need your prayers and your help.

We continue assembling on Wednesdays and Sundays at our rented meeting place. Our Sunday service is from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We teach our Wednesday Bible class from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Friday is a day when we have a joint prayer for the Church and evangelism.

Besides, we help individuals and different groups by giving away humanitarian aid and working with them as we are allowed. We have received a container with medical scrubs and shoes. Upon Customs clearance, we will distribute this relief shipment. Doctors need scrubs and coats as many have to wear old and worn out lab coats. There is still war going in this country so the medical provision is very poor and inadequate.

Construction of our church building is going on. And today with your help, we started pouring intermediate floor between the first and the second floors.

GIVEN IN THE NAME OF THE LORD...

“I would like to thank you for the relief containers that we have received. A lot of supplies went to the Regional Children’s Hospital. Many clothes items and medical supplies went to the *Union of Wives and Mothers of the ATO* soldiers. Big thanks come from Sniatyn Neurological Clinic for clothes, shoes and rice. The list of those that have been helped by the relief shipments is inexhaustible, which proves your love and care are beyond words.”

We pray to God fervently asking Him to help us with construction so that we can move into our own church building.

Dear brothers and sisters, we send our heartfelt thanks to all of you! We thank you and give glory to our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ for our unity in His Word and Spirit.

October 2018. Ivano-Frankivsk

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters!

The month of October was very special to the brethren here. We were so happy to have guests from America and we thank God for the time of fellowship that we had together with you and for your good Christian example to us.

Thank you for your visit, for being so organized, and for your desire to share the Gospel with people around you. Each one of you had a great impact on us and on people of Ukraine. You refreshed our spirits and we felt a part of one spiritual family.

We receive phone calls from all places of Christian outreach where you went – Yaremche, Snaityn, Ugornyky and Starry Lysets. People from different walks of life – teachers, deputies, students, average people, whose children go to school or kindergarten – all of them want to thank you for help and quality fellowship. School in Snaityn gives their big thanks for the laptop. They need it for the math classes. They had already bought the projector but had run out of money to buy a computer. Neither teachers nor parents had no means for purchasing laptop and were discouraged. Their children could not use it for half a year. School budgets are usually minimal and cover only urgent needs. Your gift of the laptop caused great joy to the whole school, both students and teachers. So now they can use the laptop as well as the projector.

One very kind act on the part of those visiting is still being talked about in Snaityn. That was the \$200.00 that you gave to save a life. With the money doctors were able to cure Roman. His family could not afford those expensive medicines and doctors were thinking about discharging him from the hospital to die at home. And when his wife brought the \$200.00 he could stay at hospital for three more days and in that period he received more medicines. These extra medicines helped him and he recovered. Roman is sending his special heartfelt thanks to the American brethren that helped him survive.

The Lord was gracious to us when we worked in Ugornyky. We were very concerned about our success in that village thinking we would not be accepted there. The village is very religious and the priest himself had talked to Lubov (the mayor) about the danger of “other” teachings. But with Lord’s help and all humanitarian aid that we had given them for many years we were able to show we are not bringing trouble. We were allowed to teach children conversational English at school and kindergarten and all involved had delightful experiences. The wonderful bond of friendship and cooperation became strong. In the evening, the local mayor Lubov opened her auditorium and office for us to teach classes to children and adults. Children and adults that came to evening classes sat in chairs shipped by our American brethren through John Kachelman.

Since the large group left, we have had a couple of baptisms. It was a couple from Central Ukraine. They will worship with us online as they live 650 kilometers away from us. Bill and Luba had taught the Bible to them.

FROM MYKULYCHYN



Food boxes distributed
that we loaded in
Houston, TX!



Toys were given to
the orphanage.

And the next Sunday, November 4, we will have two more baptisms. These will be Inna, Police General, and Luda, an IDP from the East. Since we have no baptistery, we booked the swimming pool for this wonderful event.

The Ivano-Frankivsk congregation is maturing in spirit and numbers. Because of this growth now even more than before we need a new worship place. We expect to outgrow the current place by the spring. Many seeds of the Word of God have been planted into the hearts of people and have been watered with God's love and your benevolent care. We thank God that you have done all you can to bring forth good fruit.

You did a great job in all those places and now many doors have opened up to us. We are finding many opportunities to share the Gospel have emerged for us to gather the souls that are ready to turn to God and seek His will. Many people in Ukraine observed both the younger and older Americans who were so friendly and open that they were amazed in their hearts to see such love in you.

Your love to God and your affection toward us served as a great example and uplifted our brethren and us.

Big thanks to all of you!

In Christian love, Ivan and Svetlana

PAVAL REPORTS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK, UKRAINE...

SEPTEMBER: Peace and grace to you. I am very glad to have another opportunity to send you love and greetings, my dear American brothers and sisters. We always thank our Heavenly Father, who opened your hearts to support us both financially and in spirit, and to pray for us with such love, understanding and sympathy. With your love and care, churches of Christ in Ukraine are refreshed in spirit and strive to mature.

I would like to report to you on the work done within this month. I continue working in God's vineyard with great joy and am among those that conduct worship services. I take an active part in the life of the Church, in fellowship, in distribution of humanitarian aid to different medical institutions, orphanages, schools. We also distribute clothes and food to people in Ivano-Frankivsk and villages in the Region. Many people are so thankful to you and to God, who works through us on this earth.

I continue teaching correspondence Bible classes to my beloved students. I fervently pray to the Lord to bless me for this ministry and to give me wisdom to explain the truth without twisting it. I would like to ask you, my dear brethren, to pray with me about this Bible teaching opportunity. I hope with all my heart that through this program the family of our Lord will grow by at least a few souls.

Together with the students, we have studied Ephesians. We have talked about the purpose of the epistle, problems at the Church in Ephesus, how they were taken care of, and the ways we can apply it nowadays.

We have also studied Colossians. The topics we have studied are: Praise of Christ, Forgiveness and Saving Grace in Christ, Relations between brethren, and many other very important topics that are touched upon in this epistle, which contains many admonitions that are so important for Christian life regardless of time and that are concerned with the main ideas of the Bible.

FOOD BOXES DISTRIBUTED AT THE HOSPITAL



I would like to ask you once again to pray together with me for the health of one of my students, for the Lord to give her strength so that she could overcome her illness.

And as usual, I ask the Lord to strengthen in spirit all those who have made up their minds to follow Him. And even more do I pray for the Lord to give me wisdom and love to be a better worker in His vineyard. Brethren, please, pray with me for the Lord to add to His Church as many as possible. Pray for the growth of the Church all over the world. Pray for those who have not arrived on the right path to follow Christ yet. Please pray for peace in this county. Most urgently I ask you to pray for my family, for the health of my children, and for me to be a worthy father and spiritual instructor to them

OCTOBER: Peace and grace to you! I am happy to send my love and greetings to you, my dear brothers and sisters! I always thank our Lord for all whose hearts are open to help the needy with such love, understanding and sympathy as you demonstrate. Big thanks to you for those brethren whom you support to spread the Word of God all over the world. We are happy to attend their classes and make the best use of them to mature and apply the knowledge received.

Special thanks go to you for the recent Gospel outreach and for those brethren that came to Ukraine to carry it out. Together, we were able to embrace many places where classes were taught, humanitarian aid was delivered and most important the Word of God was spread.

We had repaired school desks that we presented to a lyceum in Sniatyn. This same school received a laptop from our American brethren to be used in classes. We gave out many Bibles and everybody was happy to get one. I thank the Lord for the hearts He opened to come to Ukraine and do such a great work not sparing their personal time and physical effort. May the Lord bless them everywhere and always.

Besides, I would like to thank you for the relief containers that we have received. A lot of supplies went to the Regional Children's Hospital. Many clothes items and medical supplies went to the *Union of Wives and Mothers of the ATO* soldiers. Big thanks come from Sniatyn Neurological Clinic for clothes, shoes and rice. The list of those that have been helped by the relief shipments is inexhaustible, which proves your love and care are beyond words. And I hope with all my heart that all those that have been helped will see how abundant in mercy our God is and how He works through His children.

As for our correspondence course that I am in charge of, we are on a short break to give students an opportunity to review and better memorize what they have learnt. Our classes will resume soon and we will get down to a new topic. I hope that my students will come back refreshed and more zealous in their studies.

I pray and ask the Lord to bless you in everything you do, to give you good health and to build you up. I keep all of you in my prayers and wish good health, God's love and blessings to you and your families.

In Christian love, your brother Pavlo

DISTRIBUTION OF BIBLES!



“We gave out many Bibles and everybody was happy to get one.”



ANDREW & MARINA...

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters. We want to share some joyful news with you. A lot of different events have taken place since our last communication that have encouraged us in our ministry. We have been to the orphanage in Mykulychyn several times and have delivered clothes and other things that sisters sent for children. We had good fellowship with the kids and they sang us some songs on one of the trips.

Besides, we continue working with the staff of the outpatient clinic in Mykulychyn that provides medical assistance to the population there and have practical knowledge of those families that are in dire straits. We visited those families and treated children with some peanut butter. Children were beyond themselves with joy and surprises when they received our gifts. One boy took his peanut butter sandwich and devoured it having hidden himself. To account for such behavior, nurses told us that his parents are drunks and have six children, and children often would go hungry. We took food supplies and gave them out. All people were thankful.

We stay in contact with the local hospital in Yaremche that provides medical assistance to the people in the town and its outskirts. They have received tangible aid from us, such as medical equipment, furniture, and consumables. Through this work Church gains more credibility with the local people.

We cannot help sharing with you news of a very important event. We are talking about the visit from our Dalraida brethren. It was an unforgettable visit for everybody involved. For the first time, people could see and hear those brethren we had told them about. We gave out Bibles and people rejoiced as they took them promising to read and ask questions.

We visited the school in Mykulychyn, too. Will and Caleb had a good visit with children and played soccer with them. Ainsley joined them the next day when together they taught Bible classes and gave out children's Bibles to the children and adult's Bibles to the teachers there. Teachers were so thankful that they asked us to leave the Americans with them for at least one year. The visit was unforgettable to all those that we had time to visit within a short period of time. Until now, do we receive joyful comments, thanks and invitations to come back. We hope things will work out for us to meet again and join our efforts to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for prayers and for your support of our joint ministry.

In Christian love, Andrew and Marina

“Special thanks go to you for the recent Gospel outreach and for those brethren that came to Ukraine to carry it out. Together, we were able to embrace many places where classes were taught, humanitarian aid was delivered and most important the Word of God was spread...We gave out many Bibles and everybody was happy to get one. I thank the Lord for the hearts He opened to come and do such a great work not sparing their personal time and physical effort. May the Lord bless them everywhere and always.” Pasha