

Ukraine Missions

a ministry of Dalraida church of Christ



Above Photo: Here is one of the locations where distribution of a container we shipped is recorded. This is an orphanage in the Village Adjara, Republic of Georgia

Here is the May 2019 UKRAINE MISSIONS Newsletter!

In this month's report you will read a number of wonderful reports. One of these was sent by Ruslan Skoleba who wrote: *"Our Sunday worship service's timeframe is from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. And there are from 25 to 33 people in attendance. In addition to these adults there are 6-10 children that come to classes and Julia, Marina and Maria take turns to teach them. We continue to assemble at other times as well and our Wednesday night attendance is from 11 to 17 people. Big thanks to you for keeping us in your hearts and prayers. We are working for the same cause, which is one of God's commandments. We preach His Word."*

Read the May 2019 UKRAINE MISSIONS Newsletter and rejoice in the good news that has occurred!

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"The greatest trees stand today because some NUT held his ground!"



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

May 2019

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Distribution of clothing from a container shipped to the Village Oedi in Adjara in the Republic of Georgia

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“BIG THANKS TO YOU FOR KEEPING US IN YOUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS.”

This month’s mission’s newsletter brings together reports and photos from a number of different locations. As each report is read your brethren’s faith and diligence in serving God will encourage you. In addition to the actions described in the overseas locations, we were active in Montgomery, AL, Judsonia, AR, Neelyville, MO and Columbus, MS sorting, receiving and loading containers with benevolent items being sent in the Lord’s Name. Two containers were loaded out of Judsonia, AR bound for Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. We hope we have found a work-around to the problems in Kyiv that had suspended all shipments into Ukraine since last September.

We continue to be concerned with the persecution that has forced the Ivan Skoleba to flee to the USA. The Dalraida elders and mission committee are trying to assist however possible. The opposition intensified as we broadcast a documentary of the distribution of benevolence goods in the region. The opposition is fueled by jealousy over the reputation that the Ivano-Frankivsk church of Christ has established in their benevolent actions. There is also strong opposition from those who fear they will lose a revenue source as the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation adds more members.

A trip to Ivano-Frankivsk in early October is being planned. We want the focus to be on encouraging and strengthening our brothers and sisters in the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation as they continue to struggle against adversity. If anyone is interested in joining us please contact me quickly so you can be included in the plans if you wish.

The construction of the Ivano-Frankivsk meeting house continues. The rising opposition has made the completion of the construction project more urgent. Please see the below article discussing the construction. Please help us complete this phase which will allow the brethren to begin meeting in the new building!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

CONSTRUCTION REACHES A HISTORIC PHASE!

As I arrived in Ivano-Frankivsk at the end of March, I observed the adversity that had struck the congregation in multiple attacks. Because of a month-long television documentary on the amazing benevolent work of the congregation, the opposition was incensed and renewed the attacks that had lain dormant for some time. A personal attack against Sveta Skoleba with a false criminal charge was filed. This resulted in the Skolebas being advised to flee the country until the false report could be corrected. They are currently in New York. Another attack was launched using the rental of the two rooms the Church uses for assemblies. The landlord has been very impressed with our prompt paying of rent and cooperation. He had invited us

OCTOBER MISSION TRIP TAKES OFF IN SYLACAUGA!

Chip McEwen committed to go to Ukraine in October. He began making contacts and is the first campaigner to raise all the necessary funds to go.

In addition Chip has begun working to get Family Buckets to be shipped so he can personally distribute them in Ivano-Frankivsk.

Chip took 25 buckets to Sylacauga, AL and the Church there is busily working to fill them PLUS a member of the congregation is helping to get fleece blankets for orphans and babies!



to rent two rooms when all other rental space in Ivano-Frankivsk had been closed to the Church. The opposition is the controlling religious groups in the city. The landlord, even though favorable to the Church, said he “must” raise the monthly lease by 20%. This increase pacified the antagonists who were wishing the Church evil.

This rent increase underscores the urgency of the Church completing the construction and moving into their building from which no one can evict them. Thankfully the construction has progressed to the point that it can be occupied at the beginning of this year’s winter IF we complete the laying of brick on the second level and the installation of the roof so it will be “dried-in.”

After the structure is roofed-over the members of the congregation are eager to do the interior work. They will first complete one of the larger rooms so the assembly can be held there. They have the backroom in the distribution/storage building that can be used for a separate class. They will then complete the interior one room at a time until all is completed.

Our challenge is to secure the funds that will permit us to get the construction roofed-over.

Last year an amazing amount of construction was completed. We operate on a “pay-as-we-go” basis so the construction is debt-free. The problem with the pay-go operation is that funds are received sporadically. So last year the workers were called to the site and moved their tools and materials and then completed what we could pay and then had to pack up and leave. This cost the workers and they said it was a cost they cannot bear again. So this time they have asked us to collect 70% of the required funds for the laying of bricks on the second level and the roof-over. They will not be paid until the work is finished but they want to know there is that threshold of operating funds. We still will operate on the pay-go basis.

We have sent out a plea for donations of these funds. Thus far we have received \$74,400.00! The total cost of the bricking of the second level and the roof-over will be \$140,000.00. We need \$98,000.00 to secure the 70% necessary for startup. So you can see we are ALMOST at that point!

There are some questions that have been asked and I want to give a brief answer in case others are interested in the answers:

Will you just hand over the 70%? No. We will pay as the work is done. The requirement for the 70% is to assure the workers they will not be on a sporadic basis as last year.

Is the building securely in the Church’s possession—can it be seized? The building is securely in the Church’s possession. It cannot be seized. We were gifted the property for religious use. If we ever cease practicing religion and shun involvement in religious activities then the property will be seized from us. The law clearly states, “The land plot belongs to the community and we have the relevant document for the PERMANENT use.”

What about property taxes? The law states that since we are a religious organization we do not pay taxes on the property.

Can the opposition cause the Church to lose its legal registration? No. The Church cannot lose its registration. It is lawfully registered and that gives it the legal standing of a private entity that is legally free to operate.

BENEVOLENCE REACHES THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA!

“Please accept our deepest gratitude for the donation to Georgian people. This shipment was very good, especially for people with diabetes and the number of patients is increasing every year. In Georgia almost 3% of the population has diabetes. Among patients, 90% is Diabetes #2 and 10% is Diabetes #1. Distribution has been submitted and translated to English.”



I keep up-to-date information on the Ukraine Missions site under the construction tab. But at times I am a little behind in updating. If you have any questions please email me and I will respond.

We need your help in pushing this to the point of completion so our brethren can freely assemble in their own building and use the money paid for rent to pay for the building!

How can you help us get the last half of the funds needed? Some are giving on a monthly basis. Some have given a one-time gift that has helped us reach this point. Others have given multiple times. We need YOU to look and consider how YOU can help us finish this challenge.

Perhaps you have an idea as to how we can secure the remaining funds? We really need to resume construction so that it will be able to be occupied before the harsh winter weather begins.

THANK YOU for anything you can do!

RUSLAN SKOLEBA SENDS NEWS...

Dear brothers and sisters!

The Church in Ivano-Frankivsk is greeting you. Once again, we would like to thank you for your support and understanding of the predicament in which my parents have found themselves. We can see God's hand and support provided by your prayers on our behalf.

All men are very active in worship services and Wednesday Bible classes. Everybody attending our evening classes are involved in a good discussion of the lesson.

As a result of our humanitarian aid and help to the needy, one of the Supreme Rada's deputies intervened on our behalf and the cement plant gave us 5 (metric) tons of cement for our construction free of charge.

May 19 was a special day as we celebrated 2 birthdays – those of Andrew's and Yaroslav's. Yaroslav is over 90 years old. He is not healthy but is always on Skype with us. Besides, he had an open-heart surgery not long ago. But God blessed him with enough strength to come to worship with us that day. He is an example to us of a desire to live so that one can know more about God and His will in the life of the man.

At the end of this month, our whole congregation is planning to attend a retreat that Mike Lawson is holding in Yaremche from May 31 through June 2. It will be there that we'll have our first graduation from the World Bible Institute on June 1.

It has rained all month long and the grass at our construction site has grown way too fast. With God's grace and together with other men we were able to clean up the construction site and cut the grass.

Besides, the classes with young interpreters that Gif started on Skype go on.

Emmanuel and his group of medical students from Africa are done with their classes. They are getting ready for their exams now. Nana leads singing and does a great job. He is happy and willing to serve like that.

Our Sunday worship service's timeframe is from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

BENEVOLENCE REACHES MOLDOVA!



And there are from 25 to 33 people in attendance. In addition to these adults there are 6-10 children that come to classes and Julia, Marina and Maria take turns to teach them. We continue to assemble at other times as well and our Wednesday night attendance is from 11 to 17 people.

Big thanks to you for keeping us in your hearts and prayers. We are working for the same cause, which is one of God's commandments. We preach His Word. And when John or Johnny and his team come, they always bring your greetings and love.

Please, pray for me and my wife Maria, who is in her eighth month of pregnancy, which is a high-risk period.

I would like to give personal thanks to each one of you for your work and support. May our God be with you.

With love and appreciation, Ruslan

PASHA TUZNICHENKO'S REPORT...

Peace and grace to you. I am happy to greet you again and send my love to all of you, my dear brothers and sisters. I always thank our Lord who opened your hearts to support and pray for us with such love, understanding and sympathy. I always think of you as I pray to the Lord and ask Him to bless you for your assistance to all churches of Christ in Ukraine and throughout the world. Your love and concern are so uplifting to churches of Christ in Ukraine motivating us to be more mature in spirit. Thank you for supporting our American brethren that come to Ukraine and teach wonderful classes from the Holy Scripture.

Besides, I would like to report on the work done during this month. We continue distributing humanitarian aid in the form of clothes, food, medical equipment, etc. that you keep sending us. We have helped the Association of Mothers and Wives of the ATO Veterans, first aid clinic, Ivano-Frankivsk Geriatric Home, Verhovensky Center for First Medical and Sanitary Aid of Ivano-Frankivsk, Regional Children's Hospital, Perinatal Center, and given out clothes and shoes to those that need them. With my next report, I will provide pictures and thank-you letters from some of the end recipients.

I keep on teaching the correspondence Bible course to my beloved students. I fervently pray to the Lord to bless this ministry of mine and to give me wisdom to pass the truth onto others without twisting it. My dear brothers and sisters, please, pray with me for that. I hope that through these studies the family of our Lord will increase least several people. We have studied 1-3 John and Jude. We have touched upon such topics as Biblical Concept of Christ; Biblical Concept of Sin; Love that God Requires; Love that God Hates; Cleansing for the Coming of Christ; Incompatibility of Christianity and Sin; Assurance of Eternal Life; Assurance of Prayers Being Answered; Assurance of the Victory over Sin and Satan" and many more topics to apply in our Christian life.

I teach evening Bible classes and serve at worship. Besides, I am involved in the life of the Church, which is very busy; visit with different ones to support them with physical and spiritual needs. We continue getting our church building ready for construction. We bring in construction materials, clean up, trim the grass on the grounds and around the property.

As usual, I would like to ask you to pray for my family, my children, for the

BENEVOLENCE REACHES TANZANIA



We are so thankful for the help which you have given to us. We have received 179 tables being joined or connected together with chairs. All of them are in good quality, condition and more durable than the wood made tables. We would like to thank you again toward this generosity, charitable heart and kindness you have shown to our students and people of Tanzania. May God bless all brethren who gave themselves, their money, time and physical material for us and to our next generation children of Tanzania.

Thank you for fundraising, may God bless the work of your hands along with your families, may his work (God) move forward. Thank you very much.
Venance Mwanjelile

churches of Christ to grow and mature in Ukraine and all over the world. Please, pray for those who have not become a follower of Christ but would like to do so; for the Lord to add to His Church as many people as possible; for peace in this country and for this war that has no rhyme or reason to end so that innocent people will not die any more.

I pray and ask the Lord to bless you in everything you do and to give you good health and to build you up.

I keep you in my prayers all the time. I am wishing you good health, God's love and blessings to you and yours. In Christian love, Brother Pavlo

JULIA'S REPORT...

Greetings to the churches of Christ who supports our work with children in Starry Lysets and Lysets.

The last month of regular studying at "Smart Fox" club went very well. We organize the competition of the best-painted drawing of the favorite Bible story. Kids were very excited about this competition. They all participated in it. Children draw different Bible stories and after share their stories with everyone. Of course, they got awards for these drawings.



Also, in May, we did review of what children have learned at English and Bible classes. I provide it as a game splitting on teams, asking questions and giving points through "Spin the Wheel" app. It was a lot of fun and good summing up of what they gain during the studying year.

The last day at our club, we made a small celebration. We invited kids and their parents. I told a short speech, speaking about my gratitude to them. In addition, we gave children's Bibles as a gift and at the end ate pizza.

During the summer time we plan to have classes but one in a week, because they all want to have a rest from the school and go for the vocation or to visit their families, but we will keep in touch anyway. We will use summer time for the preparation to the next studying year. Planning curriculum, Bible lessons plan and English and get inspiration for the crafts ideas.

I hope God continues to be with us in this work. If you have any questions, please ask. In Christ, Julia Didukh

Good afternoon, brothers and sisters,

Our assemblies in the Church this week passed in a warm atmosphere of worship and fellowship. At the men's meeting, we have taken care of current issues and assigned those that will be responsible for services this week.

The men of the congregation are doing preparatory work in the construction site. We do what we can. This time we mowed the grass around our territory. We hope that with God's help, we will soon continue construction. We pray that the Lord will open people's hearts and we will raise funds needed for this.

Thank you for your prayers and work in God's vineyard.

With love in Christ, Your brothers from Ivano-Frankivsk