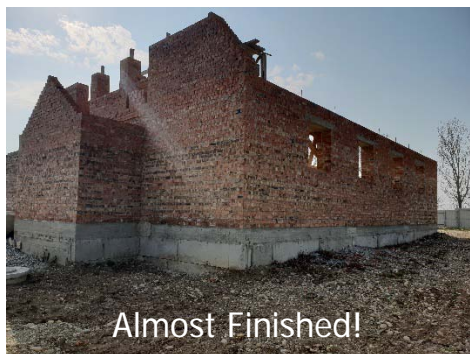


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*"These people hate us with strong bitterness because we are doing good to our community. It angers them that we give things away free and that others talk about our good works."*



This was a statement made by Ivan Skoleba to me in March. He was talking about the open hostility that the Orthodox Church and the Greek-Catholic Church demonstrates against the Lord's Church. The Chief of the Ivano-Frankivsk Religious Department curses Ivan. We spent three years fighting to get the Church registered in Ivano-Frankivsk. Our fight went all the way to Ukraine's Supreme Court that ordered the registration. After the congregation was registered the Religious Department Chief cursed Ivan and swore to him that she would get revenge.

The open persecution is only from the part of the Administration that is influenced by the Orthodox and Greek-Catholic Churches. All others express the strongest gratitude for our work. This is best illustrated by the village Ugorniky that gave the church a prime piece of property on which to build a building. Ugorniky's gratitude has been followed by many other administrations throughout the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. In April I met with the Vice-Mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk city who pledged to help us get shipments into his area.

The persecution of the Religious Department, the Orthodox and Greek-Catholics is limited. *They cannot cause the registration to be rescinded and they cannot cause the property to be seized.* Through a providential maneuver the church property belongs to the Dalraida Eldership and cannot be disposed unless the Dalraida Elders authorize such.

But the persecution can be pointed at individuals and toward those who rent to the Church.

When we constructed the storage/distribution center on the Church's property we built into the back a separate room where assemblies could occur. The congregation has assembled in this room but as soon as it was available it outgrew the room. A few assemblies have been held in this room but the congregation needed a larger room. The congregation was being rented a nice large room while the construction was in process but 18 months ago the owner told the Church it had to find another place because he was going to rent to someone else.

The Church literally looked all over Ivano-Frankivsk and could not find a place (they were told the Religious Department had told all rentals not to rent to the Church). At the very last moment a man, who had heard of the benevolent work being done, offered two large rooms and the Church began meeting there.

In February the owner said he was being forced to increase the rent by 20% and if we did not want to pay we could leave. We also are given no guarantee that the rent will stay at this level and it may increase again if the owner is pressured more. There are no places to go as all have been told not to rent to the Church. Those issuing this threatened curse are embittered by the good that we do and are controlled by Satan.

So at this point we have no option but to pay the increased rent and hope it will not increase again until we are able to move to a larger room in the church building that can accommodate the number in the congregation. The congregation has been asked to review and give a report on how the small assembly room might be used and other possible alternatives until a larger room is suitable.

The unbelievable reality is that the Ivano-Frankivsk Church of Christ is being kicked to the street. Such a maneuver is intended to destroy the Church by removing a place for it to assemble.

Our escape from this predicament is to complete the construction on the plot of ground given by Village Ugorniky. We have been working on this construction for 2+ years. We have bought all bricks necessary to finish. We need to finish bricking walls for the second floor and put a roof over the construction. This will "dry-in" the construction. Our brothers and sisters will do the interior work. Once we get the roof on the interior will be unfinished BUT the Church can begin meeting in that location. The members will work one room at a time to finish the interior. This will give the Church a legal location that is permanently their possession.

The urgency is to get the roof on and construction "dried-in" before next winter's weather hits (in October or November). This is very possible. The support from local businesses has been good. These have told the Church how much they appreciate the good works the congregation does. Consequently, all wood for the ceiling rafters was donated in December. Ten tonnes (metric weigh) of cement was donated in February and 5MT of that promised amount was delivered April 23, 2019!

In order to do this we must have funds. The Ivano-Frankivsk brothers wrote to the churches of Christ a plea for these funds. Please review their request and help as much as possible. This is urgent because evil is working to evict our brethren and thus attempt to erase the Church from Ivano-Frankivsk.

The property in Ugorniky is secure. It cannot be seized. The official registration of the Lord's Church as a public entity is secure. It cannot be rescinded. The Church can meet in an unfinished section during the summer as long as there is no rain but when winter comes such is impossible. They need a roof on the building. Please help!

The impact of the Lord's Church in Ivano-Frankivsk is significant and threatens Satan's evil work. This is the reason for the persecution. Please join your brothers and sisters in this battle and let us do all we can to help them survive!

I have \$10,000.00 that has been donated by various individuals and congregations. This gets us started. The cost to finish bricking the second floor and putting a roof on will be \$140,000.00. That is A LOT of money if it is looked at as coming from one source. BUT if you get multiple sources to give that large amount becomes a certain reality. If we can get gifts of \$5,000 it will only take 28 to reach the required amount! If we have individuals giving whatever they can, then those amounts will be used by the Lord to cobble together the required amount.

PLEASE consider your brethren's plight and help as you are able. Please contact others you know that can possibly help. I will be happy to come and meet with churches or individuals to explain the work in Ivano-Frankivsk and the urgent need to get this roof on by the end of summer.

Please look and see how you can give to help us join together to reach the amount needed to finish the outward construction so our brothers and sisters can finish the interior work. Send your generous donation today to the Dalraida Church of Christ and mark it "Ukraine Construction."

Sincerely,



John L. Kachelman, Jr.



*Візьміть всю Божу зброю, щоб ви могли дати опір у день зла і, здійснивши все, вистояти (Єф.6:13).*

Релігійна громада  
**ЦЕРКВА ХРИСТОВА**  
у м. Івано-Франківськ

Greetings, dear elders of churches of Christ!

First of all, we would like to thank you for helping churches of Christ in Ukraine, namely, for your support in spirit, by prayers and finances. Membership of this congregation has grown over these years. The current assembly place is getting too small for us. Besides, the owner of the building complains about big number of people coming in every day as there are businesses that rent offices in the same building but they don't have as many visitors as we do on everyday basis.

As of today, there are 54 Christians that attend and about the same number of visitors that come once or twice a month. Out of that number of visitors 4-5 are being baptized every year. When we host different events there are about 110-120 people that come.

Dear elders, we, the men of the church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk, are addressing you with a big request for help. We are in dire need of funds to finish construction of our church building. Strategically, the building is located in a very convenient area. It is between 2 cities, which are growing fast and in about 10-15 years our church building will be in the center between them. The population within 20 kilometers around the building is over 300,000.00 people. We have access to all of that area through humanitarian aid that John Kachelman ships here on behalf of churches of Christ in America. With all that we are in good standing with the people and administration. Even though the Orthodox church is trying hard to oppose, church of Christ has gained strong presence and credibility doing good to all people in that area, which makes it easier to talk to people and evangelize.

As of today, we need \$140,000.00 to roof the building over and to start interior works. The company that makes roof wants a 70% prepay, which is \$98,000.00. These are things we cannot do ourselves.

That is why, we plead with you for financial help so that we can complete construction of the church building. We beg you for help for the sake of our common goal to spread the Gospel and expand God's Kingdom on the earth.

With appreciation to you and prayers to God, the men of the congregation:

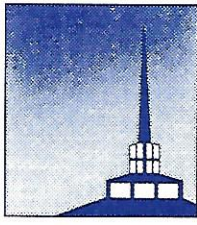
Ivan Skoleba

Andriy Lagno

Pavlo Tuznichenko

Ruslan Skoleba

Volodymyr Kuriy



D A L R A I D A  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Dalraida elders are fully supportive of the building effort of the Ivano-Frankivsk church. And we are very much impressed with the hard work being done by members of that congregation.

As we understand the terms under which the building was secured, the property must always be used for religious purposes. And according to provisions of the Ukraine government, the Dalraida elders are legally the last authority in decisions concerning the building. This is similar to the legal provisions of many churches in America who have trustees to satisfy state regulations but are under practical control of the elders.

The Ivano-Frankivsk congregation has been in existence many years, having survived lobbying from a former member and the Russian Orthodox Church to frustrate its application for official registration. Thanks to the benevolent efforts of John Kachelman, Jr., the church is well thought of by local authorities, and we are pleased with the progress on all fronts.

Although the Dalraida congregation has made no financial contributions to the building program, we are heavily invested in the Ivano-Frankivsk church:

- We provide \$ 4,750 monthly support to the congregation, which includes partial support for minister Ivan Skoleba and operational expenses.
- We accept funds for other works of the Lord in that area.
- We accept donations for special needs and these are wired to recipients in the Ukraine.
- We help sponsor shipments of humanitarian aid that are distributed in the Lord's name.
- In October 2018 we plan to send a group of twenty-one members from Dalraida to Ivano-Frankivsk for evangelization and to encourage and strengthen the church.

Contributions for construction of the meeting house are overseen by John L. Kachelman Jr. A copy of these is made available to the elders with a copy also kept in the church office. The church copy does not name individuals but lists donors as either churches or individuals.

The Dalraida elders understand the enormous scope of the Ivano-Frankivsk building project and believe that in the long run this meeting house will be a significant factor in bolstering the Lord's work in western Ukraine. And we are glad to have others join us in this and any effort which seeks and saves the lost. Through partnerships that work heart to heart and hand in hand we can recognize and utilize doors of opportunity which God opens for us.

*Bob McKee*      *Steve Phillips*  
*James Russell*      *Alan R. Sal*  
*Bill*