

# Ukraine Missions

*a ministry of Dalraida church of Christ*



*Above Photo: The Church at worship in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, October 13, 2019*

## **Here is the October 2019 UKRAINE MISSIONS Newsletter!**

The October UKRAINE MISSIONS newsletter offers a summary of reports on the mission teams that visited Ivano-Frankivsk in late September through October. We had two teams that visited and worked with the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation. The overall objective was to focus upon developing congregational autonomy. Special attention was given to presenting table-top discussions on the elementary principles of developing a congregational budget, principles of Church leadership that will allow the congregation to function as the New Testament teaches, and then the actual developing of a congregational budget for 2020. In addition to these efforts our teams focused upon various visits into the community and the second team worked in a number of public and private schools.

The autumn mission trip was a great experience and brought encouragement and edification to all involved!

THANK YOU to all who contributed toward the expenses of this mission trip!

Please read the newsletter and rejoice in the amazing work that God was able to do through those willing to follow His commands and be a servant to others!

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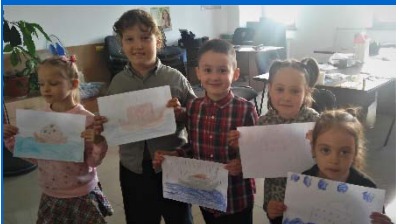
# UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

October 2019

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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*“They were amazed that Americans know the Bible so well. This is was as an example to them how the real Christian should know the Scripture.”*

The final days of September and the first half of October were filled with the fall mission trip to Ukraine. I left the USA on 30 September and returned on 26 October. The trip was highlighted by a number of meetings with authorities and official groups in Ukraine. These are most eager to help us resume our efforts in shipping benevolent items into the country’s most vulnerable areas. I especially am thankful to the various military contacts and those working with Zelensky’s Administration to correct the criminal corruption that has governed Ukraine for too long. I am very happy to say that there have been significant positive moves to correct the problem that suspended our shipments. This has resulted because many of you responded and contacted your elected officials who in turn made phone calls and sent letters on our behalf.

The trip began with a visit to Kramatorsk and meeting with the Church there. Vladimir and Oksana are doing an exceptional work in that city. The congregation is always a delightful refuge and the brethren offer love and comfort in fellowship. There is really not enough space for me to describe how Vlad and Oksana are making such a wonderful impact for the Lord through His Church in Kramatorsk! Just write down all the superlatives of a positive and successful action and character and you just begin to describe these two beautiful people. Their children (Rita and Dima) are just as wonderful!

During the mission trip I and the Mission Team from Dalraida sent back reports on our actions. These were posted and are available at this link: <https://www.kachelman.com/ukraine/blog/category/trip-reports/> If you were not able to read the reports as they were posted I hope you will take time to review them and see the impact the trip made. The Dalraida Mission Team reports are posted at this link: <https://dalraidamissions.org/tag/fall-2019-ukraine-trip/> The teams did an outstanding job and an amazing impact for the Lord was made. You can read below some reports from brethren on the team’s impact.

I am now in the process of scheduling reporting trips to supporters and discussing plans for 2020! Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support for my efforts!  
 —John L. Kachelman, Jr.

## MISSION’S OBJECTIVE—AUTONOMY!

Our focus for the teams going into Ivano-Frankivsk in September-October was to lay basic groundwork principles for the future autonomy of the congregation. We seek to be “partners” and not “overseers.”

## PHOTOS FROM THE VISITORS



Two teams went to discuss elementary budgeting and congregational autonomy. The first team was coordinated by the Hillsboro congregation (Nashville, TN). Its members included Joel & Joy Campbell, Henry Huffard, John Durham and Gary Jerkins. The second team was composed of ten members from the Dalraida congregation (Montgomery, AL).

The first group discussed why a budget is necessary and must be practical (cover essential needs) but also have a degree of vision (list some dreams). The second team built on these points and at the end of the trip had given the essential points needed to prepare a proposed budget. The congregation was asked to prepare a budget for 2020 by which the congregation determines how funds are to be spent to accomplish the Lord's Work. This proposed budget is the first ever conceived and sent by the congregation. I had described it as "baby steps" but now I think baby steps are too optimistic and we are at the rolling over and maybe scooting stage! But it is a beginning of a learning process that will ultimately lead to autonomy. The congregation responded well and has sent in the proposed budget which is being reviewed in the 2020 budgeting process. Please pray for this developing process!

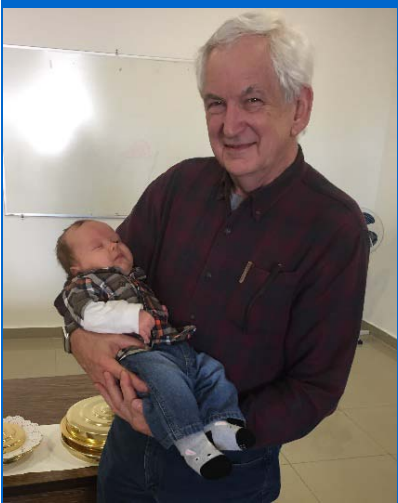
### *TETIANA'S THOUGHTS...a real "godsend" to us*

Dear brethren! Let me greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus! May His Spirit be always with us guiding us in all matters and giving us wisdom to withstand attacks of the evil one and to share the truth with other souls. I am happy and thankful to God that we are one family in the Lord who blesses us with different talents to serve one another and to make us altogether complete and wholesome as His Family, which is His Church. And the bond of Lord's family is even stronger than our family ties! Thus, it is always such a joy to see the members of your spiritual family that you have already met and to get to know the ones that you see for the first time.

We had several groups from our overseas family in the Lord visit us this fall. The first group came from Tennessee and Ohio. We were blessed so much to have Joel and Joy Campbell from Cincinnati, OH here. I wish they could have stayed longer as they have become such dear friends to us (and to me personally) over these years. They are a wonderful couple that love the Lord and His Church dearly. Their amazing Christian spirit is always so uplifting to me and everybody else. They just radiate love and joy!

We were very happy to meet Henry Huffard from the Hillsboro congregation. This was Henry's first visit. We were impressed with his practical insight and his wisdom. His visit was a great blessing. And our beloved John Durham once again returned and worked at the University teaching English and teaching Romans at Church. This group began discussion on budget of Church and explained very general points. They had to spoon feed the basics to our men who had never done a budget before. Their teaching was a treasure for us.

The group from Dalraida that came in October was a real "godsend" to us. I got to see those dear brethren that I met 1 to 3 years ago and loved to meet the newcomers. We really had a wonderful crew come here this time – hardworking, cheerful, encouraging, loving and caring. Even though some of them came for the first time they fit in very well and operated in perfect harmony with the group and everybody else. Their goodhearted nature, kind and polite manners, good Bible knowledge drew many to love them and



hate for them to leave so soon. I personally was present in the evening classes and those teaching them did a great job. Of course, Andrew Gifford (aka Gif) prepared good lessons on leadership that were beneficial and sobering to many, not only leaders. I am sure our men understand much better now what the Lord expects them to be and to do. But those things can be applied to every member because each Christian can be a leader in a sense guiding those that are out in the world to the knowledge of one and only God. It was a very good idea to divide into table-talk groups after the class to discuss the topic. It was good because we all look at things at a slightly different angle and this allowed good discussion. Looking at things differently does not necessarily mean that some are mistaken. But it helps us to put all those different insights together into a fuller picture leading to a better understanding.

From the comments on the part of the Dalraida crew I was happy to see that all of them enjoyed working with us to spread the good news proving once again that church of Christ is not a “sect” (cult) but rather a group of believers who try to live by the Word of God. Once again the people we interacted with could see that we were not like those that came to take advantage of them but rather to help them in every way possible.

Our fellowship was uplifting, refreshing and upbuilding. I am so thankful that the group was able to spend more time with the Church encouraging and strengthening us. There was a holiday the first day of the campaign and we could not really do anything as all schools and other institutions were out. So, the group went to the mountains to meet with some families that had been reading the Bible and had opened up to the Word of God. I think everybody had a great time and gotten to know one another better, grew closer to one another, made friends with one another. I think it was God’s Providence to bind us together as a team before we started working together for His cause. The words of the Psalmist are so true when he joyfully sings, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!...For there the Lord commanded the blessing – life forever!” Ps 133:1, 3.

I want to send a BIG thank you to all who was involved into making this campaign happen! Keep on sending these wonderful workers and encouragers here. We know to put them to work (Just ask the Nicks)! HaHaHa!!! Thank you for your manifold support of missions. A special thanks is sent to those that support John Kachelman, Jr.’s work in Ukraine. He is a spiritual “father-figure” to us. His work here is invaluable; his example is encouraging; his love is unquestioned; and his attitude is sincere.

May the Lord bless all of you beyond measure! May He guide you with His loving hand and may you always “abide in the shadow of the Almighty,” who is our refuge and our fortress!

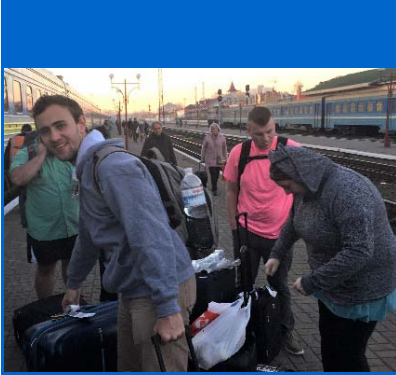
In Christian love, Tanya

**PS** Personal greetings and hugs to Doug, Chip, Gif, Simba, Caleb, Nick and Elizabeth, Nick, the Viking, and Maggie! And more hugs go to Joel and Joy, John Durham, Gary and Henry! We love and appreciate all of you!

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## VOVA & JULIA...GREAT LESSONS IN CHRISTIAN LIFE

Greetings to Dalraida Church of Christ! First of all Julia and I want to say



thank you to the whole team for putting so much effort in this work in Western part of Ukraine.

We had an opportunity to work in our area with almost all team members. We can say each of them has their own talent which they use during evangelization. Their conduct and smiles were great lessons in Christian life.

We thank Chip, Doug, Gif and Simba for participating at Smart Fox classes. Also we appreciate Caleb and both Nicks' work at public school, where they taught kids English and even a little bit of Bible. Caleb taught the teacher and the class John 3:16! They were amazed that Americans know the Bible so well. This is was as an example to them how the real Christian should know the Scripture.

Doug promised to help with the project of reconstruction of the building which will be a place where church at Lysets will gather! He was very excited to help in this and gave the advice.

Thanks to God and to the team one more time!




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### ***ANDREW & MARYNA...THANKFUL FOR YOUR KIND HEARTS***

Greetings, brother John.

I hope you are doing fine. Thank you so much for your good words and prayers on behalf of my family.

Many people that we visited and spent time with during the recent visit of our American brethren have thanked us in these days after the groups left.

I would like to say a few words about our trips with Chip when we visited a rehabilitation center in the village of Mykulychyn and brought different household supplies for the children. The headmaster, Mykola, has called and given thanks for the aid. He says that with such aid they are able to provide necessary conditions for children to be there. He has asked me to give you big thanks on behalf of the administration of the whole institution.

Then we stopped by a village clinic where Galyna Ivanivna met us. She showed us around doctors' offices, showed us the relief items they had received within the last few years and talked to us about the difficult conditions they had to work in. She stressed the necessity of an ultra-sound machine and defibrillator for the village's community. This is the largest and the longest village in Europe. She was very thankful for the Church's support of their out-patient clinic with medical supplies, and how we quickly help needy families with food, clothes and shoes.

We also visited the family of Volodya Lubymenko. His story is horrible. He was a very healthy and lively child till a horrible tragedy changed his life that killed his dreams and plans for a happy future. I am attaching a letter where his grandmother described what had happened to him, the consequences and problems they had trying to recover physically. Volodya loves bananas, thus we brought some yummy presents for him, and a family bucket that had been collected and shipped by our American brethren. We also took him diapers, which this family needs all the time. He was very glad to see us and could hardly stop talking to us. Together with our interpreter, Natalie, we were surprised to hear Volodya say that there was no need to interpret as he could understand when Chip was talking. Thus, they had a very good time speaking English to one another. Volodya did not want us to leave and





invited us (especially Chip) to come again. It is so heartbreaking to see consequences of human cruelty. Such visits make your heartache for a long time.

The last two weeks Volodya was in hospital and had treatments. The Church paid for these treatments with the money that you had collected and left with us for the Lord's work. This was a very tangible help for them and they cannot stop thanking you for your kind hearts.

I hope you remember our brother Alexi and his wife Julia. It is sad to say they divorced last week. Alexi could hardly endure that. He wound up in hospital with high blood pressure. And later on, tests showed that he had had a stroke. He is now having treatments at an out-patients department and after that he will have to take pills. Since he could not work, he needed money to pay for treatments, and he received it through your donations. We gave him a family bucket and rice mixes. He was very happy and sent his heartfelt thanks to all those who labor for God, praying, giving of their money and time.

Please, keep Alexi in your prayers for God to help him survive the divorce and to recover. Please, pray for Volodya as well, and help him with rehabilitation if the Lord opens your hearts to do that. I am attaching Volodya's grandmother Galyna's letter where she is addressing you with a request and gratitude. Also attached are photos of our meetings and giving aid.

May God keep you safe and protect your families, children and grandchildren.

In Christian love, Andre and Maryna Lagno

### ***OKSANA...THEY WERE A HUGE BLESSING!***

Hello dear brothers & sisters, That week of campaign was a huge blessing for me. I had a privilege to translate for Doug and Caleb in Zelena. They did a marvelous job at school answering tough questions and presenting the church of Christ to the students and teachers. They also taught one family from the village about God and salvation with such meekness, yet standing firm on the truth of God's word. I was amazed at their ability to overcome cultural differences and come across as loving and friendly, never imposing. I have learned a lot from them about the proper attitude of true evangelism, that combines sincere care for the souls and a deep knowledge of the Savior.

It was also so great to meet with Elizabeth and Maggie and their husbands. These two couples are THE BEST and so great with kids and young people. I had a wonderful time translating for Elizabeth and Maggie at the kindergarten, enjoying the time with kids and also deep conversations with the principal.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve with these wonderful people.

“I was amazed at their ability to overcome cultural differences and come across as loving and friendly, never imposing. I have learned a lot from them about the proper attitude of true evangelism that combines sincere care for the souls and a deep knowledge of the Savior.”



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## ***RUSLAN SKOLEBA SENDS NEWS...***

Dear brothers and sisters! I am happy to send you greetings on behalf of the church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk.

This month has been very busy as we have received many guests from the USA. We were thrilled to see those that had come before as well as encouraged by the new faces.

Thank you very much for your support and appreciation of our work. I hope the groups have already shared their impressions with you. And those who came last year did share their thoughts with you about the work done within the year since they last saw our progress.

Big thanks to John Kachelman who came earlier to help get things ready for the main group. There are also big thanks to Gif and Simba who stayed behind the campaign and helped us to understand the process of setting up a budget. They also relayed and explained the good letter from the elders of the Dalraida congregation to us.

We understand that we have to mature in a way pleasing to God. And, we are dedicated to do this!

We know that you collected and handmade some things that were sent in the last container. The Dalraida group wanted to help with unloading and distribution. But, unfortunately, the container was delayed and was delivered only last week. Gif and Simba were disappointed as they had hoped that they (if not everybody else) might help unload before they left.

We continue building our assembly place with God's mercy and your support. Last Saturday, together with some other men we treated the wooden beams/rafters for the roof for fire prevention.

We are beginning our youth ministry this week. Men have asked me to start it. Please, pray for this new ministry.

Please, pray for our brother Nana. He is in need of prayers so that God will show him his purpose in this life. He is in Europe now looking for a job.

We find joy and comfort knowing we work together in God's vineyard. May God strengthen and bless you.

In Christian love, The Skolebas, Jr.

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## ***IVAN SKOLEBA SENDS NEWS...***

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters. We thank you for your help and for sending a great crew of brothers and sisters that came to visit and work with us. We also thank all of you who prayed and supported their trip to Ukraine financially and in many other ways. Your great efforts in sending these teams have inspired the Church here and we are filled with zeal to go on sharing the Gospel with others. Several groups of Americans visited us in the month of October. Together, we had many meetings, Bible classes and much fellowship with people of all ages. We visited children's homes, district hospitals and villages in the Region of Ivano-Frankivsk. We gave them Bibles together with humanitarian aid. Because of these efforts the Church of Christ gains stronger presence in our area.

We had our worship services yesterday and our attendance was 48. All



men served during worship and all of them are involved in the life of the Church. We continue studying with those that have not yet been baptized. It is good news to report that brother Alexi has come back to Church. He and his wife were baptized a few years ago and then his wife would not let him attend because she did not want to go to Church. She has now left him and then divorced him. He is almost ruined by this and so now he is coming back to Church. We talked at length with him and he asked us to pray for his family. He has to deal with the deaf and studies the sign language. He works at a fisherman store. He is a bundle of energy and could make a good leader. I hope the Lord will guide him to where he would labor in the Kingdom of Christ.

The container from Montgomery is supposed to be cleared in a few days.

And now discussing the visitors. I send a BIG thanks to brothers Joel, Henry, John Durham, Gif and Simba. They helped us to put together our first ever Church budget. It was our first budgeting experience and we met five times to discuss different items at length.

In 2020, we would like to focus our efforts on evangelism and spiritual strength of the congregation. We are putting together a plan, according to which each brother will have certain responsibilities and will have a team of brethren from the Church that is willing to work in different areas such as evangelism; humanitarian aid that will include giving out of the Bibles and booklets; work with children’s homes and hospitals as well as visiting the disabled and getting them to Church assemblies; work in Ugornyky, Yaremche, Zelena – there are people in all three places, with whom we have stayed in contact for several years and now time has come to study the Bible with them so that they would be able to obey the gospel.

We have had our “fall back” already and are now adjusting to new time but we continue having our Sunday services from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; Wednesday class is from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. On Friday we have a prayer meeting and everybody can join in the general prayer by expressing needs and requests. Ruslan teaches teenagers. Svitlana teaches Sunday children’s class and during the work week she stays in contact with sisters and together they sort out clothes, which they later on give out or mail to needy children and families.

This week, men of the congregation spent several days at the construction site working there. The congregation is excited and cannot wait for the roof, windows and doors to be installed so that all are able to help with interior works in winter and thus personally help with construction.

Please, continue praying for Masha, Galyna, Bogdan, Peter, Tetiana, Taras and Galyna so that they will be immersed. They do read the Bible and their life outlook has changed in many ways, but they are afraid to be immersed thinking their relatives will take them for traitors to the faith. Please, pray with us so that the Lord will chase fears away. We appreciate your prayers, support, partnership and fellowship so much. We love you and thank God for all of you.

In Christian love, Ivan and Svitlana

**JANUARY-SEPTEMBER WE SHIPPED 27 CONTAINERS,  
555,434 POUNDS VALUED AT \$5,183,700.66!**



## *A BROTHER RETURNS!*

*It is good news to report that brother Alexi has come back to Church. He and his wife were baptized a few years ago and then his wife would not let him attend because she did not want to go to Church. She has now left him and then divorced him. He is almost ruined by this and so now he is coming back to Church. We talked at length with him and he asked us to pray for his family.*



## *PAVOLD TUZNICHENKO'S NEWS...*

I am happy to greet you with love and joy, my dear brothers and sisters. As I pray, I always thank our Lord and Savior for you, for your love, support, and prayers that all of us and all churches of Christ on earth need so much. Your care and concern encourage and strengthen us giving us optimism and assurance as we labor in God's vineyard. I thank the Lord who brings His children together in such a way that we have wonderful fellowship as well as great partnership. I am sending special thanks to you for the recent evangelistic outreach and the brethren that flew to Ukraine to be a part of it. Together we embraced quite a large area where Bible classes were taught, humanitarian aid was given out, and, first and foremost, the Word of God was preached.

As usual, I would like to report on the work done during the month. I am going on with the correspondence Bible course that I teach to my beloved students. I earnestly pray to the Lord asking Him to bless this ministry of mine giving me wisdom to teach the untwisted Truth of God's Word. I ask you, brethren, to, please, pray for this with me. I do hope that through this venue our Lord's Family will grow at least by a few souls. Together with the students, we have studied "The Old Testament History from David to Nehemiah": David's family; David's reign; David and Bathsheba; Old age and death of king David; king David in history and archeology; psalmist David; David's impact on Christianity. As always, I ask you to, please, pray with me for the course and the students so that the Lord will strengthen them physically and in spirit.

We continue helping with construction of our church building where, in future, we will assemble and glorify our Lord. Some construction materials, 17 metric tonnes of wood for roof included, were delivered and our American brothers helped to unload those. Big and special thanks to them! We have tried to save money by doing the work we can—unloading, treating the wood against fire and insects. We pray that we will have the roof put up before winter comes so that we can work inside regardless of the weather outside.

We received another container with humanitarian aid that you had shipped here. Big thanks to you for everything you shipped in it. This is the container loaded in Alabama and that has the many family buckets and blankets for babies. Soon, we will distribute the shipment to the needy.

I always pray to the Lord asking Him to strengthen the spirit of all those that have decided to follow Him. I fervently pray for the Lord to give me wisdom and love to be a better servant in His vineyard.

Please, pray with me and ask the Lord to add to His Church as many people as possible; for growth of Church all over the world; for those that have not come on the right path to follow Christ; for peace in this country.

I always keep you in my prayers. Thank you for your help, love, and support. I wish good health, God's love and grace to all of you!

In Christian love, brother Pavlod

*Your care and concern encourage and strengthen us giving us optimism and assurance as we labor in God's vineyard.*