

Ukraine Missions

a ministry of Dalraida church of Christ



Photo: Children's Bible Class in Ivano-Frankivsk enjoy pre-class activities before the class begins!

December 2019 UKRAINE MISSIONS Newsletter!

The year 2019 is now in the chronicles of the "past." This is the final report of 2019 for the Lord's Church in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. Much has been accomplished in 2019 in our focused efforts in western Ukraine. This assessment of the year was given by Pavold and is encouraging, "There have been both happy and unhappy developments in the passing year. Among the best ones is the fact that many more people have started coming to hear the Word of God."

Another encouraging development of 2019 is the progress in the construction. Here is a brief pictorial record of this progress from the beginning...





UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

December 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

- Wonderful Reports!
- 2019's rearview mirror!



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“WE TRAIN OURSELVES TO LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE AND OUR WHOLE CONGREGATION IS STRIVING TO MATURE TO BECOME STRONG AND SACRIFICIAL CHRISTIANS.”

The end of 2019 has arrived and its arrival seems to have come too quickly! Looking back over the days, weeks, and months of 2019 is a breathtaking experience. If you missed any of the monthly reports please go online and look back at the wonderful news that was passed along every month (<https://www.kachelman.com/ukraine/blog/>).

Paul wrote that his circumstances “turned out for the greater progress of the gospel” (Philippians 1:12). The Apostle recognized that the successes were not the result of his ability but the combined abilities of his brethren and the grace of God. This is true in our efforts. THANK YOU to all involved in every facet of this work—donors, partners located throughout the world and those who offer encouraging comments and supportive labors. The successes of this ministry are attributable to the Lord God Almighty and how wonderful that many are willing to serve God with their ability to make the progress possible. Our objective is to nurture a welcoming environment by which the gospel can be presented in word and deed.

The successes of 2019 are too many to list. Each success has brought a victory to the Way of the Lord; grace to those in need; and, strength to the Christians involved. God has been glorified and His Church has gained immeasurable respect and recognition.

In 2019 we have seen the lost surrender their lifestyle choices to the Lord and be immersed; new plateaus in offering benevolent assistance in the name of the Lord, and the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk has progressed in multiple directions.

Thank you to all who have donated money, sacrificed time and energy in collecting, sorting and loading benevolent items, and those who have been constant encouragers that keep providing the energy essential to our efforts!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

2019'S REARVIEW MIRROR...

2019 TOTALS IN SHIPPING BENEVOLENCE ITEMS

Our efforts continue to ship benevolent items in the name of the Lord. In 2019 the final totals are impressive: We completed shipment to ELEVEN nations (Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Madagascar, Moldova, Nigeria, Republic of Georgia, Tanzania, and Ukraine). We have also assisted benevolent activities inside the USA passing along various supplies and equipment to those in need. In the overseas efforts we shipped 35 forty-foot, high-cube cargo containers with a total weight of 707,473 pounds, having a total value of \$6,899,326.27! Although we shipped out of multiple locations,

COMPASSION

We work with people through humanitarian aid while preaching the Gospel. The photos show us helping people and groups that we support. We plan to continue working with these in 2020 in the area where our meeting place is. In this coming year we plan to have home Bible study groups in Yaremche, Ugornyky and Zelena.



our major loading points continue to be where the Lord's brethren collect, sort and load: Judsonia, AR, Columbus, MS, Neelyville, MO, and Montgomery, AL. Thanks to the efforts of brother Jerry Max Morgan, in November we opened up a new collection and loading site in Holly Springs, MS. This new location will begin 2020 by loading a container for Azerbaijan!

Our efforts to ship benevolence items into Ukraine were suspended in 2018 because of the corruption that sought to extort money and confiscate commodities so they could be sold on Ukraine's black market. In May I travelled to Ukraine and had a number of meetings with various officials. This was after the new President had been elected. As the new President took office, he began addressing the widespread corruption in Kyiv.

I was assured that our concerns were being addressed and that we would have no more issues. Upon these promises we resumed shipments but are wary of the promises and are testing the situation to see if what we were told is true. The situation in Washington, DC also is in Kyiv, Ukraine—a Deep State Bureaucracy controls much of the nation. These unelected bureaucrats think they know better than those elected to govern the nation! Hopefully these criminal bureaucrats will be purged and we can feel secure in resuming full operations in our shipments to Ukraine.

Let all involved know absolutely that **IF** the situation is not corrected, we **WILL** suspend shipments to Ukraine and focus attention on those nations who embrace and encourage our assistance. We could easily supply Ukraine with 200 containers a year IF there is cooperation and a purge of corruption!

THE GENEROSITY OF SUPPORTERS

In 3 John 8 we read, "Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow-workers with the truth." The Apostle focused on the partnership critical to the progress of the gospel. Not all can "go" but all can share in the effort. Whatever one does, he contributes to the overall success of the effort. Nothing is viewed as insignificant—even if it is a "mite."

The Greek term used by Inspiration is insightful. The term specifically chosen by inspiration communicates the mechanics of the Lord's work. Συνεργός is a compound Greek term from ἐργόν meaning "work" and σὺν meaning "with." It thus communicates that a task is completed by a group "working with" one another. It is referring to a co-laborer, assistant, a team member, a companion in labor, or a fellow-worker. Paul uses this word to refer to the team work performed by man working with God. The KJV translates this as "fellow-helper." All involved, in any aspect of the operation, are involved in a critical element of the action! There is no "unimportant" or "little" part of the mission.

David spoke of those who "watched the baggage" as equally critical to operations as those who went into war. "For as his share is who goes down to the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage; they shall share alike" (1 Samuel 30:24). Read the context and observe that those who did not have the energy were able to serve in a capacity just as critical as those who went into battle.

It is humbling to see the numbers and names of all who partner with our efforts. I am very thankful for those who are "fellow-workers with the truth" as we join God's plans. *Without YOU in this mission* we would not be able to record the successes for the Lord chronicled in 2019's newsletters.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE OPERATIONS CENTER FOR THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN IVANO-FRANKIVSK

December 2019 brings us to a significant place in the construction's plans. We have been able to raise funds to complete the roof-over! As a consequence of this generous response, we were blessed with others who pledged to put windows and doors in the building when the roof was finalized. Read the updates on the construction project and rejoice in the amazing blessings that the Almighty God has bestowed upon our efforts. The Psalmist looked around him and saw how God's majesty answered life's trials and exclaimed, "Then all men will fear, and they will declare the work of God, and will consider what He has done" (64:9).

Thank you for donating to this project in 2019—your part in this action has enabled us to achieve a significant milestone. Very soon our brothers and sisters will be secure in their own building. This building is designed to become the control of an operating nucleus for the gospel's efforts throughout western Ukraine and the neighboring nations!

IVAN SKOLEBA SENDS END OF YEAR NEWS!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, our Lord! We are sending our cordial Christmas and New Year wishes to you! We thank God for the good progress that we have made in 2019. A lot of good work has been done this year. The Gospel that was planted in the hearts of many people in Western Ukraine has brought forth good fruit. Some are baptized, some still think of the changes they will have to make as far as their life's priorities go and need time to think through that. We are thankful to you for having brought to us the Good News of eternal life and the only one true and Biblical Church of Christ established by the Lord for mankind to be saved. Thank you very much for your prayers and financial support, for the giving of your time to come here and teach good Bible lessons to this congregation and to other people. You are an outstanding example of good works that you do in Ukraine.

We train ourselves to live a Christian life and our whole congregation is striving to mature to become strong and sacrificial Christians. When we invite people to our new meeting place, we, ourselves, have to be faithful children of God. This is our great responsibility as a church of Christ to people in our city and to our Lord.

Svitlana teaches Bible to women and children. Anya works with students and invites them to Church; besides she teaches English to children and shares Bible stories with them. Our son Ruslan is involved in humanitarian work, serves the Lord's Supper, and teaches Bible classes. Together with his wife Maria, he gives aid to people in the village of Mala Kamiianka and extends the invitation to come to Church to the people living there.

We thank our sister Tetiana who always works so hard translating documents associated with humanitarian aid and with Church work. We are so blessed to have such a sister. All of us try hard to use our talents as we serve God and encourage one another to mature in spirit.

Construction of the church building is progressing very well. We are installing roof, windows and doors this year, which should allow us to do interior works in winter to save money by doing works ourselves. We are waiting for dry weather to install the metal roof and we pray that by second week in January we can get this done.



We thank God for the good progress that we have made towards the end of 2019. A lot of good work has been done this year. The Gospel that was planted in the hearts of many people in Western Ukraine has brought forth good fruit. Some are baptized, some still think of the changes they will have to make as far as their life's priorities go and need time to think through that.

We also work with people through humanitarian aid while preaching the Gospel to them. We had two baptisms in December. Maryna and Andrew's son Sasha, 15 years of age, was baptized. Sasha grew up going to Church. He has been coming with Maryna, his mother, since he was three years of age. They started coming to Bible classes 12 years ago when we began our work to establish the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk together with brother John Kachelman. At the time they started coming we were meeting in the Carpathian Hotel. We rejoice together with them at Sasha's decision.

We rejoice to say that Bogdan from the village of Zelena was baptized. His village is located up in the mountains. He and his wife Galyna first heard about church of Christ at a retreat conducted and supported by Hillsboro church of Christ where they met a number of brethren (Gary, Ron, John McMeen, Joel & Joy Campbell; Rick Montgomery to name a few). This last October, Doug Schofield and Caleb Colquitt travelled every day to that village to teach the Gospel.

This past year also saw a number of good things coordinated by John Kachelman that helps the Church. We also welcomed Ron Swang, Gary Jerkins, and many other American brethren who taught very good Bible lessons. We found great spiritual food in a retreat in Yaremche when Mike and Susan Lawson came together with Bill Brosey and William Wharton. Everybody enjoyed fellowship and many made up their minds to become Christians.

Lord willing, we will complete construction of our new meeting place, which will allow us the freedom to invite many more people and have different activities. The new place will have many classrooms and a big auditorium that can sit 300 people.

We have our second generation growing up – children that have been coming to Church since they were very little. We pray for the Lord to help us teach them to be faithful to Him and His Church. Our young brethren are maturing as well. They will be involved in different ministries in the new building.

We thank you for your work, fellowship, and support. It gives us a feeling of special unity with American Christians. The photos we have included with this report show us helping people and groups that we support. We plan to continue working with these in 2020 in the area where our meeting place is. In this coming year we plan to have home Bible study groups in Yaremche, Ugornyky and Zelena.



Volodya and Julia carry on with their work in Lysets. The Church there has been on its own for over a year and the Lord has blessed them. Thanks to the Church of Christ in Clarkson, KY (brother Jim Akridge) they have their own meeting place and are repairing it. Julia teaches English and Bible to children. We are on good terms with them and try to encourage them when they need help.

Big thanks to you for your love to God. Your faith is seen in your good works. We ask our Lord Jesus Christ to never stop blessing all of you and your families so that together we can glorify our God more and more through our lives and good deeds in the year to come.

In Christian love, Ivan and Svitlana

We are thankful to you for having brought to us the Good News of eternal life and the only one true and Biblical Church of Christ established by the Lord for mankind to be saved.

RUSLAN SKOLEBA SENDS NEWS...

Dear brothers and sisters!

One more year of our lives is almost gone. The Church in Ivano-Frankivsk is sending their holiday greetings and best wishes for the New Year. We thank God and you for the partnership we have had this passing year. Your visits encourage us. You are a blessing to us. Every time our American brethren come, they become an epitome of sacrificial love to us.

All of us want to thank you for your help with the construction of our church building. Without your spiritual and financial help, it would be impossible to us. I know that brother Andrew and my Dad keep you posted on the construction progress. I help there, too, whenever I have time. These days we have run pipes from the well to the basement from where further plumbing routing will be done.

People from the village where my wife comes from asked for a wheelchair. Someone got sick and lost both legs. They could hardly believe that someone was willing to help selflessly by giving a valuable wheelchair without any expectation of payment. They thank you for your work and aid you provide for Ukraine.

Everybody loves the family buckets because to get the wonderful items that are in the buckets here you have to spend \$35.00-\$50.00. This amount of money is impossible for many. Many are amazed that believers that have "a different faith" (as they say) are willing to help them. The Orthodox Church in this area helps only those in their parish and refuses to help anyone else. They do not help anyone who is not Orthodox. Little by little, God is breaking stereotypes that prevent us from sharing the gospel. We know opportunities will come because of your cooperation with us!



We hope, and ask God to help us, to be worthy as we partner with you next year so that together we will bring forth good fruit in His vineyard.

Our Sunday assemblies take place at usual time from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday class is taught from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. We have a prayer day on Friday.

May God bless all of you! With love and appreciation, Ruslan and family

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM TANYA...

My dearest friends and family in the Lord! On this special day my prayer is for the Lord to shine bright in your lives, to bless you beyond anything you can think of, to direct your every step and to guide in you all life's situations! May your hearts overflow with love and joy and may you always be surrounded by people you can trust. I thank my Lord that it is through Him that we are one family and that He blessed me so much having brought all of you into my life! I love and appreciate you more than words can say!

MERRY CHRISTMAS! 🎄

THE GOSPEL'S FRUITS!



We are rejoicing and want you to share in our joy. We had 2 immersions yesterday— Bogdan and Sasha were immersed. We are so happy and grateful to you for your help and prayers in our joint ministry.



PAVOLD TUZNICHENKO'S NEWS...

Dear brothers and sisters, love and greetings to you! I pray to the Lord and thank Him for all of you; for your hearts that are open to support and pray for us with such love, understanding and sympathy. Besides, I ask the Lord to bless you as you help churches of Christ all over the world. I would like to wish Happy New Year and Merry Christmas to all of you.

There have been both happy and unhappy developments in the passing year. Among the best ones is the fact that many more people have started coming to hear the Word of God. Unfortunately, many have not repented of their sins and have not been baptized biblically. I trust the Lord to open their hearts to do so.

Many important projects have been carried out that were planned at the beginning of the year. We have made a good breakthrough as far as construction of our meeting places goes. A great amount of humanitarian aid has been given out (medicines, medical equipment, clothes, shoes, food). The contents of the latest container that you shipped here was given to the Yaremche Central Hospital. They were happy beyond words to receive those items. They send their biggest thanks to you for the hospital beds, bedside tables and bed linens that you shipped. Upon reflection of things given to the needy in 2019 your head starts spinning and your soul overflows with joy to realize how much love and care God's children shows others.

Besides, I would like to thank you for evangelistic outreach activities that you undertook while being in Ukraine. Many great lessons were taught that caused more interest and openness towards the Church. I do hope that you can visit us often so that we can encourage one another in spirit. Once again, I would like to thank you for your part in our work. I hope that your holiday season is filled with God's love and blessings.

I continue teaching Bible correspondence course to those that cannot attend the Bible School. My dear brethren, please, pray for the Lord to give me more wisdom and patience to share the untwisted truth with my students. I would like to enroll more students next year so that many more can understand the Word of God and apply it in their lives.

I am wishing you God's love and all the divine blessings possible.

In Christian love, your brother Pavold

STAS AND ANNA FROM LVIV...

“During 2019 our small congregation had numerous evangelizing projects, spent hundreds of hours on Bible classes and personal Bible studies with people in order to spread the gospel, and had two choosing immersion.”

