

IVANO-FRANKIVSK CHURCH CONSTRUCTION UP-DATE JANUARY 17, 2020



Photo: Thankfully the harsh winter weather has not yet struck and we are busy getting the metal roof installed!

Greetings, brother John!

Holidays are about over and the workers have gotten back to their work. I hope that weather will cooperate and we will roof over on time. We thank God for good weather He has blessed us with.

I am sending you photos of the work done as of today as far as the roof, running of water pipes into the building, and window sills go.

With love, Andrew



Ruslan and Pasha dug and set up a well for water and ran the pipe into the building.



Window workers have installed window sills. The business that constructs windows and are to get back to work this week. And we look forward to getting auditorium windows as well as outside doors. I will let you know as soon as we get them.



We have finished putting roof over the main auditorium and the other side of one of the triangle parts.

With good weather we have done a lot this week.

We pray and ask God to continue blessing us in this work and with good weather.

We thank all of you for your great help in our common cause and for prayers of all those who care.

Please, pass our love onto all. Andrew



All of this PLUS the usual activities of the congregation are taking place in Ivano-Frankivsk. For a report on the usual activities of the congregation be sure to read the newsletters posted on our web site! *If you would like to help your brethren complete this construction please send a generous donation to:*

**UKRAINE MISSIONS, Dalraida Church of Christ,
3740 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL 36109**

GENERAL UPDATE ON THE CHURCH IN IVANO-FRANKIVSK!

Dear brothers and sisters!

We have already shared our good news with you when two souls were baptized with the biblical baptism. They were Bogdan and Sasha. For 7 years our family has visited several families in the village of Zelena, which is a good distance away from Ivano-Frankivsk. The village has received a lot of humanitarian aid within this period of time. Bogdan's family has always been very hospitable to us. We first started going there during holidays when the whole family would get together with other families to celebrate. Five or more families would usually come. Later on, when we visited Bogdan and Galya many relatives would try to come to see us. This way we gradually started discussing Biblical topics with them.

We have invited all these people to conferences and retreats set up by our American brethren from Hillsboro, Dalraida, as well as Mike and Susan Lawson.

We have often described the situation in Western Ukraine, especially in villages. People hold to traditions of Christian-pagan mixture. It started many years ago and is rooted in people's hearts from their childhood on the level of traditions that have great power.

Many people read the Word of God, but still worship traditionally because what the Lord truly wants us to do is not only to accept Him but to change all traditions. During our meetings people asked us a lot of different questions on various topics. Everybody accepts the Word of God with joy but Virgin Mary and Biblical baptism become the stumbling block to them. It is very difficult to change established thinking in people. But the Lord knows their hearts. Bogdan and his family believe in the Lord with their hearts. They study the Word of God. However, when they understood what they had to do they also realized that fanatics could hurt them. Bogdan came to believe that one needs to listen to God more than to people.

We are very thankful to all those that help us in this work because winning souls to God is the most valuable thing you can do in this world.

We give out humanitarian aid in the village. We pay special attention to those that seek the Word of God and we see hearts open up to hearing. People are in dire straits now as prices go up all the time, even prices for basics. Families that have children are even in a greater need since children grow and their parents have to take care of their education, food, and medicines.

Bogdan and Galya's oldest daughter, Lilia, had three children. Lilia's older daughter, Julia born in 2002, got sick at the age of 6 months and her disease kept progressing. After New Year's Day Julia passed away at the age of 17. In March she would have turned 18.

We plan to continue visiting families in village Zelena every week to study with them. Ivan has started working with the men and I stay with women and children that come with their parents.

In the village of Ugornyky there is a family where the parents got hurt in a car accident 12 years ago. They had a daughter whose name is Freya. Her father has a psychiatric disorder now. From her early childhood, Freya grew up in a very tense atmosphere. We met Freya last year when she was in the 11th grade. She lived at her uncle's where there were three more schoolchildren. Freya was a good student and entered an institute this year. She has been given a bed at the dorm there and she shares it with another girl older than she is.

We supported Freya last year. Dalraida church of Christ gave money to buy clothes for her and she was able to choose the items she wanted herself. She was very thankful for the aid that came from the Church. She wept and thanked God for it. We have collected clothes, hygiene supplies, shoes, dishes, underclothing, winter clothes, and towels for her. We gave her a family bucket with kitchen supplies, tooth brushes and paste, soap, towels, mugs, and other basic items. Freya appreciates the help very much. We have started reading the Bible together. She does believe in the Lord and trusts Him. She wept and thanked God that there were people who felt for her and were willing to help her in difficult circumstances.

We always pray for those whose hearts feel for us and help us spread the Word of God in Ukraine. We pray and ask the Lord to give you hundredfold for everything you do for us.

In Christian love, Svitlana Skoleba