



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

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"WE ALWAYS PRAY AND ASSIST THOSE WHOSE HEARTS ARE FULL OF SORROW AND FEEL ABANDONED. THERE ARE MANY IN THIS CONDITION AND THIS HELPS US SPREAD THE WORD OF GOD IN UKRAINE."

The year 2020 began with feverish excitement. We received communication from many locations throughout the world. A number of shipments arrived and distribution began (see Dr. Zik's message below about the two containers shipped into Nigeria). The Family Buckets were finally allowed to be distributed in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine and we are receiving reports and photos of this action. The end of the year saw the construction of the building in Ivano-Frankivsk almost roofed over and in January we finally succeeded in this project. Thankfully the harsh winter weather was delayed until the roof was completed.

The beginning of any New Year is always a time of optimistic joy. Such is certainly the beginning of this New Year. We are excited about the prospect of so many good events occurring and the success of the gospel in many locations.

Thank you to all who support our efforts. Your financial support is critical and offers you a phenomenal "return." Your prayers and words of encouragement come at the perfect time as often the discouragements of Satan make things appear insurmountable. I have been teaching the prophecy of Isaiah and have often been reminded of the strength of the Almighty. *"He gives strength to the weary and to him who lacks might He increases power"* (Isaiah 40:29). Thank you for being the avenue through which this strength and power comes!

Read the reports below that highlight a few of the amazing actions of January 2020!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

IVAN SKOLEBA'S NEWS FOR JANUARY...

Greetings to all of you, our dear brothers and sisters. The first month of 2020 has flown by way too fast. As it is traditional for Western Ukraine, people here celebrated different holidays for more than half the month. Many went to visit their families, which gave opportunities to talk about salvation, biblical faith and church of Christ to their near and dear ones. Almost all members of this congregation attended church on Sundays and some even brought their family members for the first time. Our average attendance was 30-37 adults and 3-8 children. Svitlana teaches children's Bible class on Sundays. Our Wednesday Bible class attendance is 12-15 people. The majority can't make it on time after they get off work. We study the Holy Scripture together and this year we motivate members to evangelize in this city and areas around it

COMPASSION IN A BUCKET!



"We thank you so much for Family Buckets with aid. We thank all brethren that put them together and ship to Ukraine. They are such a great help especially now when our country is facing so many problems. People and their children are so happy to receive aid that words fail to describe their joy. They cannot believe the aid is free and that there are true Christians who give such good things to people they have never met."



where we work. We ask God to help us and send our way those that seek Him to fill our new church building up with people giving glory to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Last month we asked you to pray for Bogdan and Galyna from the mountain village of Zelena. We are giving BIG THANKS to you as Bogdan was baptized in December and he and his wife Galyna have come to church twice a month to worship and take communion. Svitlana and I go to Zelena twice a month during the week, either Thursday or Friday depending on when we have time, and study the Bible with families and children there. Besides, we study with a man by the name of Andrew. He reads the Holy Scripture and has a lot of questions. He and his wife Natalie are Catholic. They came several times two years ago when Johnny and his team had a campaign here. We pray for God to open his heart and mind. At present, Andrew wants to know more about baptism and, maybe, will make up his mind. Please, pray for him and Natalie. Please, pray for Galyna, Bogdan's wife, and Maria, Ruslan's wife, as well.

Great changes in the law are planned by our government for this month. Reforms are taking place already. Thursday, January 30, doctors gathered by the White House protesting and demanding their salaries. The Ministry owes them 12 million grievnas. Such things bring about problems in the society.

We continue helping needy children and families, hospital, and teachers. We thank you so much for Family Buckets with aid. We thank all brethren that put them together and ship to Ukraine. They are such a great help especially now when our country is facing so many problems. People and their children are so happy to receive aid that words fail to describe their joy. They cannot believe the aid is free and that there are true Christians who give such good things to people they have never met.

Wednesday, January 29, we had a group of Christians from Lviv and two American brothers come to our Bible class. We had good time and an interesting class together. They visited our construction site the next day. They liked the building and our plans for future.

We finished putting up metal roof yesterday. Doors and large windows for the auditorium were delivered after lunch. Our plans are to continue working on Monday. We need more money at this point to get plumbing done, to run power lines and heating so that we can do interior work without a break. Please, continue praying for us and our needs. Please, support our hands raised to God so that together we will see this construction through and give glory to His name in Western Ukraine.

Our men, Andrew, Ruslan, Pavlo and Volodymyr, work hard in the areas they are responsible for. It is wonderful to see church of Christ grow in spirit and numbers.

Thank you, dear brothers and sisters, for your prayers and help. We love you and thank God for you, for your families and congregations.

In Christian love, Ivan and Svitlana

ANDREW LAGNO REPORTS ON EFFORTS IN YAREMCHE!

Greetings and Happy New Year to all of you! Your brothers and sisters in west Ukraine are wishing you a happy year blessed greatly by God!

We continue working in Yaremche and Mykulychyn. We visit and study with those we stay in touch with for the glory of our Lord. They are used to our regular visits and look forward to them.

We brought some sweets and bed spreads to the kids for the holiday. They were very happy to see us. To the needy and large families, we brought food bags and family buckets that you put together in the States. This kind of aid is good and every family needs the items you have sent. We took some medical shoes to the out-patient hospital. We visited with them and later the Central Hospital received a whole container of hospital beds. All were excited and deeply grateful in their hearts for the Lord's compassion you show.

Each time we distribute the benevolent items you send we receive countless words thanks spoke with tears in the eyes from a heart touched by your love. I would like to pass on to all the brethren taking part in this ministry how important your work is for those in west Ukraine.

May the Lord bless you and your families! We keep you and your families in our prayers.

In Christian love, Andrew and Maryna Lagno



RUSLAN SKOLEBA SENDS NEWS...

Dear brothers and sisters!

I'm happy to send you greetings in the New Year. The month of January in Western Ukraine is full of religious holidays and traditions. But Christians have their own traditions—serving God and following Him every day. When those holidays come, we try to explain what the Bible says concerning them. It is a good opportunity to share God's truth with people.

I think that you already know about our baptisms. Bogdan from Zelena was one of those baptized. Caleb and Doug know him. He is the first one to have been baptized from the study group in that village. He is the beginning and we thank God for that. The village is not near Ivano-Frankivsk but Bogdan and his wife try to come to worship at least once or twice a month. My dad goes there two-three times a month. We plan to take turns to go there.

Brother Alex has returned to Church after having struggled to overcome Self and his bad habits, has found a good ministry to do. He studies sign language thinking about preaching to deaf as he has to deal with many such handicapped people at his job.

I have spent almost all my time at construction lately. Besides, I help with church work and train myself to preach. I know that brothers provide more detailed reports on construction and Church life. One side of the roof is already done. The weather does not always allow to do work on the roof thus it requires more time than we first estimated.

Greetings to you from the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk. May God help you with your plans and activities in 2020. Big thanks to you for your love and support.

With love, Ruslan



PAVOLD TUZNICHENKO'S NEWS...

Dear brothers and sisters, I am happy to send you my love and greetings as the New Year begins. May you always enjoy peace, love and grace. I



always thank the Lord for you and your prayers. I hope that you had nice and joyful winter holiday season. I also pray to the Lord and ask Him to give us wisdom, love, understanding and desire to help our neighbors even more and labor in God's vineyard even more to gather as much treasure in heaven as possible and to save many human souls that are in a desperate need of Him, His love and grace. Dear brethren, please, pray together with me for the Lord to add to His Church as many people as possible, for growth of Church all over the world, and for those people that have not yet arrived on the right path to follow Christ.

I always find great joy being a part of the busy life of the Church, fellowshiping and encouraging others, and distributing humanitarian aid. Our government with its new laws complicates our humanitarian work but I am not too concerned about that because the Creator is on our side and, and if our work is pleasing to Him, we will overcome any problem.

Thank you for the container that is about to come to Ukraine. All the contents will be distributed to those in need of them. Besides, I help members with their household needs. It is so wonderful to hear their words of thanks and to realize that you are able to use God given talents to serve others.

As for the correspondence Bible school, January is a vacation month for the students to review what they studied and to get a better grasp on it.

I also help with construction of our meeting place. We have almost finished roofing over and are about to switch to interior works. Thank you very much for your financial support of our construction. Your help is invaluable to us.

As always, I ask the Lord to strengthen in spirit all those that have decided to follow Him. I also fervently pray and ask the Lord to give me wisdom and love to do more in His vineyard. Let all of us pray for the Lord to add many more to His Church; for His Church to grow all over the world; for those that have not found the right path to follow Him; and, for peace in this country. Please, pray for my family, my children, and for me to be a worthy father and a good spiritual instructor to them.

I ask the Lord to bless all of you in all you do, to give you good health, and to help you mature in spirit. You are always in my prayers. I wish good health, God's love and grace to you and yours.

In Christian love, brother Pavlo



SVETA SKOLEBA REVIEWS SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS...

Dear brothers and sisters!

We have already shared with you our good news last month when two souls were baptized with the biblical baptism. They were Bogdan and Sasha.

For seven 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 religious 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. These traditions have great power and control in their lives.

Many read the Word of God, but still worship traditionally. The Lord truly wants us to not only accept Him but to change all traditions and this is difficult in our culture. During our meetings people asked us different questions on various topics. Everybody accepts the Word of God with joy but the Bible's teaching on the Virgin Mary and biblical baptism becomes a stumbling block to them. It is very difficult to change hardcore thinking in people. The Lord knows their hearts and His Word can change those hearts. Bogdan and his family believe in the Lord. They study the Word of God. However, when they understood what they had to do they also realized that fanatics, blinded by traditions, could hurt them. Bogdan came to the understanding that one needs to listen to God more than fear the 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 villages. We pay attention to those seeking God's Word, and we see hearts open to hearing. People are in dire straits now as prices always increase, even prices for basics. Families that have children are in a greater need since children need education, food, and medicines.

Bogdan and Galya's oldest daughter, Lilia, had three children. Lilia's older daughter, Julia born in 2002, became sick at the age of six months and her disease kept progressing. They tried to do all they could but their daughter was never well. Tragedy came after New Year's Day when Julia passed away at the age of 17. In March she would have turned 18.

We plan to continue visiting families in 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. We cannot describe the good that was done by Doug and Caleb in October's classes. There was an amazing change in attitude of the village because of these brothers and their presence.



In the village of Ugornyky there is a family where the parents got hurt in a car accident twelve years ago. They have a daughter whose name is Freya. Her mother died. Her father has psychiatric disorder now and has abandoned his daughter. From her early childhood, the girl grew up in a very tense atmosphere. We met Freya last year when she was in the eleventh grade. She had been abandoned but now she lived at her uncle's with three more school-age children. But this uncle was injured in the war with Russian Separatists. Freya was a good student and has 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. From the money that is set aside by the congregation for benevolent purposes we were able 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. Besides, 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 all help very much. She sees the sticker on the Family Bucket and knows that God's Church is a place where everyone is loved! 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 and assist those whose hearts are full of sorrow and feel abandoned. There are many in this condition and this helps 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

NIGERIAN CONTAINERS ARRIVE...

We have received and begun distribution of the containers sent. Photos are showing part of the Refugee camp, the officials receiving the consignment, our truck unloading the bales of blankets, my son, Dr. Chiagoziem Ikeorha who led the team to deliver the donations. We are all grateful to all the donors, all the members of churches of Christ in Alabama and Arkansas, Charita Shtyenberg and many more too numerous to mention. You have touched so many lives that would not have had the privilege of covering themselves during the severe *Harmattan* season in Nigeria. Lives were saved from many respiratory diseases and other illnesses. We pray God to always help us not to fail you all in the partnership of God's work.



Please give our words of thanks to all for their great love for us in Nigeria. Thank you all for what you have all done. Many still need your little help.

If Jesus tarries, we hope to see you all soon.

Shalom with greater Blessings. Dr Zik & Ory (Nigeria)



Here is the web link of the publication. It was published in both English and Hausa languages.

It was shown on the TV and announced on the radio.

<https://punchng.com/harmattan-medical-directors-donate-blankets-to-bauchi-idps/>



Dear brethren! Many people are sending their big thanks to you, our American brothers and sisters, for your help.

Yesterday a woman (Maria) took a walker for her mother who cannot walk due to a trauma.

Maria is disabled herself and lives with her mother and they are in dire straits. She could not believe that church of Christ was giving it to her free and thanked the church with tears in her eyes.

"Thank you for your love to God and people. I never thought there were people like you still living in this world."

These are her words.