

Ukraine Missions

a ministry of Dalraida church of Christ



The **Elizabethtown Church of Christ** sends garden seeds every spring for distribution in Ukraine's villages. These seeds produce the food that many families need for survival in the harsh winter months.

APRIL 2020 UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWSLETTER!

The 2020 April UKRAINE NEWSLETTER is now ready for you to read. This newsletter communicates how the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the Lords Church. We have reports from Ukraine and India. Brethren are coping as best they can with the "new normal" that has been pressed upon us.

The restrictions in India are to last through June-July. The restrictions in Ukraine are described in this communication: *"The situation with the coronavirus has greatly complicated our work, but we hope that life will resume on May 22, and what it will be like after this stress, is still unknown. Therefore, we continue to work to glorify God and do good works. And the Lord holds and protects His Church firmly. We love you, our strength and hope in Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:58."*

Open the April 2020 newsletter and rejoice in the great good being accomplished! Opportunities open!

We continue sending updates on other actions that are not included in this month's newsletter. Be sure to check the website often. We are currently working on projects for Indian Reservations along the New England coastline (Aroostook Band of Micmacs; Houlton Band of Maliseets; Mashantucket Pequot; Mashpee Wampanoag; Mohegan Tribe; Narragansett; PQDY Indian Township; Penobscot; and Aquinnah), Guatemala, and Honduras.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

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UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

April 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

- Reports from Ukraine and India!
- Worldwide impact of COVID-19!

“MEN OF THE CONGREGATION CALL AND SUPPORT ALL OTHER MEMBERS INDIVIDUALLY. FROM THE VERY FIRST DAY OF THE LOCK DOWN, WE HAVE BEEN HELPING ALL MEMBERS WITH THEIR NEEDS. WE BUY AND DELIVER FOOD OR MEDICINES ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE MEMBERS.”



“The situation with the coronavirus has greatly complicated our work...We have our assemblies online on Wednesday and Sunday; on Friday we have started an online prayer ministry. We are confined to our homes and do not go out unless there is a real need.”

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IVAN SKOLEBA’S NEWS FOR APRIL...

Good afternoon to all brothers and sisters. Thank you for your hard work with your humanitarian team showing God’s compassion. We constantly read your reports and see TV news reports. We rejoice that the Church of Christ always sees problems in society and is never indifferent to people. We always pray and thank God for all of you and your example of Christian faith in deeds.

We have good news! The container sent last year was recognized as humanitarian cargo. In the near future we will clear it through customs and transfer it according to the plan. Part to the medical university team, part to Volodya in Lysets and part to our community. My brothers and I came to the conclusion that it is easier for us to recognize and clear customs in Ivano-Frankivsk, because thanks to John’s help in the negotiations with the city administration and regional deputies who are part of the humanitarian commission, John is remembered for the great help provided by the churches of Christ from the United States. So, the deputies come to meet us and support the recognition.

The situation with the coronavirus has greatly complicated our work. We hope life will resume on May 22, but what it will be like after this stress is still unknown. Therefore, we continue to work to glorify God and do good works. And the Lord holds and protects His Church firmly. We love you, our strength and hope in Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

We hope that everything is well with you and the Lord has protected you and your families. I always thank God for you and your ministry to Him. We thank God that everybody is well at Church. Men try to help the elderly and single members of the congregation. We take food to them, buy medicines for them if there is a need. We have our assemblies online on Wednesday and Sunday; on Friday we have started an online prayer ministry. We are confined to our homes and do not go out unless there is a real need.

The men of the congregation and a few workers are the only ones to work at construction at this point. Plastering of the first floor has been finished; the ceiling in the big auditorium has been worked on. We are out of money now and we need to run water pipes, do plumbing and electricity. Only when these works are done will we be able to paint walls and proceed with other work. We monitor our workers' temperature and wear masks. We ask them not to come even if they have a very low fever. We, and I am sure the rest of the

FROM PORTLAND, TN FOUNTAIN HEAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Brother John,
It has been a while since
I messaged you. I hope
all is well with you! We
have put together 40 or
50 of the 2-gallon bags
with hygiene items. What
is the best way to get
them to you for the
orphanages. They contain
items that you suggested
and also include socks
and wash cloths. Please
let us know. May God
continue to bless you and
the work in Ukraine.
Tim Wright
Deacon at Fountain Head
church of Christ”



Thanks to combined efforts
of the Lord's Church at
Fountain Head, Rivergate and
South Gate the bags are
delivered and waiting loading
for distribution overseas!

world as well, are longing for this pandemic to be over. Thank you for your prayers and support. We appreciate and love you. May the Lord keep all of us safe. With love, Ivan and Svitlana

REPORT FROM JULIA IN LYSETS!

Greetings to the whole Church of Christ!

Hope everything is okay with you and your family! This report is unusual due to the situation, which we have all over the world.

We had classes at Smart Fox until the March 9th as usual. After our country went for the quarantine and a little bit later, it became more strict quarantine. This situation makes all afraid and don't know how exactly to act and react.

So, as to our Christian club Smart Fox, we continue to keep in touch almost with all kids and some of their parents. Also, in our country, we don't have much practice in distance studying, but I do and it isn't so hard to manage one subject (English) and short Bible lessons online. We work online through program called Zoom or Skype. I can say that children like studying online.

Also, as our congregation keep growing, we have a small group of kids at Church. I started classes for them too. I print Bible coloring books for them, give them tasks: to color page, write down what is a story about, find this story in a Bible, read the story and after retell it to their parents. They have much fun with it, they send me pictures on messenger of their work. I love it!

This is the way to keep children far away from devil – make them busy!

To close up I want to say that our Church, and I personally, are praying that God keeps protecting His people all over the World and make each of us strong enough to live through this difficult time! Stay healthy! In Him, Julia Didukh

RUSLAN SKOLEBA SENDS NEWS...

Greetings dear brothers and sisters!

I am happy to send you greetings on my behalf and on behalf of the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation. We are fine, children are growing. Thank God nobody is sick with the virus. Despite the pandemic, we continue working and worshipping online.

Men of the congregation call and support all other members individually. From the very first day of the lock down, we have been helping all members with their needs. We buy and deliver food or medicines according to the needs of the members. There is a prayer session Friday night. We always pray for you and thank God for your connection in Christ and loving support.

We hope the epidemic will be over soon and we'll get back to our normal way of life and work.

John, my family is so thankful for the assistance that our brothers and sisters have given us. Due to the lock down the ability to buy even basic necessities has been stretched. But because of the love of Christ, in the hearts of our American brothers and sisters, we have received help in need. Mariyka and I are so very thankful to those so far away who have never met us. May God bless you and your family hundredfold. With love, The Skolebas, Jr.

“We once again thank you for your great love for God and His people. You are in our daily prayers. Kindly remember us in your valuable prayers.”

PAVOLD TUZNICHENKO’S NEWS...

Peace and grace to you. I am sending my love and greetings to you, our dear brothers and sisters from America. As we pray, we thank our Heavenly Father who opened your hearts to support us both physically and in spirit with such love, understanding, sympathy, and prayers. Your love greatly encourages churches of Christ in Ukraine to grow and mature.

Within this month of April, we continue giving aid to people, such as clothes and food. Due to the lock down, this work has slowed down some but we do all we can. I help the members of the local Church and also those who have not been added to it. I do this as much as I can and it causes me great pleasure since our deeds should prove that we are children of God.

I would like to ask you to continue praying for the Bible School, for the students to apply the knowledge they receive to bring forth multiple fruit in God’s vineyard. Our correspondence Bible courses go on as I study with my beloved students. I fervently pray to the Lord to bless me in this ministry and to give me wisdom to present the truth untwisted. Please, pray with me about this, my dear brethren. And I trust the Lord that through this ministry the family of our Lord will grow by at least a few.

We look forward to the end of the quarantine when you can come here so that together we will mature and have wonderful fellowship. As always, I pray to the Lord to strengthen in spirit all those that have decided to follow Him; even more than that do I pray for the Lord to give me wisdom and love to be a better servant in His vineyard. Let us pray together, dear brethren, for the Lord to add to His Church as many people as possible; for growth of His Church all over the world; for those people that have not come on the right path to follow Christ; for peace in this country.

I always pray for all of you, thank you for your support and love. May good health, God’s love and blessings be always with you. With love, Brother Pavlo

DENIS SOPELNIK, BELA TSERKVA BIBLE INSTITUTE...

Dear brothers, sisters in Christ and churches,

All of a sudden the whole world took a break. Unfortunately, we are dealing with the situation when God shows the whole world that they were not moving in the right direction. Whether or not people will learn anything will be up to them, but as far as we are concerned we will continue praising the Lord. This was the bottom line of the Sunday sermon delivered by one of our local brethren. The fact is the pandemic influenced every aspect of life, and our Bible Institute as well as the Lord’s church in Ukraine are no exception. True, the time we are living in is the most unusual in the world’s history. As far as I know, there has never been a pandemic of this scale. We all are learning to live in a different mode with the new rules.

Beginning March 12 due to the rapid spread of the corona virus in Europe our authorities enforced some radical measures that limited some basic human rights. Firstly, the freedom of movement. All borders are closed for transportation, except auto. Buses and local trains between cities are banned. Municipal buses are limited on the number of passengers. Secondly, the freedom of assembly. Any political or cultural events with more than 10 attendees is banned. Thirdly, the freedom of religion is limited. No more than

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Thank God for blessing us with funds so we can continue with construction. As of today:

- Windows have been made and installed.
- Outside doors have been made and installed, doors to auditorium, large children's room, halls have been made but will be installed after floor prep. After that we will order doors to other rooms.
- Almost all of the first floor has been plastered, since the men of the congregation worked together with workers, we saved a good amount.



10 people at a time is allowed to be in the church building. Fourthly, the freedom of entrepreneurship. Only grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations are allowed to continue business. Fifthly, the right to receive medical help. All preplanned surgeries are canceled.

We conduct the Sunday services online. Usually a few men from the congregation meet in the church building and divide the responsibilities during the online worship service and then just conduct and stream it.

The students of the Bible Institute are currently at home. They had returned home just before the travel limitations were enforced by the government. Since all people are staying home, the speed of Internet connection gets slow and we have to choose which one works the best. So far we manage to teach the students and give them the load of everyday work. All courses in our Bible Institute are online now. And this way our first year students had Jeremiah and Lamentations (taught by Vitaly Rodichev), Gospel by Luke (Viktor Semikoz) and Ezekiel (Dennis Sopolnik) and second year students had 1 and 2 Corinthians (Dennis Sopolnik) and Revelations (Andrew Zhuravlev). For this kind of teaching, we had to change the textual part of the course. Some Instructors assigned additional reading, some had to implement timed testing. We are hoping that next year we can return to normal way of teaching while being able to utilize the newly acquired methods of teaching.

The graduation is postponed to the beginning of September. This year we have 7 graduates. Our country doesn't allow travels between the cities yet and the government doesn't announce any definite plans of reopening the railroads and bus charters.

The evangelical practice our students had to conduct from homes, mostly training to evangelize the unbelieving relatives. There were some instances when we would talk to the parents of our students for hours discussing important subjects from the Bible.

Commentaries to 1 and 2 Samuels are typed and ready for our return but we can't get them printed. The publishing house is closed and all personnel is sent home with no pay.

Lock down is officially in place till the end of April but the government has mentioned a few times that it can be extended till the end of May if the situation doesn't improve and people continue getting infected. Many people lost their jobs and lost their income. I'm sure the whole world is effected this way. But it will be extremely difficult in the countries where the government can't provide some financial aid.

We have difficulties recruiting students for the next school year. Usually I travel a lot, visit with many congregations and make our Bible Institute presentation. But now I record a video presentation, place a call to the local preachers and then call potential students. However, so many are not certain about tomorrow. So, I ask for your prayer for the next year recruitment.

And I'd like to ask your prayers for our graduate Taras Danilenko. He was diagnosed with thrombosis in the leg's vein. He is hospitalized and is waiting for the planned surgery. He is ok but his leg is swollen and he has back pain.

May God keep you and guard you! All students and Instructors send their greetings. We keep you in our prayers. God is merciful, He has solutions for all of our problems. We appreciate you for all the blessings we have thanks to your sacrifices. Your brother, Dennis Sopolnik

“As our congregation keep growing, we have a small group of kids at Church. I started classes for them. I print Bible coloring books for them, give them tasks: to color page, write down what is a story about, find this story in a Bible, read the story and after retell it to their parents. They have much fun with it, they send me pictures on messenger of their work. I love it!

“This is the way to keep children far away from Devil – make them busy!”

NEWS FROM INDIA...

My dear loving brother David and sister Gennie, Greetings in the merciful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Sir we prayerfully hope that both of you are doing well by the grace of God.

Sir I and the preachers here once again thank you for your love and bow before you. We always thankful to you for your kind alms.

Sir lock down in India is extended up to 1st of May and they locked down cities and villages. Brother Ramu is locked down in his village which is near to Tandur. More positive cases of Carona are in Tandur. So lock down is very strict there. Ramu may come after a week. Kindly forgive me for unable to send the pictures of baptisms. Kindly bear with me.

We once again thank you for your great love for God and His people. You are in our daily prayers. Kindly remember us in your valuable prayers.

Closing with love, Yours Immedi

Communication from another Region in India: “This CARONO virus has taken India into very poor situation, no jobs, no daily works, no business and no prayer meetings. Without the drinking water and the daily bread it becomes very big disaster. We also don’t know when the Lord’s work will reopen. I am keeping my position in front of your door step. It is about two months that all our church members had gathered at one place. The India medical counsel announced that this CARONO impact will be more by the month of JUNE and JULY. My brother this is a very sad news due to this famine and lock down the poor families have left their children’s at the drainage, beaches and on platform’s and in the streets the parents left the children’s in these areas and went away.”

CONSTRUCTION UP-DATE...

Greetings, brother John! Thank you for greetings. I hope all are well there. According to our mass media the death situation in Ukraine might get worse. Two more outbreaks are expected in May. We pray for the Lord to keep you safe and for all that to be over ASAP. The recent money wire arrived. I thank God for blessing us with necessary funds on time so that we can continue with construction. As of today, we have these reports:

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- Almost all of the first floor has been plastered, since the men of the congregation worked together with workers, we saved a good amount.

The next stage will be: Water and sewerage project (1st floor \$12,470.00) and electricity and required fire alarm projects (1st floor \$33,600.00).

We look forward to the end of the lockdown when all the restriction associated with the pandemic will be lifted. We keep praying for that all the time. Thank you for your prayer support. May the Lord keep all of you safe. Love and greetings to all.

With love, Andrew and Marina