

Ukraine Missions

a ministry of Dalraida church of Christ



Photo to the Left: The Church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine is pictured after spending a work day cleaning up construction debris at the site where their building is slowly being completed!

JUNE 2020 UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWSLETTER!

The 2020 June UKRAINE NEWSLETTER is now ready for you to read. This newsletter communicates update reports on several actions of the Lord's Church during the month of June.

Here is a recent email that Ivan Skoleba sent, "Greetings, dear brother John. Thank you for your letter and encouragement. We really

look forward to your visit because there are a lot of people in need of humanitarian support. The administration, hospitals, Medical School and individuals from different areas turn to us for help. We know that America is facing a trying time now and the Americans themselves are in need of help. But your Christian hearts have always been open to the Ukrainians. Thank you very much for your efforts to resume humanitarian shipments for us and for the glory of our Lord and the Holy Gospel.

As for our today's assembly there were 17 in attendance and 24 worshipped online with us. Some still feel scared to come to church due to high fines. There should be 1 person per 4-5 square meters and the distance between people should be 1,5 meters. Thus, some join us online and the rest come to church."

Open the JUNE 2020 UKRAINE MISSIONS Newsletter and read of the encouraging actions that took place during the month.

We continue sending updates on other actions that are not included in this month's newsletter. Be sure to check the website often.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE LORD'S WORK!!

John L. Kachelman, Jr.
Dalraida Church of Christ
Ukraine Missions
3740 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, Alabama 36109



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

June 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

- Reports from Ukraine!
- The impact of COVID-19 continues!
- News from Ghana!
- Construction progress!



"We split into three groups and cleaned the construction debris, cut the grass by the fence and outside the plot. After that we had a prayer thanking God for everything, He had blessed us with and asking the Lord to help us see the construction completed so that we can meet there."

CONTACT INFORMATION

John L. Kachelman, Jr.
Ukraine Missions
Dalraida Church of Christ
3740 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, AL 36109
Cell: 901-626-4538
john@kachelman.com

"THE UNIMAGINABLE ACT OF AGAPE LOVE AND CHRIST-LIKE EXAMPLE CONTINUE TO MOTIVATE AND INSPIRE US ALL TO EMULATE SAME IN FUTURE. WORDS COULD NOT EXPRESS THE GREAT JOY WE HAVE. MAY THE GOOD LORD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND REPLENISH YOU ALL WITH GOOD HEALTH, STRENGTH AND ALL THE NEEDED RESOURCES TO CONTINUE IMPACTING MANY ACROSS THE GLOBE TO THE GLORY OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER."

Another month in this crazy year 2020 has passed! Many reading this are still hearing constant advisories regarding the COVID19 virus and now that has been magnified by a number of other "information" tidbits—a redux of the "swine flu" with a much deadlier impact has been announced by China; the re-openings have turned the economy around but are blamed for greater infections (but 80%-90% fewer deaths are reported). And, now the Governor of California has announced that congregational singing and chants are illegal! Each day begins by asking, "What MORE is going to be announced."

There is no "silver bullet" that will come from research laboratories. There is no governmental action that will find the panacea. The blunt reality is that living on earth man will always face suffering, illness and plagues. Thankfully we sing "This world is not my home." There is a much better place than this place waiting for us. For those who are faithful and obedient to the Bible, God will welcome them into a wonderful reward where, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

This does not encourage irresponsibility in worldly matters. It urges loyalty to God during earthly living because that results in the blessings of eternity. So, we will face constant illnesses, injustices, and ungodliness but we must not take our focus off of God!

In troublesome times our only hope is found in a secure faith in the Almighty God. *"In the day of my trouble I shall call upon You, for You will answer me...You are great and do wondrous deeds; You alone are God...You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth...Turn to me, and be gracious to me; Oh grant Your strength to Your servant...You have helped man and comforted me"* (Psalm 86).

THANKS TO ALL for your partnership in the gospel!!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr

THE CHURCH CLEANING UP!

“We had meeting with the Church at the construction site! With a long lockdown, continuous rain and lack of meetings and fellowship everybody was drained spiritually and needed the wonderful fellowship.”



IVAN SKOLEBA'S NEWS FOR JUNE...

Dear brothers and sisters! There were bad rainstorms with thunder, lightnings and hail in Western Ukraine in June. As a result, underground waters rose and flooded areas of the country. Bukovel, Mykulychyn and some neighboring villages are flooded and damaged. There are victims among people. Whole villages are left without houses. Roads and bridges are ruined, fields flooded, crops destroyed. Such a flood happened in 2014 but this time the destruction by this force of nature is worse.

The lockdown was eased some earlier in June and the church has been able to have in-person services keeping all safety rules. We've been able to enjoy fellowship, encourage and support one another. Some still can't come in person and worship with us online. We go on with our Sunday, Wednesday and Friday assemblies. Sermon topic for Sunday worship service is "Maturing in Spirit"; Wednesday class studies Deuteronomy. We continue our prayer sessions and prayer requests for the awakening of people have been added to our prayer list. Besides church assemblies, we meet and discuss different Biblical topics with those who are open to hear and their families.

We help our needy and elderly members. We thank our American brethren for providing ways for us to help people on behalf of the church. Those being helped thank God and send greetings to all who participating in this provision. With these supplies we are able to help Freya, a young girl from the village of Ugornyky, and an elderly woman by the name of Olga from Ivano-Frankivsk. Besides, a young man by the name of Igor from a village needed help and we were able to provide men's and children's clothes and shoes for him.

We distributed some aid to the families we study the Bible with in the village of Zelena. Thanks to all who prayed on behalf of Bogdan. Their relatives have stopped slandering them. We have met and talked with those relatives and their families. Thank God, everything is fine now.

Besides, Ruslan and Mariah have helped the elderly and large families of Mala Kamianka with clothes, shoes and household items.

Those that despite bad rainstorms have some crops in the gardens are thankful for the seeds that American friends sent.

The lockdown in Ukraine will be toughened beginning July 1 due to the growth of infections and deaths. We might have to switch back to online services.

Construction of our meeting place is going on. We pray for each one who's helped us with construction.

Big and sincere thanks for such great help and support. May the Lord give you back a hundredfold of blessings for all you do for us.

May God keep save all who love the Lord and His Word, all who faithfully labor in His Kingdom at this trying time. And may many turn to Him and be saved under His wings while the door to salvation is still open.

With sincere Christian love, Ivan and Svitlana

RUSLAN SKOLEBA SENDS NEWS...

Dear brothers and sisters!

We praise God who made it possible for us to get together and give glory to His name in spite of all that's going on in the world.

We have had in-person services for several weeks already. But some still prefer to stay home and worship online. According to mass media, the number of the COVID infected people grows in some regions and goes down in others. But we don't give up and continue working in all areas. We believe that with God everything will be alright.

We had bad rainstorms for two weeks and within the last 4-5 days of rainstorms five Regions were flooded, this Region of Ivano-Frankivsk in particular. As of today, water has subsided but there are still consequences. As far as I know, nobody from Church has been affected by the water.

This month, we have started full refurbishing of desks that we have. When they are redone, they will be given to an orphanage in this Region according to the Distribution Plan.

It took us much time to get our latest container approved as humanitarian aid. Medical School has already taken everything that came for their students. Emmanuel gave thanks on their behalf.

Big thanks to you for the support and prayers. We know that we have true friends that are always there for us.

Please, pray on behalf on my parents and for speedy solution of their problem.

We thank God for your compassion for everything!

With love and respect, Ruslan

PAVLO TUZNICHENKO'S NEWS...

Peace and grace to you. I am sending you greetings and love, my dear brothers and sisters. I am forever thankful to our Lord who opens up hearts of people to support those in need with such love, understanding and sympathy. Big thanks to you for those brethren you support to spread the Word of God all over the world.

I rejoice as I continue laboring in God's vineyard taking part in teaching Bible classes. I am involved in other areas of the busy life of the Church as I meet with people, take part in the distribution of humanitarian aid. Those receiving it thank you and God who works through you and me on this earth. Please, pray for our charity to continue working. Finally, we were able to give medical supplies and textbooks to the group founded by our brother Emmanuel and Denis, one of the teachers at the Medical School. They thank you for such great support and are sure that those books/supplies will help medical students in their studies.

I continue teaching correspondence Bible lessons. Recent tests showed good success. It is encouraging to see people with such a desire and zeal for the Word of God. Please, pray for the World Bible Institute here and for the classes I teach to my students so that they will apply the knowledge gained and bear fruit in God's vineyard.



BENEVOLENT WORK

“We have also started repairing the school desks that had too much wear and tear. When we are finished, they might look even better than new! When all of them are repaired, we will give them to a boarding school so that children would have good desks to use.”



We have also started repairing the school desks that had too much wear and tear. When we are finished, they might look even better than new! (I am kidding). When all of them are repaired, we will give them to a boarding school so that children would have good desks to use. Could you, please, send some school supplies in the next relief container you ship here. Unfortunately, children at boarding schools are in great need of those. We will appreciate it very much.

May the Lord bless you in all you do and give you good health. May you grow in spirit always. I keep all of you in my prayers. May you and families be healthy. May God's love and blessings be on you.

With love, your brother Pavlo

NEWS FROM GHANA...OUR BROTHER EMMANUEL

Hello Dear John, greetings from Ivano-Frankivsk!

Please hope all is well with you, your family and the entire family of God.

Please by His grace we had our Final State Exams today. The results will be release Lord willing within 14 days. I am forever grateful for your guidance, prayers and support to finish my studies, God richly keep you and your entire family healthy, and continue to use you to impact the World. Thank you dearly all brethren of the Lord's Church for providing us with useful Educational Medical Supplies which is so essential in our medical training. God bless you all.

It is my prayer that, this benevolence will continue with medical students across Ukraine, and hope it will open people hearts to truly accept the Gospel and be part of the Lord's Church in future.

Please now that we done with our exams, we work on the logistics and provide you with a feedback with more photos Lord willing. Please by His grace we were able to move all the logistics from warehouse. We had great help from students (22 divided into two groups) and Dr. Denys. Dr. Denys used his family car to convened us with his own expenses. We rented a truck (about 5 tonnes truck) and provided food, water and drinks for the Team with a total cost of \$62.

Please in the process of offloading the logistics the landlord came by and he was not happy we were using the apartment to store such huge supplies. So, Dr. Denys & I explained to him the purpose and that we were going to donate part to medical universities. He wanted to know whether we were going to charge them for the temporal storage, we made him aware no but he seems not to believe it.

So, we quickly reached out to Kyiv and Ternopil Team. Yesterday Ternopil Team with one of their Lecturer whom we meet last year came for their portion and they were so much grateful and thankful to you all. Dr. Denys design a form for them to sign before taking the books (about 1,200). According to one document present to Dr. Denys, the total books maybe 3,925. So, we agreed to share among: Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv and Ternopil medical universities.

Please, in regards to the huge medical supplies, we have planned to have a general meeting on Monday so we can look for way forward and donate part to Ivano-Frankivsk Medical University as previously promised.

MEDICAL SCHOOL CONTAINER DELIVERED!

“Thank you dearly all brethren of the Lord's Church for providing us with useful Educational Medical Supplies which is so essential in our medical training. God bless you all.”



On behalf of Ukraine, we are eternally thankful and grateful to all brethren Gary Jerkins, Ron Swang and John Durham worked with to secure these supplies, to brethren in churches of Christ who helped in sending us for the second time the quantum of the MEDICAL BOOKS & SUPPLIES freely to aid our medical training in Ukraine to become Great Physicians in future to return back to our various Motherland (Home Countries) upon completing of our studies Lord willing. The unimaginable act of agape love and Christ-like example to us continue to motivate and inspire us all to emulate same in future. Words could not express the great joy we have upon seeing the logistics. May the good Lord continue to bless you all and replenish you all with good health, strength and all the needed resources to continue impacting us and many across the globe to the glory of our Heavenly Father.

Please attached are photos for your perusal.

Thank you all dearly for your continue support, prayers and mentoring.

In His service, Emmanuel

CONSTRUCTION UP-DATE...2 REPORTS

Greetings, our dear brothers and sisters! Last Friday, we had our first meeting with the Church at the construction site! With a long lockdown, continuous rain and lack of meetings and fellowship everybody was drained spiritually and needed the wonderful fellowship.

Even though the COVID has disrupted and brought bad things to our schedules, there is some good that we see. The online classes and worship services, for which we thank God, brought forth fruit as more people joined us. However, in Hebrews 13:16 we read, "And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased". We had suffered from the lack of fellowship and when we saw one another our souls rejoiced.

The older ones that live alone had hard time enduring this period of isolation from fellow brothers and sisters. All through the lockdown we called and visited the single and needy members of the Church. But we were still so happy to see everybody when they came to work. It was the first warm day we have felt and even though it rained some, the rain was not in our way and we continued working.

We split into three groups and cleaned the building and the grounds off construction debris, cut the grass on the grounds, by the fence and outside the plot. After that we had a general prayer thanking God for everything, He had blessed us with and asking the Lord to help us see the construction completed so that we can meet there. After the prayer we made grilled food and treated the Church and builders that were plastering rooms on the second floor.

The sisters sorted out clothes from the shipment. They found some things for themselves, gave some to our builders for their families, and got some clothes for those in need that asked us for help. We send big thanks for children's clothes - children grow like weeds and many parents cannot afford buying children clothes all the time.

We are thankful to our American brothers and sisters for prayers and help. You are always in our hearts and we thank the Lord for you.

With love, Ivan and Svitlana

CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE!

“I would like to inform you about the completion of another phase of our construction. We have finished plastering of the walls and window fanning... First and foremost, we have to do the works to meet all requirements so we will receive certificate for the occupancy. This will allow us to use our meeting place legally.”



← Greetings, brothers and sisters in our Lord! →

I hope you are doing well. Thank you for your support, active part in the work, and prayers. It is at such trying times that we need support and encouragement from one another more than ever. We read from internet about some horrible things taking place in your country. We pray for a peaceful solution of the problems in America. We pray for the Lord to protect His children from the madness that is raging in the world.

I would like to inform you about the completion of another phase of our construction. We have finished plastering of the walls and window fanning (photos attached). We owe \$2,000.00 for the work according to our agreement with the workers.

Next, we can get down to the next phase in our work according to the pricelist that I sent you in my previous email. We need to run all utility lines/systems into the building and each room. That will allow us to put in moisture barrier and prep floor.

First and foremost, we have to do the works to meet all requirements of the Technical Inventory Bureau so we will receive certificate for the occupancy. This will allow us to use our meeting place legally.

Thank you for your invaluable input into this project.

I share with you the importance of this construction for Lord's Church here. I met with a very-well known and highly esteemed trauma doctor, who held high offices at several hospitals at different times. We met over humanitarian aid but did touch upon faith in our beginning conversation. The first question he asked was, "And where do you assemble?" When I told him that we rent a meeting place I heard him say, "Is it a sect (cult)?" He is Greek Catholic and those are in majority here. All of them have the same formula in their mind to identify a sect (cult). Of course, I explained that we are not a sect and, on the contrary, we are followers of the true teaching of Christ. I talked to him about our plans and construction. At the same time, when I asked him whether he read the Bible he answered vaguely that he did read a little. It is always very sad to hear people admit they read Bible just a little. But I believe that as long as the Lord has His faithful, this world can have salvation. Glory to God for His love and long-suffering toward all of us!

Please, pass on our greetings and thanks for the support and prayers. All of you are in our hearts and prayers. In Christian love, Andrew Lagno

Bila Tserkva: Dear brethren,

This time I have only good news in my report and I hope you will be glad to hear them. In June we graduated 7 students. It so happened that the government eased our burdens and allowed religious organization to congregate in small numbers. We seized the opportunity and had a traditional graduation ceremony for our students. During the last two years many American Christians and families were very sacrificial to achieve the goal of training workers for Ukrainian churches. Thus, this year 4 men and 3 ladies got their Diplomas. We are very grateful to everyone who took part in training these future servants of the Kingdom. I have faith that God will use these people for the completion of His will. Together we are shaping the future of the Church of Christ in Ukraine. We love you and send our greetings. Your brother and coworker, Dennis Sopelnik