

# Ukraine Missions

*a ministry of Dalraida church of Christ*

## FEBRUARY 2021 UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWSLETTER!



Above Photo: The snows of February are routine in the villages of the Carpathian Mountains! Here is a photo of some enjoying the “storehouses of heaven” (Job 38:22). Note the house in the background as firewood is used to add a layer on insulation against the bitter cold.

“Against the background of the COVID 19, the Church is functioning and, thank God, we are growing a little. We rejoice that there are those being added to our congregation... So, you see how important it is for every Christian to be involved in being light, salt, and leaven for the Lord’s Church!”

This comment is from Vladimir Pazyi’s report that is included in the February 2021 UKRAINE MISSIONS newsletter. Along with Vlad’s report are several other reports that are wonderful. Great work continues to be accomplished in spite of the hurdles and hindrances that Satan throws in our way.

I am currently in Ukraine and will be sending back reports as often as possible. You can access these on my website or you can subscribe and receive the reports automatically as they are sent.

Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement in these efforts!

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# UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

February 2021

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Encouraging reports from Ukraine!



February was a typical snowy month in Ivano-Frankivsk. Andrew "Gif" Gifford from Dalraida visited during the month and reported. I have never seen so much snow in my life!"



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## ***"IT'S A GREAT BLESSING TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND KEEP STUDYING THE WORD."***

*"Thank God we also survived this difficult winter month for us in February."* This is the message I received from Ivano-Frankivsk. I think it summarizes the general feelings of all as we conclude February 2021. There have been a number of memorable events—weather and health—that cause us relief as February closes.

As you read this newsletter I should be en route to Ukraine! I have received word that travel is possible and while there may be a few obstacles, the trip should go well. The schedule has been planned and I will be teaching the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk the first two-weeks and then traveling to Odesa, Kherson, and Kyiv to meet with contacts that were scheduled last March! I will also be going to eyeball locations where we shipped containers into Ukraine in 2020. I and so many others are so eager to see daily "normalcy" return.

In this month's newsletter you will read a number of reports from our brethren in Ukraine. They continue working hard in spite of the hindrances caused by the pandemic. Read their reports and rejoice in the great good being accomplished. **YOU are a part of the Lord's amazing work!**

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

## ***IVAN SKOLEBA'S NEWS FROM IVANO-FRANKIVSK...***

Greetings, our dear brothers and sisters. Thank God, we have survived this trying winter month of February as well. But we are used to freezing weather in this part of Europe. When we see and hear how many people have suffered in the Southern USA, it breaks our hearts and together we pray and ask the Lord to show His mercy and help people survive in such tribulations. Winter storms in Texas are horrible in their destructive power leaving people without heating and food. It is awful!

The pandemic has caused many problems all over the world. The lockdown has been reinforced in Western Ukraine. Military troops guard the entrance to the city taking everybody's temperature. There are tents around the city and nobody knows for what purpose they are.

People are scared and stressed out. We are not allowed to have in-person worship again and we have online services. There were twenty-three people in the assembly and over twenty worshipped with us online last Sunday. Wednesday Bible class attendance is 11-14 people.

People face different problems and especially are they concerned about the men who turn to alcohol. We are asked to pray for the Lord to help them quit drinking. Men cannot cope having no jobs and the psychological pressure on TV news push many more go on the booze both in cities and villages. Svitlana



## NEWS ON THE ORPHAN TRADE SCHOOLS

*I sent out a report on this good program. The link: <https://www.kachelman.com/ukraine/blog/2021/02/27/the-hopeless-have-hope/>*

*There are currently several vocational schools in orphanages through Ukraine. These will help the fatherless to be prepared when they are forced to leave the orphanage.*



and I can see the problems and family dramas that people suffer when we go to Zelena.

Life without God is filled with despair. Thus, we preach the Holy Gospel as much as we can because it is their only hope of salvation.

We have Bible classes and Sunday evening worship in the mountains. Svitlana teaches Children's Bible classes. We also help people there with clothes and other things. Big thanks for such opportunities and humanitarian aid that John Kachelman ships here, for detergents and medical supplies.

Brother Mike and sister Susan Lawson do a lot to support children in our village ministry. We thank them for prayers and help.

We are looking forward to March 1 when our brother John Kachelman is arriving. We plan to have Bible classes on Church Growth and Colossians. We will visit local authorities and inspect where containers have been distributed.

Many different groups, hospitals, doctors and individuals are sending their big thanks to American Christians for the aid, sanitizers, linens, detergents, and clothes. We are going through very difficult times and things are not getting any better. We thank all of you for prayers and sincere hearts, for unity in spirit and the teachings of Christ our Savior.

We love you, Ivan and Svitlana

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## RUSLAN SKOLEBA SENDS NEWS...

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters!

I'm happy to write this letter to you. I hope that God has kept all of you healthy and COVID is keeping away from you and your families. I trust that this disease will soon leave the earth for good.

Everybody is happy that John is coming and sad at the same time missing Gif. He taught very good lessons and sermons. Thank you for letting him come here at such a troubling time. It's a pity that we cannot meet all of you but we do love you even though we have never met many of you.

We continue our ministry in God's vineyard despite this trying time and the pandemic.

Having considered your advice, the men of the congregation decided to give up one room and rent only one. This will help save some money that will be used for construction. We plan to clean the room and return it to the owner this week.

Please, pray for us and especially for our elderly. This pandemic has hit them very hard. Glory to God for this era of smart technologies when people that cannot come to church can worship online.

Thank you for your love and extensive support.

May God bless you and your families with good health, His love and care.

Ruslan

P.S. I'd like you to share in my joy. My older son, Timothy, got the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in karate at a Regional competition.

## THE FRUITS OF THE GOSPEL!



(Irina, Jeff, Emma)

“The Church is functioning and, thank God, we are growing a little. We rejoice that there are those being added to our congregation. One addition encouraging showing how the gospel “leavens” in amazing manner. Our brother Taras grew up in an orphanage. There was a girl named Emma who was with him in school. One day Tara invited Emma to the Church. Emma started worshipping with us and was immersed this summer. Emma’s mom (Irina) would visit the Church. During our winter camp she decided to be immersed. Amazing story of transformation, and all this is connected with the activity that the Church conducts.”

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## SNIPPETS OF NEWS FROM THE ORPHAN WORK...

“I managed to find some pictures of the trade schools in the orphanages. Here are four orphanages working now. There is a visually impaired orphanage that was the very first to be helped to start something and to accomplish good results. This orphanage has most kids with sight issues, some completely blind others with disabilities that have to do with eye sight and some have issues with mental development, too. In Kremenchug a teacher of biology studied in a medical school to be eligible to do massage and teach others. The kids practice on each other now. In the future they will be able to go to a special medical school where they can continue learning massage, or after school/orphanage graduation they can start their own practice. In Ivano-Frankivsk region, in Mykulychyn they are trained in hairdresser's lessons and nail specialists Ladies who are specialists came to teach kids. These professions are in demand in Ukraine, and you can always learn a lot, pass many extra courses, and if you want and you can literally start working right after you finish school, if your wish. So, it is a great choice of field in the orphanage for sure! So, thanks to this trade school program, so many kids will get a chance!! And for many it will become their major profession to make a living!”

From the Gradizhsk orphanage a girl received a certificate which allowed to start working in this field. Together with learning manicure /pedicure /nail dressing, they have a teacher at school that can teach hair dressing. She has many kids who are interested in this, including boys! The TB orphanages started this trade program later than others, but they decided to help kids get involved in sewing. This skill is in demand and girls are quite interested in this.

For the full report go to this link:

<https://www.kachelman.com/ukraine/blog/2021/02/27/the-hopeless-have-hope/>

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## A NOTE FROM VLADIMIR PAZIY (KRAMATORSK)...

Bible school: As always in the fall, I teach a Book of Acts in Bible school. I was in Kramatorsk and used Church building for that. I had four students and all passed the tests well.

Every year, as a spiritual family, we go to the winter camp with an overnight stay to glorify God and the time spent together. This year, when the COVID-19 was announced, it was especially difficult to organize such a meeting, both from the point of safety (so that no one gets sick), and from the point of renting a large enough space for 130 people. Thank God everything worked well, no one got sick and the time spent together gave results. The mother (Irina) of one of our sisters was baptized. the uniqueness of this trip was that we spent two nights together, as well as worship together, which in turn gave a lot of strength to absolutely everyone pre-sent. Thank you for letting us have this event, your finance help in this matter opens many doors to preach Gospel. Thanks.

Village “Krasniy Shahtar”: About 70 miles from Kramatorsk is the village of Krasny Shakhtar, for many years we went there to preach the gospel and founded the Church in this place. Everything was fine, up to a certain point. After the war began we didn't have much of an opportunity to travel so far from our city. But we always stayed in touch with Valentina. This time we were able

## FELLOWSHIP IN THE SNOW & COLD!

### KRAMATORSK:



to visit her and worship with her. She is very sociable and always invites guests to visit her.

As always, the Church was very glad to see our brother Jeff Abrams and would like to tell him thanks for his help to strengthen us in the faith. Thanks to those who help him on these trips, and thanks for the prayers during these trips.

Church in Konstantinovka: This spiritual family always has a special location in our heart, we are very glad that everything is in order here. Preacher Oleg doing a great work there and the Church lives and moves in the right direction. Thank you for supporting this family.

Youth group: Our youth is growing and organizing into a wonderful group of young Christians who want to get together and spend time not only watching movies, but also studying the Bible together. Our son Dima took the lead. Dima is teaching and has already taught his first lesson. We are very happy about it. Hope he will grow in this matter.

Church in Kramatorsk: Against the background of the COVID 19, the Church is functioning and, thank God, we are growing a little. We rejoice that there are those being added to our congregation. One addition shows how the gospel "leavens" in amazing manner. Our brother Taras now lives in Bela Cherkov and works with church in Skvira. He grew up in an orphanage school. There was a girl named Emma who was with him in school. One day Taras visited and invited Emma to the Church. Emma has a small boy, and started worshipping with us. She went to Americraine camp this summer and Taras immersed her there. Emma's mom (Irina) also was there but at that time she didn't obey God's command to be immersed. Time to time Irina would visit the Church. It was during our winter camp she decided to be immersed. This is an amazing story of transformation, and all is connected with the activity that the Church conducts. I can't say everything about this family but it is a real amazing story; they are living with new life! So, you see how important it is for every Christian to be involved in being light, salt, and leaven for the Lord's Church! Thank you for your financial support for these events.

Lesson from COVID: Little by little Christians are beginning to understand that by visiting work or a store, being on public transport, taking our children to schools and kindergartens, we run the risk of infection from virus COVID-19. BUT we are learning that not attending Church we become infected with sin, and it is worse infection. The congregation lives, spends time together, both in study and worship, and in fellowship with each other outside the Church. This is the best immunization against sin's infection!

Starting at the New Year we began to study the topic of eldership, and I think that there are a couple of families in the Church that could meet all the criteria mentioned in the scriptures. If we understand that the time has come to appoint elders and everything goes well, it would be great for us that the elders of your congregation to come and help conduct the ceremony for the appointment of elders in our congregation. It would be perfect. We will pray and watch how the Church will move in this direction.

About our Family: We are fine, thanks for your prayers and financial support our family. I hope you are healthy and COVID-19 will not touch you. We pray for you and ask you to pray for us. If you have questions or I need to explain something, ask me to answer and it will be my pleasure.

In Christ Rita, Dima, Oksana and Vladimir.



THE CHURCH AT  
WORK IN  
IVANO-FRANKIVSK



"This is Galina. She listens to lessons with her telephone. She is 82 years old."



## A NOTE FROM DENIS SOPELNIK (BILE TSVERKA)...

Dear brethren,

I trust the Lord was merciful to you and you were strengthened by His power. In January and the beginning of February we had a lot of interesting and exciting events in Institute and the local Church. We had very strongly implemented quarantine restrictions during 3 weeks of January. Educational institutions, some businesses, restaurants and cafes were closed. It hurt the country's economy but hindered the spread of the virus in a positive way. As of now the peak of the epidemic is in the past.

My family had a successful trip to the winter retreat for the Western Ukrainian congregations. It's an annual event hosted by the brethren of Lviv Church of Christ in partnership with some American churches. They try very hard to unite the Christians from the Western Ukraine and encourage them. The congregations in the Western part of the country are few in numbers, so the events of this nature are very successful. Personally, I enjoyed great lessons, fellowship with many dear brothers and sisters in person, meeting new friends and telling them all about the ministry of our Bible Institute.

We had most of our January classes in the building. It's a great blessing to maintain peace and keep studying the Word. We are very grateful to the Lord for healing the brethren after having been seriously sick with corona virus. Our preacher Konstantin Kisilenko as well as Sergey Gritsenko were hospitalized in the serious conditions. Thanks to God and right therapy, they are home now completing their recovery.

Just a few days ago we had the most joyful event when one more person was added to the Lord's family - brother Victor from Konstantinivka. He moved to Bila Tserkva searching for a job because his home city is struggling with employment problems. He has some friends here and they kept inviting him to Sunday worship services and studying the Bible. After these efforts I had a personal study with him as well. As the result Victor decided to obey the Gospel. The rest of his family is still in Konstantinivka and we hope that they will join him in the right decision of obedience to the Savior.

The other news we have is that the next portion of "A Commentary on Job" by Homer Hailey was printed. Thanks to the financial help of brother Jim Mettenbrink we are able to accomplish such interesting projects. After the books are printed we ship them to the Ukrainian congregations. During the last four years we were able to provide the local congregations' libraries with 4 books of different commentaries. All of the congregations were very thankful for the opportunity to read and study the Word.

Our family, our Church and the Bible Institute send you greetings and our love. Thank you for the constant prayers and support for us.

Your brother and coworker in the Lord's vineyard, Dennis Sopelnik

*Our youth is growing and organizing into a wonderful group of young Christians who want to get together and spend time not only watching movies, but also studying the Bible together. Our son Dima took the lead. Dima is teaching and has already taught his first lesson. We are very happy about it. Hope he will grow in this matter.*