

Ukraine Missions

a ministry of Dalraida church of Christ

JUNE 2021 UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWSLETTER!



Above Photo: The Church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk assembly November 21, 2021. There is a strict lockdown preventing non-vaccinated people from assembling in groups, shopping in stores and other activities.

Here is the November 2021 UKRAINE MISSIONS Newsletter.

Our brother Ivan Skoleba included this note in his report:

We salute you, our dear brothers and sisters in Christ! We have been able to do a great amount of work this month. The success is because of the help we have from God and you. Unfortunately, lockdown restrictions are still in the way and some members cannot worship in-person. People that are not vaccinated are restricted – they are banned from some stores; they are being fired from their jobs; and, they are forced to be vaccinated against their will. Those that are not fully vaccinated are restricted. Thus, the greater part of our members worships online. Despite the restrictions and a great amount of physical work needed on construction of our church building, we try to preach to people and help them, so that everybody seeking the Lord will hear the Gospel and be saved.

In spite of the restrictions, the congregation continues to be active in the Lord's service. Read these reports and rejoice in their dedication and service to the Almighty God.

THANK YOU to all who financially support the good works recorded in this month's report!

JOHN L. KACHELMAN, JR.
Ukraine Missions, Dalraida Church of Christ
3740 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL 36109



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

November 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

- Ukraine—Reports from the mission trip
- Ukraine—Anya reports on clothing distribution
- Ukraine—usual reports of the Lord's successes



This is one of the children in the shelter where we took hygiene & medical supplies.

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

“WE REJOICE THAT IN SPITE OF THE PANDEMIC, THE LORD’S CHURCH HERE IS GROWING.”

We have now begun the final month of year 2021. It seems as if the past eleven months have passed much too quickly. As I reread the newsletters and reports sent out this far in 2021, I am humbled by the amazing successes that the Lord has brought through our efforts. Just as the Lord used the boy’s fishes and loaves (John 6:1-14) to do what the Apostles thought was “impossible,” so He has used our various actions to accomplish wonderful results! And, just think that so much more is being used by the Lord than what we do. Even though our actions are amazing, they are eclipsed by the overall work of God throughout the world. The Scriptures affirm that “God is working in you” (Hebrews 13:21; Ephesians 2:10; etc). THANK YOU to all involved in our efforts. Your willingness to allow God to use you for His Cause is so encouraging.

In this month’s newsletter you will read of the wonderful work that continues to be done in Ukraine. The construction of the meeting house in Ivano-Frankivsk is progressing and brethren expect to receive the occupancy certificate as soon as the minimum work is done to allow public use of the facility. After gaining occupancy the brethren will continue working to finish the rest of the project (this will probably take several years as the Church is doing the work itself).

Anya continues to send reports and photos of the trade schools that are training those in the orphanages to be employable in a productive vocation as soon as they “graduate” from the orphanages.

Because of the support and encouragement we receive from so many, we are able to seize the opportunities and open doors that the Lord presents (Colossians 4:3). THANK YOU!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

NEWS FROM TETIANA ABOUT THE MISSION TRIP...

Love and greetings to you, dear brethren in the Lord! I pray that you and your families are staying healthy and protected in this dangerous and deceitful world. When I look at what is going around, I can hardly believe it is real life instead of some gruesome SciFi movie. I have read SciFi stories that describe situations very much like what we have now and I remember myself thinking it would never happen, it seemed so far-fetched. And, sure enough here we are living in a SciFi world. At times I think that maybe God used some of those writings to warn us of what might happen if we forgot our purpose. Why not? God can use different avenues to communicate His messages to mankind.

THE LIGHT, SALT AND LEAVEN OF THE CHURCH!

The men of the congregation repaired and furnished room at the Railroad Hospital. This was done as a service project to the community. The Church paid all expenses and did all labor. A plaque will be on the door recognizing the Lord's Church for this service.

“We have bought furniture, desks, a cabinet and a sink for the doctor's office. Doctors are very thankful for all the help and surprised to see Church of Christ continue with good deeds helping so many in spite of the hard times everybody is facing now.”



This way or another, God has never abandoned us but has been giving us hints and clues as well as spoken openly like in the Old Testament. All we have to do is just open up our hearts, listen to Him and do what He tells us to do. And then we should be able to overcome our fears realizing that “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God...What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?” (Romans 8:28, 31).

In spite of the danger, chaos, hostility and segregation that we see in our today's world there are still a lot of positives we can look up to and be encouraged by. I am so thankful that God has opened ways for us to worship Him and study His word despite the multiple lockdowns and restrictions. We still can communicate with one another and even travel to other countries to be with our brethren. The months of September-October, we were blessed with several visitors from Church in America. John Durham was the first one to come, then came John Kachelman Jr., in two weeks arrived Caleb Colquitt and the last (but not the least) were Andrew Gifford (aka Gif) and Nate. Chip McEwen was to have come, too, but got positive COVID test and had to cancel his trip. We hope and pray he will get to come next time.

John Kachelman's visit was busy as usual. There were several trips scheduled and thankfully we did not hit all red alerts traveling to other destinations, which were Kherson, Zaporizhia and Kyiv.

Needless to say, everybody here was excited to see more brethren coming. We missed seeing our regular visitors as well as newcomers. Thankfully, the restrictions had been lifted and we were able to worship in-person. John continued teaching the Book of Colossians he had started on the previous trip and the lessons were, as always, very practical, instructive, motivating and refreshing. Everybody was uplifted and had a better grasp of Paul's admonition. And, of course, fellowship with brothers and sisters was touching and rewarding.

We rejoice that in spite of the pandemic, the Lord's Church here is growing. Now we have a small group of Christians in the village of Zelena, which is in the Carpathians. While here, John visited those brethren – Bogdan, Galyna, Peter and Tanya. The fellowship was so encouraging as we shared a meal and talked about God and His Church. As a result, Galyna's father Peter who had been quite hesitant, made up his mind not to wait any longer. John had a good illustration talking about disciples in Ephesus who had been baptized into John's baptism and when they found out about the baptism for the forgiveness of sins they were baptized in the Lord. I think this illustration finally convinced Peter to do what was right. What a blessed and joyful day it was!

Together with Ivan and Sveta we visited a shelter for runaway children where they stay up to 6 months. John gave out the bears of love provided by Brian Coggins and his team. As the bears were handed to the children, their faces were glowing with joy and happy smiles. Some of them, it seemed, did not know how to smile. This is sad for it shows that they had seen things they should have seen and suffered things that should have never been exposed to. I hope and pray that those little bears will remind the kids there are people that care for them and one day they will find out that love and care come from our Lord.

Besides the bears, John provided money given by different ones in the States to purchase hygiene supplies, medicines for the winter months and detergents. The Director gave big thanks for the supplies, care and

*THE IMPACT OF
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“On the second Sunday upon the arrival in Ukraine, John was invited to Starry Lysets Village Day. It is always a nice and well-arranged event with performances and honoring the distinguished people of the village. John presented the Mayor and the village with an American flag that had been flown on the D.C. Capitol building that Chip McEwen had secured. Such interaction with the village promotes the credibility and presence of the Church in the area.”

understanding of their needs and hardships. Those thanks go to all of you helping in this mission work and praying for it. I wish you could have received them in person and could have seen the joy in the eyes of the children and staff!!!

On the second Sunday upon the arrival in Ukraine, John was invited to Starry Lysets Village Day. It is always a nice and well-arranged event with performances and honoring the distinguished people of the village. John presented the Mayor and the village with an American flag that had been flown on the D.C. Capitol building that Chip McEwen had secured. The Mayor was impressed and in return presented John with a drawing by a local artist for his input in the well-being of the village. Such interaction with the village promotes the credibility and presence of the Church in the area.

Besides these events, there was a trip to Yaremche where John met with Mayor Andriy Ivanovych, whom like Anatoly, the Mayor of Lysets, we have known for years and who had helped us with humanitarian aid issues so many times. When we first met, he was not a mayor, he was just a businessman concerned about his country. The Church provided his home town of Mykulychyn with tons of relief items. This time we visited the school where some of our campaigners worked two years ago and delivered PPE and sanitizers there which were bought with the money donated to John by some of you. The headmaster and staff gave big thanks, which again go to you in the first place.

As always, there was a visit to Ugornyky to see Mayor Lubov. She is always such an encouragement and joy to see. She radiates optimism and good will. Our Church building is on a plot that is under Ugornyky jurisdiction and was granted to the Church as a result of all the relief items that the community had received and continue receiving unto this day. That is a field being ploughed and fertilized for the time when we move to our own place and will interact with locals more planting the seed and expanding the Kingdom. We pray constantly for God to let us move into the new building before the end of the year.

Then came Caleb, Gif and Nate but I was gone with John to other destinations and was not able to be in their classes but I know from their reports and from the reports I heard from members that they did a great job teaching, encouraging, helping and visiting with the members.

While the above guys were teaching in Ivano-Frankivsk, John and I went to Kherson and Zaporizhia and spent a few days in Kyiv in between. In Kherson and Zaporizhia we visited hospitals that either received aid from the containers that you collected and shipped here or needed some help with the stuff available. We also got to see some friends in Zaporizhia and made plans for future shipments.

In Kyiv, John met with two representatives of our new consignee that we used to get stuff to Zaporizhia.

They were having problems with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and their Task Group that gives approvals for humanitarian shipments. We had been fighting to get that container approved, had submitted all imaginable documents and revisions but it did not help and the requirements were getting more and more ridiculous.

Finally, the consignee requested John to meet with the Task Group face-to-face. The meeting resulted in getting the approval but I was ashamed of my

ANYA'S AMAZING REPORTS!

Anya continues doing a great job in working with Jerry Max Morgan and Jerry Moore. This team is coordinating the numerous trade school programs and recently collected and distributed urgently needed winter clothing for these orphanages.

“Let me thank you from all my heart and from the name of all the staff and the kids for your kindness and for your long-lasting help to them! It really means a lot! May God bless you all for everything you do for children here, you may not even realize how much it means and how much good it brings into their lives. It's amazing! (Anya)”



government that forced a humanitarian aid donor to come and confront them. Of course, they came up with excuses but the whole situation was shameful and should never have happened. So, I want to thank all of you who despite the hardships and bureaucracy continue laboring and helping those in need so that the Word of God can be preached to them all over the world. It is a challenge but it is also rewarding when you know you save lives, make children happy and smile their sweet smiles, improve medical conditions and care, and in the long run win souls for the Lord.

I send a MILLION THANKS to you, dear brethren, for your support of John's tireless efforts to expand God's Kingdom in Ukraine by teaching and preaching, through humanitarian aid, and with his own uplifting Christian example. He always stands for God's principles and will never let them be trampled. He helps us navigate in this world full of false religion teaching us how to become bold warriors upholding the TRUTH instead of worriers keeping a "low profile."

I want you to never forget that you are the inseparable part of the work and all the success it brings. Without you we would not be close to where we are now.

Thank you for being our strength and encouragement in this world that wants to drive us into fear and forget that we are the Lord's Army. "If God is for us, who is against us?"

NEWS FROM VOVA & JULIA ABOUT THE MISSION TRIP...

This fall we had such great opportunity to host our brothers in Christ from Dalraida.

We, and the Lord's Church in Lysets, spent a blessed time with John Kachelman, Caleb, Gif and Nate in studying God's word and fellowship.

During their time here (they were all in different time period) we met John Kachelman when he arrived in Lviv, Gif and Nate and put on a plane Caleb as he was returning to Kyiv.

Gif and Nate provided for us youth bible classes. We used this as a way to try to invite youth and discuss topics which are interesting for them.

We want to say, that we are glad and thankful for such brothers in Christ and their inspirational work here and also time which they dedicated to this mission trip.

Thank you, Church, for such efforts which are so helpful in the growth of the Churches here in Ukraine.

In Christ, Volodymyr & Julia

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

We salute you, our dear brothers and sisters in Christ! We have been able to do a great amount of work this month. The success is because of the help we have from God and you. Unfortunately, lockdown restrictions are still in the way and some members cannot worship in-person. People that are not vaccinated are restricted – they are banned from some stores; they are being fired from their jobs; and, they are forced to be vaccinated against their will. Those that are not fully vaccinated are restricted. Thus, the greater part of our

members worships online. Despite the restrictions and a great amount of physical work needed on construction of our church building, we try to preach to people and help them, so that everybody seeking the Lord will hear the Gospel and be saved.

Our Sunday attendance is 12-15 and about 9 to 12 families worship with us online. About forty people total. We keep an eye on all of our members and stay in touch with them. Besides, we deliver food bags to our elderly and needy once a month. The bags contain flour, butter, sugar, grains and canned meat or fish. These bags help people survive at such trying times.

All of the men help with the construction as much as they can. The whole Church dreams and does everything they can to move to the new building as soon as possible, where we will have our signs inviting people to the Church; where we will have different activities to encourage people to come and bring their children with them. There are plans as to how we should become even more active. Maybe the tribulation we are suffering now with the pandemic and war will show everybody with whom the Lord is.

Once a week, together with Svitlana we visit our brethren in the village of Zelena, where we teach classes to adults and children. Besides, we visit families that are open to the Gospel and take food, hygiene supplies as well as relief items to them.

We visited the family of Dmytro and Maria in Sniatyn this month. They both had had a severe case of COVID but were doing better so we could visit. We see them from time to time and talk about the Word of God with them.

Since there are still a lot of restrictions in Ukraine, everybody is keeping safety rules.

We constantly pray for our work and thank the Lord and you, our brethren. With John Kachelman's help we have completed repairs of a doctor's office in one of the local hospitals where our members receive medical help. And with the help from the Dalraida Church of Christ we have bought furniture, desks, a cabinet and a sink for the doctor's office. Doctors are very thankful for all the help and surprised to see Church of Christ continue with good deeds helping so many in spite of the hard times everybody is facing now.

Our family and Church send their heartfelt thanks to you for prayers and support. You are always in our hearts and prayers. We love you.

In Him, Ivan and Svitlana

RUSLAN SKOLEBA'S NEWS...

Greetings, brothers and sisters!

I am happy and thankful to God for this opportunity to say Hello to you once again. Despite the red alert regime and restrictions associated with it, the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk continues working and serving. We have both in-person and online services. Besides, we provide food and medicines for the members that need them. Each man of the congregation is a part of the life and work of the Church as well as the construction of our church building. The concrete floor overlay is now finished. The heating line is run on the first floor and the boiler is installed. We have had heating materials for the second floor delivered today.

I thank God and all of you for support and encouragement. I wish with all my heart that you could come and see with your own eyes how much progress





we have made. Big thanks to you for being a part of such a project. Without your full-scale help it would have remained just a dream.

With love and respect, sincerely Yours, Ivano-Frankivsk brethren and Ruslan

PAVLO TUZNICHENKO'S NEWS...

Love and greetings to you, my dear brothers and sisters! I thank our Lord and Savior for you, for your love, support and prayers that are so critical to all churches of Christ on earth. Your concern and care encourage and invigorate us to labor in God's vineyard with optimism and assurance. I am thankful to the Lord who brings His children together so that we can work together and have fellowship in Him.

And here is my report for the work done within this month. I rejoice as I continue laboring in God's vineyard and serving at Sunday worship services. I also take part in the busy life of the Church, fellowship, and humanitarian aid distribution to various medical institutions, orphanages, and schools. Besides, we help different ones in Ivano-Frankivsk and the Region with food and clothes. Everybody receiving the aid give big thanks to you and to God who works through us on this earth.

Together with my students we have studied "The History of the Old Testament from Joshua to Saul." Not all of us enjoy historical facts but I hope the lives of these two Bible characters will teach a good lesson to the students. Indeed, it was Joshua who had the privilege to bring the God-chosen nation into the promised land. As usual, I would like to ask you to pray for these courses.

We have also completed the repairs of the doctor's office in one of the clinics in Ivano-Frankivsk. This clinic provides medical assistance to people with COVID. Doctors who will see patients in that office thank us for this help.

We always look forward to having you here for joint evangelistic efforts. Big thanks to you for the brethren you support to spread the Word of God throughout the world. I keep you and your families in my prayers. Wishing you good health and God's love. May your charity pay back hundredfold with God's blessings. In Christian love, your brother Pavlo



NEWS FROM ANYA ON THE TRADE SCHOOLS...

Dear friends!

I want to wish you Happy Thanksgiving! May this holiday bring lots of blessings upon your families! I can't express enough how thankful I am to have such friends in my life! And I lack words to describe how much you have done thru the years in order to help the poor and the needy in my country. You have helped so many orphans, disabled kids, needy families, widows and elderly people. May God continue to bless your work and your families and may the world be as beautiful to you as you make it for others!

As you probably know Jerry (i.e. Jerry Max Morgan, Piggott, AR) made a fantastic project to help get winter clothes for kids!

Jerry, I don't have enough words to explain how much you have helped the children. Now, there are up to 100 kids in each orphanage, with about 30 kids in each place that are very needy. When I talked about the needs, they actually started saying that they didn't have any clothing budget starting last



THE CHURCH IN IVANO- FRANKIVSK

“All of the men help with the construction as much as they can. The whole Church dreams and does everything they can to move to the new building as soon as possible, where we will have our signs inviting people to the Church; where we will have different activities to encourage people to come and bring their children with them. There are plans as to how we should become even more active.”



year! This means nothing was purchased for kids... And for some the need is great...Imagine that they asked, please, get underwear and socks, it's the highest priority. In the TB orphanage, for instance, they literally said they have some kids, who have 2 pairs of underwear only! One is washed, the other is on them. Can you imagine?

And when I bought things in for the visually impaired orphanage, and when kids were trying the stuff on, I saw that one boy had such worn out socks, that you could see his skin thru them, they were toilet paper thin...

You find the delivery to the visually impaired orphanage (Svetlovodsk, visually impaired kids). The most needy kids got to choose first. In fact, many of them had several outfits chosen, including shoes and winter jackets. Please, note that some kids are in the orphanage due to disability and may have relatives who take care of basic needs with clothing, while others come from families where no one can take care of them. And our government now wants to pretend there is no problem and the parental rights shouldn't be taken away, etc. Years ago, such cases would go to court and kids would become official (legal) orphans, now the policy is different. And obviously the government isn't providing enough. So, only thanks to such people as Jerry and his helpers and sponsors, it's possible to help the kids who are in such a great need!

I really don't have enough words to explain to you what it felt like to help kids choose the items and try them on. What it felt to see the joy and happiness in their eyes. They were so shy at first, but Antonina (director) helped to choose and many other teachers did, too! We were let in after the lessons and had to show our vaccination certificates, because now it's actually forbidden to go into the orphanage.

What we delivered included winter jackets, shoes with fur, very warm turtlenecks, sweaters, sweatshirts, hats with scarves, sportswear, underwear, socks, underpants for boys and really warm leggings for girls, etc. At the background you can see many tables full of things, some were on the floor or in bags, as we couldn't fit them all up.

Please, note that some children have mixed disabilities, for instance one boy has not only eye problems, but also cerebral palsy. One girl is completely blind. I am sure life isn't easy for these kids, and let me thank you from all my heart and from the name of all the staff and the kids for your kindness and for your long-lasting help to them! It really means a lot! May God bless you all for everything you do for children here, you may not even realize how much it means and how much good it brings into their lives. It's amazing!

Please, note that my house turned into a sorting center a bit, as I had a certain number of kids/age/sizes stated and I had to sort out certain outfits to make sure that the most needy ones get it first. So, I had to put the things on the floor, too. But I have thoroughly washed it before doing it! It's not out of disrespect, it's because I didn't have enough space to do it. It took a while to go from one place to another trying to find the right sizes and the right things, and trying to get discounts to buy more clothes, but I coped! :)

Again, many thanks from Ukraine! Jerry, please, thank all the people who supported this project. And let them know that they have done an amazing thing! Hugs to everyone from Ukraine! Anya and family.

PS: I'm planning to deliver things to TB tomorrow. We fully stuffed the car on Monday to make a delivery to the visually impaired orphanage :) :) and it was raining cats and dogs, but we coped! hurray :) :)