

Ukraine Missions

a ministry of Dalraida church of Christ



Above Photo: Sveta with her Bible class in the mountain village of Zelena, Ukraine. We have distributed tons of clothing, school desks, and many other items in this community.

NOVEMBER 2020 UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWSLETTER!

“The congregation helps needy members with food and medicines. All this is possible with your assistance. You are also a part of this ministry and we thank you for that. Everybody receiving aid knows how much you contribute to it. God and His love make it possible and this is the most important thing we have to keep in mind.” This encouraging note is a part of Ruslan’s report on the actions during November 2020.

The November 2020 newsletter is tardy due to a number of factors. But it is completed and is now available for you to read. Be encourage by the great good that is reported. In this world of trouble and toil it is often tempting to forget the wonderful blessings that come from our great God! Even when all looks gloomy and doom seems to be knocking on your door, God’s blessings are abundant!

During November we moved from one warehouse to another. This was possible because of a number of people involved. Without the great energy and help of those who packed up, loaded the moving trucks and unloaded at the new site it would not have been possible. Without the kind help of our leasing landlord (Chris Obenhaus & Kelly Ulven), we would not have found a suitable place. Without the amazing help of so many who came to load FIVE containers we would not have been successful!

THANK YOU to all involved in this amazing work.

John L. Kachelman, Jr.



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

November 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

- Encouraging reports from Ukraine!
- Updates on COVID-19 impact



This year's summer camp saw about 300 people from all over Ukraine attended. There were about 50 people from our community. During the camp there were seven baptisms, one girl from Kramatorsk, Amma.

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“IT IS WONDERFUL TO SEE NEW FACES IN BIBLE CLASSES AND WORSHIP. I TRUST THAT THEY MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE AND COME TO GOD INSTEAD OF SATAN.”

The month of November is typically slow because of the holiday season's beginning. But 2020 is anything but "typical." Several atypical situations popped up. First, we received word that we were losing our warehouse and had to vacate at the end of the month. Second, COVID hit me and knocked me out of productivity for the required quarantined period. Third, the continuing idiocies with the pandemic slow down everything—cargo containers could not be stacked as usual because someone decided the steel containers needed to be "social distanced." (Note: this was never sent out in a written post but verbally!) Thus, the number of available container slips on each ship were reduced. Fourth, I had to try to salvage data and import into a new laptop because I spilled coffee on my laptop!

Our need to vacate the warehouse forced us to sort, pack and ship FIVE cargo containers out of Montgomery (to Nigeria and Ukraine). We tried to ship out as much inventory as possible before moving to the new location that was found by our leasing company. We also shipped from Judsonia, AR (Ukraine) and Holly Springs, MS (Nicaragua, and Guatemala). Through November 2020 we have collected, sorted, loaded and shipped TWENTY-FIVE containers. These went to seven foreign nations and we had five shipments within the USA to supply COVID-19 operations in NYC, NJ, VA, and MA.

All of the above is the reason November's newsletter is so late. We are in a new warehouse facility in Montgomery (smaller than before but if shipments move on a regular schedule it should be ok).

A special spotlight must be shown on **CHARITA SHTEYNBERG** who has (since March!) amazingly navigated the lunacy of COVID-19 restrictions, shipping schedule horrors, and coordinating so many other things critical to our success PLUS doing three+ jobs fulltime in New Jersey!

Here is November's UKRAINE MISSION newsletter. Read the reports and rejoice in the great good that continues to be accomplished in spite of hinderances!

Thank you for your financial support and encouraging prayers in our efforts.
—John L. Kachelman, Jr

IVAN SKOLEBA'S NEWS FOR NOVEMBER...

Greetings to all American brothers and sisters! We are forever thankful to God for the unity in the spirit of the Gospel teaching we have in the Lord that transforms our lives into the image and likeness of God. In the face of the hardships caused by the pandemic many Ukrainians started attending

DR. ZIK & ORY NIGERIA

“Just to let you know that we carried out a successful donation of beds, mattresses, bedsheets and blankets to two homes (abandoned children and motherless babies) at ABA today. We pray for God's will for your elections today. Blessings. Dr Zik Ikeorha”



churches but statistics say that 40% of them do not believe in resurrection. This information comes from our newspapers. Of course, such faith does not allow the inner man to change. Thus, corruption is thriving in the government and clergy of Ukraine. Denominations are at strife with one another. And this is the world in which we live. Why am I writing these things? It is because I would like to share with you some of the things I heard from officials in the village where we took school desks we had repaired with your help. People could not believe that we were giving them free school desks and clothes on behalf of the church of Christ. They say that their church makes them pay for the things and those who cannot pay are written down in the “debt book” and the priest mentions them at every service and even refuses to do funerals if they do not pay their debt. This is our reality. This is why church of Christ is the light to many of those seeking the Lord. We always thank God for the missionaries that came and brought the true Christian faith here.

We worship and teach Bible classes online now because it is prohibited to assemble on weekends due to the increasing number of infections. There are many deaths. Vitaly, our lawyer, told me he thought he would not survive. Doctors fought for his life. This is because nobody knows what medicines to use. The number of poor people has grown and you can see homeless people standing in lines by garbage containers in hopes to find food there. We thank God for opportunities to help our brethren here. We have those that listen to services online but they have not been baptized yet and we help them with food as well. We regularly meet with people and give out Bibles inviting people to worship services. Besides, we have a ministry in villages of Zelena, Mykulychyn of Yaremche District, Mala Kamianka of Kolomia District and Zhuravno, which is 60 kilometers from Ivano-Frankivsk.

Lord has blessed us this year and we have been able to keep up with our plans. Big thanks to you for your participation and support of our ministry to expand God's Kingdom on earth. I will write a more detailed report on each mission point for the Mission Committee separately. I do not want to make this report too long.

Big thanks to all of you. In Christian love, Ivan and Svitlana

RUSLAN SKOLEBA SENDS NEWS...

Greetings, brothers and sisters! I am happy to let you know that we continue serving God even though we have to worship online due to the weekend lockdown in this area. We stay in touch with the members, encourage them and try to help them with their needs. Many have been sick and we thank God there are no complications for their health.

Last week, Masha and I helped one large family with clothes and food. Some things came from relief shipments that you send through John and others were our children's clothing.

The congregation helps needy members with food and medicines. All this is possible with your assistance. You are also a part of this ministry and we thank you for that. Everybody receiving aid knows how much you contribute to it. God and His love make it possible and this is the most important thing we have to keep in mind.

Share in our joy! At our last in-person Sunday worship one of the best WBI students waited at the Lord's Table and spoke in Ukrainian even though he

A CONTAINER ARRIVES!

"We continue distributing humanitarian aid that you ship here telling people about the Great Creator who opened up our hearts to help them. We have given away tons of clothes and medical equipment. I want to thank you for the relief containers that you ship to Ukraine to help those in need with the things you go out of your way to collect and you do it with love."



speaks only Russian. We keep you and our joint work in our prayers. Members send you their greetings.

Please, pray for my Timothy who broke his 4th finger and has it casted now so that it will grow back together well. We pray for you and your family, for all of you to be healthy. May God help you and keep you safe and bless Johnny with speedy recovery. We love and miss you.

May God bless all of us with strength and mercy to face this trying time.

In Christian love, Ruslan

PAVLO TUZNICHENKO'S NEWS...

Peace and grace to you. I am happy to greet you and send my love to you, dear brothers and sisters. I always thank our Lord who opens up people's hearts to support the needy with love, understanding and sympathy. Big thanks to you for your support to spread the Word of God all over the world. I continue teaching correspondence courses to my students. True, *it is sad that some have been drawn by worldly things and have not allowed themselves enough time to study the Scriptures.* I pray they will understand the things of this world are perishable thus it is not wise to cling to them. I pray that they will understand the importance of following our God for our eternity depends on the choices we make in our lives. Our classes are going well.

We continue distributing humanitarian aid that you ship here telling people about the Great Creator who opened up our hearts to help them. It is so wonderful to see new faces in Bible classes as well as Sunday worship services. And I trust they will make the right choice and come to God instead of Satan. We helped an orphanage in the Ivano-Frankivsk area and gave them many school desks. We have given away tons of clothes and medical equipment. I want to thank you for the relief containers that you ship to Ukraine to help those in need with the things you go out of your way to collect and you do it with love.

I ask the Lord to strengthen the spirit of all who have made up their minds to follow Him. I pray fervently for the Lord to give me wisdom and love to be a better servant in His vineyard. Please, pray with me, my dear brothers and sisters, asking the Lord to add to His Church as many people as possible; for the growth of Church all over the world; for those that have not come to Christ; for peace in this country. Please, pray for my family, for my children's health and for me to be a worthy father and spiritual tutor to them.

I always keep all of you in my prayers. Thank you for your help, love, and support. I'm wishing you good health, God's love and grace. In Christian love, brother Pavlo

A NOTE ABOUT CONSTRUCTION...

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters! We thank God for you and your ministry in His kingdom. May the Lord always abide with us and our families.

The men of the congregation discussed the current virus situation and restrictions against in-person services. We discussed whether it is worthwhile to rent our current meeting place. Due to restrictions, we wasted quite a bit of money paying rent in 2020 not able to assemble. As for the construction, we have not progressed any within this year. We pay

THE LORD'S LOVE IN "SKIN & BONES"

"Last week, Masha and I helped one large family with clothes and food. Some things came from relief shipments that you send in containers and others were our children's clothing."



\$100.00 for electric power and alarm system on our construction site. Our current meeting place is leased to us as office space, that is why it is subject to the restrictions for businesses. If we assembled in the new church building we will not be subject to such restrictions, because it is much bigger and meets all requirements. The men discussed 2 options: We could find a private house for rent and move there. But the owners and neighbors would disagree and complain as it was with the apartment on Sakharov Str. The 2nd option is to finish the first floor and assemble in our own facility where nobody would bother us. There are strict restrictions as far as businesses and we are subject to them in our present rental space and liable to fines of 34,000.00 to 51,000.00 gr. per person in assembly. We are wasting money not being able to assemble in person in rental space AND people get discouraged for the lack of fellowship. What should we do? Please, advise and let us know what you think. We think we need to finish first floor.

WORLD BIBLE INSTITUTE OF UKRAINE!

First thank you for your continued support. This year was different to say the least. With COVID-19 we were certain that our numbers would be down. However, this year was a record year for WBI. Here is a brief summary highlighting 2020.

- We were able to add two men to our staff (Roger Medina and Juan Luna) which opens up many opportunities in Spanish speaking countries.
- Two new schools were added (Togo and Mexico)
- Record number of students enrolled (337)
- Record number of baptisms (5,180 reported so far and we have yet to hear from some locations).

One brother in Africa boldly observed, "the gospel does not have the virus." God is working through WBI and we are blest to be a part of it. I can't wait to see what God is going to do through WBI in 2021. Please go to <http://www.worldbibleinstitute.com> and read how together we are making a difference! In His service, David W. Hamrick

VLAD PAZIY'S GREAT WORK!

This year Camp Amerikraïne's success saw about 300 people from all over Ukraine attended. There were about 50 people from our community. During the camp there were 7 baptisms, one girl from Kramatorsk, Amma. Due to the virus, the camp was moved to the end of August and many could not travel due to the change of date.

After the camp, we returned to Kramatorsk with Jeff and Will they helped to conduct the VBS in September. Every evening we had about 30-40 kids.

Due to the coronavirus, the ABC school started working in the second half of September, and inspite of the fact that we had an orange zone, and now, since Monday, the red zone, we adhere to all the recommendations to work with children. Thanks to Scott Dutton, recirculation quartz lamps were purchased that decontaminate classrooms and help resist the virus. At the moment there are about 100 children in the school.

Since the introduction of quarantine, the congregation has never stopped meeting together in the church building. Also, every meeting is broadcast on our social networks and everyone can join the study and worship. We try to

THE LORD'S GIFT OF SCHOOL DESKS!



"We took school desks to a village. People could not believe that we were giving them free school desks and clothes on behalf of the church of Christ. They say that their church makes them pay for the things and those who cannot pay are written down in the 'debt book' and the priest mentions them at every service and even refuses to do funerals if they do not pay their debt."



keep in touch with all Christians who stay at home due to coronavirus. The situation is difficult, but we do not give up and pray for a speedy victory over this disease. A couple of families in the community have had the virus, but today they are fine and worship with us.

The borders were closed for another month. Scott and Eva Dutton visited us in October. Due to COVID, the visit was postponed from May to October several times. In spite of the difficulties, the two weeks were interesting and intense. A lot of Bible lessons, visits to Christians as well as just live communication this time. The congregation is grateful to God for this help.

THE BIBLE INSTITUTE IN BILA TSEKVA!

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank God nobody in the Church was seriously hurt by the pandemic and the brethren who were infected are all better now.

In November all classes in our Bible Institute were online. The numbers of sick people increased every day and we decided not to put students or Instructors at risk. The Government announced closed doors policy for all educational institutions and noncompliance was punishable by fines. In the beginning of December, the situation slightly improved and some restrictions were lifted. So, we are cautiously making plans to return to the classrooms during the last weeks of December.

Online studies had advantages as well. In spite of the ban for gatherings, other people from different regions of Ukraine joined our studies. These guests were very encouraging to our students.

Last month our second-year students had the Book of Acts (Instructor Vladimir Pazyi, the preacher from Kramatorsk) and 1 and 2 Thessalonians (Dennis Sopelnik).

We are working on the next school year recruitment. We have found a few people who would like to join the program next year. However, they are not fully committed because of the fear of the virus. It is a challenge for us but we are not giving up and continuing the Lord's work.

Last weekend my family went to Lviv. The local congregation celebrated its first 5 years. Moreover, the congregation was established by three families who had been our graduates. I was very proud to see the Lord's work in the city. It is the largest city in Western Ukraine but there was no congregation of the Church of Christ there before 2015. And now they have 20 members congregation. God keeps working through our faithful brethren.

We are thankful to all of you who support our ministry. We appreciate your prayers and financial help. May God guard and keep you safe.

Your brother, Dennis Sopelnik

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