

# Ukraine Missions

*a ministry of Dalraida church of Christ*

**DECEMBER 2021 UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWSLETTER!**



Above Photo: Volodya (in the wheelchair) is leaving to be immersed!

**Here is the December 2021 UKRAINE MISSIONS Newsletter.**

This is the final newsletter of 2021. The year seems to have flown by but an incredible amount of good has been accomplished. A full year's summary is being prepared and will soon be posted.

This month's newsletter summarizes a number of wonderful events during December 2021 as well as report on the tragic fire that swept through the apartment building where Ivan, Sveta and Anna live.

In his report Ivan observed: "2021 is gone and as we look back, we are amazed to see all that has been done - all the time, strength and finances given. All that is powerful evidence to many people in Ivano-Frankivsk and the Region - a living Church of Christ is indeed so much different from religious sects/cults."

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



# UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

December 2021

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Ukraine—Reports of the Lord's successes!
- Ukraine—Any reports orphans trade schools



“Volodya was so happy and so was everybody present. And we know that thousands of angels rejoiced to see him being baptized.”

## 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

**“VOLODYA WAS SO HAPPY AND SAID BEFORE HE WAS BAPTIZED THAT FINALLY HE WOULD BE ADDED TO THE FAMILY OF GOD AND HE KEPT SMILING AND TALKING JOYFULLY.”**

The year 2021 has ended! This is the last newsletter of the year. As you review previous newsletters you are amazed at the magnitude of work accomplished. Surely the Lord has blessed our efforts and utilized our actions for His purpose.

The ending of 2021 focused on two events. *First*, the construction of the meetinghouse was anticipated to be completed to the point where the occupancy certificate would be granted. Due to the dysfunctional worldwide supply chain, the increase of cost and some businessmen whose word proved false, the completion and occupancy did not reach its goal. However, the Church still is optimistic that occupancy will be granted soon. The construction was set back because of the fire in the Skoleba's home and the need for all attention to be directed there.

*Second*, the tragic fire that destroyed the apartment where Ivan & Sveta live. Some have already given toward the repair and others are waiting to see the estimates for repair before giving. We hope to launch a collection to help raise funds to repair their home to the point where they can move back in and then continue repairs. Ivan has been trying to get estimates but has been unsuccessful. At first, he was told the fire engineers had to determine the cause of the fire, when the cause was determined then at least two other departments had to examine it. After those departments examine the report there may be other departments required to examine the report. At this point their home has burned down and because of bureaucracy nothing is done. Here is a note from Tanya detailing the latest efforts of Ivan to get estimates: *Ivan says he is hoping to receive the damage estimate this week. The expertise department was supposed to have done its work last week and Ivan went there several times, and nothing was done. Holidays have interfered with the schedule as well. He will pass the info onto you as soon as he has it.*

**THANK YOU** to all who have partnered with us in prayers, encouragement, mission trips, the many aspects of shipments, and financial support! **You have joined us to enable the Lord to do amazing things in 2021!**

*Romans 9:17, “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”*

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

*“2021 is gone and as we look back, we are amazed to see all that has been done - all the time, strength and finances given.”*

## AND GOD GIVES THE INCREASE!

We have related Volodya's tragedy in previous reports. At 16 he was paralyzed by a vicious gang attack and left paralyzed. Andrew & Marina have been visiting, studying and taking food and meds. On his visit to Ukraine Chip McEwen visited and has been in constant communication encouraging Volodya to study.



## NEWS FROM TETIANA ABOUT AN IMMERSION...

Hi John! Wanted to share some pics from yesterday's baptism with you. Volodya, the disabled man, that Chip has been helping and you visited was baptized. Since he's in a wheelchair and cannot walk or stand, it took four men to do the baptism. You will see in the photos that Andrew and Ivan were in the pool and Ruslan with Kolya moved Volodya from the wheelchair onto Ivan and Andrew. I was a little anxious about moving him like that but everything went well, thank God. *Volodya was so happy and said before he was baptized that finally he would be added to the family of God and he kept smiling and talking joyfully.* His grandmother was with him and she gave some guidance as to the best way to move Volodya. Ivan said a prayer and took Volodya's confession before they put him in water. They had to dip him three times because his feet kept coming up from the water. Then Andrew crouched under the water pulling Volodya down and Ivan made sure his legs were covered. You will see it in the pics. Volodya was so happy and so was everybody present. And we know that thousands of angels rejoiced to see him being baptized. Marina was moved very much and I think she was about to cry. We thank God for this soul that's been added to His Kingdom. Please, continue praying for Volodya and his family. Have a blessed day! Tanya

## NEWS FROM ANDREW & MARINA ...

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters. I hope that you are doing fine, are healthy and strong.

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May all of your dreams, plans and desires find their fulfilment in the year to come. May the Lord bless you with good health, give you success in everything you do, fill you up with His Spirit, and give His peace to you.

Besides, I would like to share some exciting news with you. I visited Volodya and his grandmother again today and told him that I would be happy to arrange for his immersion whenever he would like to do it. Imagine my surprise when he told me he was ready! Thank God! I offered his grandmother to enter into a covenant with God, too, but she is still hesitant. We need to pray and ask God to help her have the desire to reconcile with Him. We plan to find a swimming pool and do the immersion as soon as possible. The Lord's Kingdom will grow by one more soul, and maybe two. *We pray that this time next year our building will be used for all immersions at any time of day!*

We continue working with families in Yaremche. So many people live by tradition, being ignorant of another way of living. *"This is the life our parents had so we live like that as well"* is their reason. We help them and talk about the Bible, but they keep us at a distance because we are not there all the time. We ask the Lord to provide a place to rent for us so that He could use us in our full capacity to carry out His plans. Please, pray with us for this ministry. I know He will work everything out when He wills.

Please, pray on behalf on my son Sasha. He was very sick and it hurt his inner organs badly – spleen and liver. He is losing weight because his pancreas does not produce enzymes and food is not digested and absorbed. Please, support us with your prayers.

In Christian love, Andrew and Marina Lagno

## *THE PROGRESS ON BUILDING*

“Dear brothers and sisters, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you! Big thanks to you for your prayers and support of construction of our church building. This year has brought us much closer to the completion of the project. We hoped to finish the first floor so that we could celebrate New Year’s in the new building and did what we could to reach this goal but there were some opposition factors: restrictions of hard currency withdrawals; lack of honest professionals. Together with you we have made a great progress and we trust the Lord will let us move to our church building this year where we will carry out our plans of reaching out to people and studying the Word of God; where we wouldn’t be afraid to sing and nobody would falsely accuse us; where we could have posters and billboards inviting people to Church; where we won’t have to do a lot of things that humiliate us, like others that kiss priests’ hands, icons and crosses. But we are not alone and God’s mighty arm is with us through your support. Thank you for walking this path with us!”

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

Greetings, our dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you!

Big thanks to God and you for your prayers and help; for your being part of our lives; for all the opportunities opened up by the Lord so that together we can grow in spirit and build up our faith.

2021 is gone and as we look back, we are amazed to see all that has been done - all the time, strength and finances given. All that is powerful evidence to many people in Ivano-Frankivsk and the Region – a living Church of Christ is indeed so much different from religious sects/cults.

God has been so gracious to this church giving us the desire and opportunity to take care of the members of the church and share in the lives of other people with good deeds, which speak for themselves. If someone asks us who does all that and why, we explain that all that is done by those that have a practical faith in Jesus Christ. Then we can talk about the one church of Christ, for which our Lord gave up his life. That is a great testimony to many people. Some have a hard time believing it, others wonder and decide to read the Word of God. Thus, we have had over five immersions this year and quite a number have started attending.

Your funds, given through John Kachelman, were used to help a children’s home. We bought commercial kitchen sinks for the home as theirs were old and leaking; brought them clothes, candy and school supplies. Children were very happy to see they are loved and cared for. They did not want us to go.

We also repaired a doctor’s office in Ivano-Frankivsk Clinic #5 and bought furniture for it. Big thanks to all of you and brothers Gif and Nate for the funds. Even the City Mayor and a priest came to the ribbon-cutting ceremony. It is another good evidence of the work that Lord’s Church does and of the help provided to Ukrainians by our American brethren.

Much work has been done in the village of Zelena. We already have a small home Church there, which is the light to the countrymen living in the mountains. Those Christians do much good helping people and preaching the Gospel. The Kingdom of God is spreading. Glory to the Lord Who is giving us energy, desire and opportunities.

We continue assembling each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Some come to in-person services and some worship online. It is about 35-42 people each week. On Wednesday we have 13-15 in attendance and 10-12 listen online. Many people suffer from the pandemic and it is a real distress. However, it causes people to give more time to the reading of the Bible and our sister Valentina Petrivna is a good illustration in this respect. She is 84 and used to go to the theatre and cinema a lot. She did not have time to read the Bible but now she spends more time at home and has already read the Bible. The men of the congregation try to help and support our elderly as much as we can.

Much has been done on construction of the church building this year – wiring, heating, heated floor in the auditorium, sewerage and running water, boiler has been bought and the house for it built (according to new rules boiler-house should be a separate construction since the boiler uses both wood and electric power). We have had Technical Specifications for the building put together. Have not installed fire alarm because it took too long for the project

## *FIRE IN IVAN'S BUILDING*



“As for helping Ivan, he is still waiting for an estimate of the damage done by the fire. He doesn't have the expertise to come up with an amount on his own so he depends on the experts. They promised to do it last week but had to figure out first whose fault it was and then give an estimate. Ivan went there several times. However, Ivan hasn't been able to get any info out of them. Holidays have thrown a wrench into the process. I'll keep you posted as much as I can (or Ivan himself will let you know). Thank you so much for being willing to help.”

design to be drafted by the legal engineers. Our occupancy is hindered by a number of factors but we are making very good progress. Some opposition still tries to stall us and it is a constant battle between God and Satan. But we try not to be discouraged because we know God is the Victor!

I have already written you about the trial that my family is facing now caused by the fire that burnt our apartment. The fire destroyed the neighboring apartments as well. The firemen flooded the building with water from top to bottom. All ceilings fell and everything was soaked with water. None of the apartments were insured. People do not trust insurance companies because they never pay the claim whenever an insured event occurs. The apartment building is very old, built in 1910 and has not been repaired for 60 years. So, we will have to struggle with this problem in the New Year. Please, pray on our behalf for it is a horrible stress and cause of a great damage. Experts were supposed to let us know about the cause of the fire and calculate the damage estimate on January 4 but they failed the schedule. We are trying to find the answer to all involved. But it is great struggle and often we are told come on one date and it never happens. Thanks to God for everything, thanks to you for prayers. More greetings to all of you.

With love, Ivan and Svitlana

---

## **RUSLAN SKOLEBA'S NEWS...**

Dear brothers and sisters!

I am happy to write you again. You already know that the apartment where my parents live has burnt. It is horrible to see the fire destroy things and realize you cannot do anything. I pray that you will never suffer anything like that. You feel helpless and understand that a human being is just a minute being compared to God's creation, let alone God Himself. My parents live with me and my family now.

But there is good news as well. Construction of our meeting place goes on and it is wonderful. We thank God and you for support and love. We trust the time will come for us to help others like that. May God pour out His blessings and love onto you.

Sincerely Yours,

Ruslan

---

## **FROM KRAMATORSK COMES VLAIMIR PAZIY'S NEWS...**

4 – 6 February we will have winter camp and now we try to prepare place for staying and invite as many as possible for that great event. Lord willing Jeff Abrams and Mark Posey will come and help us with spiritual classes. Many things need to do, and we need prayer support for that. Place for location will be same what we used for summer, with summer prices. This is a good deal for us. We hope they will be ready for summer Camp. It will be the 20th year of camp! Our plan is 150 Christians in one place to Glory our God.

I mentioned before that Nazar, is a young man working with youth in our congregation. Youth group now has classes on a regular bases and many activities. Last month they took Bibles and other booklets about the Church and went into town. They had a several conversations with citizens and invited them to the Church. It was great to see them in the Lord's work.

## THE DAY AFTER THE FIRE!

“I know the Lord loves us and He was merciful to us. Had fire happened at night when we were at home we wouldn't have survived. The apartment building is very old and wires are bad so a spark ignited the gas that had accumulated under the roof. The roof was destroyed. Everything we had done inside was destroyed. We salvaged some documents and a few other things. We are not the only victims - the whole section of 8 apartments was flooded with the firemen's water so all ceilings and walls to the 1st floor were soaked with water. Our night temperatures have dropped to -15C and there is no light, water or natural gas.

“We brought food to the elderly in the building today and helped them dry their things. We brought a power unit and people had electric power and light and could cook a little.

“Big thanks to you, our dear brethren, for your prayers and help. We love you. May the Lord be merciful to all of us. Glory to Him!”

Some of our members now live out of the country. Kate now lives in Poland and got married there. In Poland they do not have the Lord's Church, at least where they live. They always connect with us on our stream time.

Vasiliy, is one of the new brothers in the Lord's Church. He and his future wife, one day visited worship, and after the invitation he agreed to be baptized. He is a great man with big heart.

Bible Class: *10 ways to a strong Marriage*. Every Sunday all our couples bring food and spend two hours after worship in studying this subject. We are closer to each other now. Now we just finished chapter 8, in several weeks we will finish the Lord willing. I would like keep this group and will try to find other lessons about marriage.

I always thought that every age group in the Church can be busy and find something they can use to Glory our Father. After worship the youth group and marriage couples have a class. Our ladies after 60 have made a group on regular basis as well. They bring food, drink tea and talk about life experience and how they can work to glorify God.

I would like to thank you for your concern about Ukraine's situation. It is hard to believe what has happened with us. For me it is still difficult to understand, but I understand that is real life and God is still on His throne and still controls everything. Now the situation is calm, and our city lives an ordinary life. The Church doors open every day, and we try to our best to demonstrate our relationship with God and if someone is interested to know our God we are ready to give answer.

Thanks for your support, love and prayers. In Christ, Vladimir, Oksana, Rita and Dima Paziy

---

## NEWS FROM ANYA ON THE TRADE SCHOOLS...

Dear friends, how are you all doing? We will soon have St. Nikolas Day here, and that is when officially all Christmas trees are going to open here.

I do the shopping for clothes and shoes and other necessities for the children. Meanwhile, we got craft items, fabric, knitting needles, hooks, special stuffing and many other things for classes at the TB orphanage. This week they started making cute tigers for a Christmas tree, as it's the year of a tiger (people here keep track of the Chinese animal calendar).

Kids are having lots of fun and truly enjoying the lessons. The teacher sends many thanks to you for all the support, as it is really big and kids are learning different techniques and can master not only sewing, but also knitting and such! Thank you for this.

*Gradizhsk orphanage training school*. Yulia, who is teaching hair dressings, says that she had enough tools to work with, but she'd prefer to give some things to children—pony tail holders and pins for girls and something for boys. So, we got many ponytail holders and such for girls as well as brushes. For boys we got key chains, hair brushes and toy cars. This way everyone had something, but girls got more things, as they do hair styling more.

*Alexandria orphanage training school*. I am sending you many thanks from the kids and the staff of Alexandria orphanage! Lots of snow didn't prevent us from driving there and we brought so much joy to the kids!

## OUR BELOVED BRETHREN IN KRAMATORSKI!



Vasiliy, is a new brother in the Lord's Church. He and his future wife visited worship, and after hearing the invitation he agreed to baptize. He is a great man with a big heart.



Nazar is a young man working with youth in our congregation.

The youth group now have classes and meeting regularly.

They take Bibles and other booklets about Church and went into town. They had a several conversations with citizens and invite them to the Church. It was great to see them in the Lord's work.

I managed to get super cute sportswear, really warm shoes, also tennis shoes for little ones and shirts, jeans, cute dresses, hats, socks (3 pieces each), stockings, underwear (at least 2 pieces each), gloves, etc. My estimate is that each child will have at least 2-3 full outfits, plus shoes, underwear, socks, gloves, hats, etc. They were very thrilled!

This time shopping was harder as I had all ages from 2 up to 18, and they helped with a list of sizes/ages boy/girl marked out and I made sure no one is left out. There were three different categories, toddlers, younger kids and elder teens. They were very happy to get new things!

We bought lots of clothes most of the items have fleece underneath, so they are warm! We got, sweaters, shirts, T-shirts, warm stockings, underwear, bras, hats, gloves, slippers, pants and so on, similar to other orphanages, but they also asked for hygiene items (shampoos, soaps, liquid soaps, shower gels, etc) and tea pots, tea and sugar as kids love drinking tea when they play together in their rooms before going to bed. I managed to get everything on their list of needs, even more!

The Alexandria sewing school is very thankful for all the help, they have a lot of things that they do and use fabric a lot, so we got more. They really loved it all. The boys and girls make such beautiful items; they are very talented.

Many, many thanks for such tremendous help to the children!!! It is really great help for them all!!! Each child got several items for sure! May God bless your work and all the people who help you!

God bless you for the help you provide to these wonderful orphans! I think it's a very interesting skill for them to learn and they enjoy it big time! Thank you!

Sending you millions of hugs! Happy holidays! God bless your families and your work! Thank you!!!

Many hugs from Ukraine, Anya and happy kids 🤗😊

