

Ukraine Missions

a ministry of Dalraida church of Christ

JANUARY 2022 UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWSLETTER!



Photo: Here are children in the Special Needs Orphanage who received the holiday gifts from Anya that she mentions in her report.

Here is the January 2022 UKRAINE MISSIONS Newsletter.

As you read the January news sent from our brethren in Ukraine, you will rejoice in the activity and good that is being accomplished. The month of January ends a long period that is filled with various religious holidays. Here

is Ivan's note about this time:

"There are many religious holidays in Ukraine at this period of time, especially in its Western part. Businesses are on holidays almost all the time from December 24 to January 20. These holidays impact our efforts to do the Lord's work to some degree as well. We try not to provoke people to anger. On the other hand, it gives us a good reason to talk to people about God and faith even more. We thank God for this opportunity."

The constant interruption of holidays and the inability to get basic works done is often frustrating. Especially has efforts been frustrating for Ivan to secure information on permits and certificates necessary for action on the burnout he suffered. It has also been frustrating efforts to finish the construction of the building to the point of occupancy. Thankfully both of these slow-moving actions have been able to advance.

Thank you for your support in so many different ways—prayers, encouraging words and messages, willingness to work, positive faith and trust in God, and for your financial support.

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UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

January 2022

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- Encouraging reports from Ukraine!

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“GOD’S TRUTH IS MARCHING ON!”

January 2022 passed too quickly! The chaos and confusion that we hoped would end in 2021 has continued and even ratcheted up to a greater intensity! The crises of last year continue this year—the dysfunctional supply chain that, in the USA, was largely focused on the west coast has now spread to the east coast. However, this is a worldwide phenomenon that has hindered every nation. The fact that we shipped 34 containers in 2021 seems surreal, but it happened. Any hope of repeating that number in 2022 is unrealistic. On January 10 we loaded a container out of Searcy/Judsonia and it is still sitting at the railyard waiting to be loaded—and it is incurring fees and penalties every day. On 11 October we loaded a container from Montgomery, shipped by the DoD, destined for Nigeria. Dr. Zik & Ory have been trying to secure the necessary papers in-country—constant problems and cost!

The chaos and intrigue of the political world is exasperating. The continued hobbling of culture by the “cancel critics” is irritating. Thankfully we are witnessing nation after nation removing travel restrictions and mandates as they admit “things are not as bad as expected.”

But! In the midst of this chaos listen, *“God is our refuge and strength, a very ready help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth shakes and the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.”*

In the midst of this world’s upheavals, the Christian has an unshakable confidence in the Lord God Almighty! As troubling as our current times appear, there have been times in the past that were more troubling. In those times voices arose calling for courage, fidelity and faith in the Lord God Almighty to be the anchor for stability. Of many instances I think to Julia Ward Howe’s poem (composed in chaotic times when despair sought to rule man’s hearts) known to us as [“The Battle Hymn of the Republic.”](#)

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat; He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment-seat; Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant, my feet! Our God is marching on!

We send this first newsletter of 2022 with the confidence that God’s truth is “marching on!” And so, we proclaim, *“Glory, glory, Hallelujah!”*

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

IVAN SKOLEBA’S NEWS FOR JANUARY...

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. We thank God for one more month in 2022 that we have lived through. There are many religious holidays in Ukraine at this period of time, especially in its Western part. Businesses are on holidays almost all the time from December 24 to January

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. We are coming close to the completion of our church building. We have done the remaining rooms on the first floor and have them ready for the occupancy committee approval. We have also done prep work for ceiling installation in the rooms and auditorium. After that we'll tile the floor and there will be painting and plumbing left to do.



20. These holidays impact our efforts to do the Lord's work to some degree as well. We try not to provoke people to anger. On the other hand, it gives us a good reason to talk to people about God and faith even more. We thank God for this opportunity.

We continue worshiping online because of the lockdown we have been on for over one week. Almost all are sick with COVID but there are mild symptoms. Our members have had it as well and some are still getting over it. For example, Andrew and Maryna, Volodya and Julia, Masha, Ruslan's wife – have been struggling with the virus. We pray for the Lord to give them strength and health to get through the winter.

A special request to pray for the little Church in Zelena. Galyna and Bogdan's youngest grandson, Andrew of 7 years old, fell into a coma on January 29 and was unconscious all night long. Doctors in Ivano-Frankivsk worked all night long to bring him round. When CT scan of his brain was done, they saw that some of brain cells had started dying. Andrew is in the hospital now, and we pray all the time and plead with the Lord to give wisdom to the doctors and help Andrew recover. The Church in Zelena is prayerful thanking God for prayers and support that Church of Christ provides. Their attendance is 11-12 adults and 5-8 children.

As for Ivano-Frankivsk, we have about 40 people that worship online with us. On Wednesday – 12-14 people. On Fridays, we pray for all churches of Christ and thank God for all of you and your work, prayers and support you provide for the church in Ivano-Frankivsk.

Now our brethren feel, and appreciate even more the unity of spirit that is present in the Church. We try to be considerate of everybody and help whenever there is a need.

With the pandemic, many people have become angry causing argument and misunderstanding in their families. We try to share the Gospel with others so that they could have peace with God. It is such a blessing to be God's children and have inner peace that comes from our Father!

We always thank God for all of you and especially for the missionaries through whom we came to know the Holy Word of God and trusted Him as your classes and sermons were taught to us.

Special thanks to all of you for supporting us at this trying time when we lost our apartment to a fire.

**OUR DEAR BRETHERN, BIG THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR SUPPORT!
GLORY TO GOD FOR HIS HOLY CHURCH AND HIS CHILDREN!**

We love you,

Ivan, Svitlana and the family

RUSLAN SKOLEBA SENDS NEWS...

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am thankful to God for another opportunity to write you. I hope that no one either in the Church or in your families is sick. We are in the red alert zone beginning this week. And, unfortunately, many are sick. My family is sick but thank God they are not seriously ill. Many church members are also sick. I

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Unfortunately, we cannot work faster for various reasons. But we do hope to have our first worship in the new building in April.

Please, continue praying for God to remove all obstacles so that we could complete these works on time.

**BIG THANKS TO ALL
OF YOU FOR SUPPORT
AND DONATIONS!
GLORY TO OUR GOD!**



know that our gracious God will heal us all soon. Despite all that, we continue serving our God, helping the needy members of the Church with food and medicines whenever there is a need, staying in contact on the phone with those we cannot visit for certain reasons.

COVID is not a pandemic but a sieve of God to see those who are His true children and truly trust Him instead of trying to take advantage of Him.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the members here, I would like to thank you for your support and concern for us. We know that God will reward you for your desire and work here and everywhere else you labor for Him. Together, we serve the same cause of the Kingdom of God.

Thank you for your prayers on our behalf, for this city and this country.

May God give a hundredfold of blessings to your families and your country.

With love and respect,

Ruslan

A NOTE FROM ANYA...

Dear friends! How are you doing? I managed to get some presents for the kids! Thank you once again for making it happen!!! I think it's really cool to be able to bring so much joy and happiness for children.

These presents are for the kids in the rehabilitation center. I keep in touch with Yulia all the time and check on how things are there. I want to tell one story... Before New Year I talked to Yulia and congratulated her and as always asked about things going on there. Rehabilitation center isn't in good condition, the government is cutting wages, they don't give funds for cleaning supply or for things for kids. Yulia had 0 funds from summer for these items. But that's not all. Usually the mayor's office prepares some sweets or presents and they give them out to kids each year for New Year. This year they decided NOT to do... Can you imagine? Nothing at all for such kids! And believe me, many of such kids come from very poor and needy families, or single-parent families, where moms can't even work as they need to provide care for their disabled child. Nothing at all! Yulia actually told me that she asked her old friend to help and the lady did bring candy to give out. When I learnt about it, I asked Yulia, why didn't you tell us? And I promised her that when Jerry sends the funds I will get her presents for our Christmas or Old New Year! At that time, I already knew that Jerry was going to do it!

So, we prepared the presents for them and Yulia and the staff gave them to all the kids! All the staff, parents and Yulia send you many greetings and thanks as you truly made the holiday season so special for these beautiful kids with special needs!

Again, thank you for making it happen! It was very special! And may God bless all the people who were involved in fundraising for this Christmas project!

Please, pray for our nation as we are in such a hard time. Pray for us to be able to survive and still be a nation/country. It's very stressful now, but we are hoping and praying for the best thinking of you all, my friends.

Hugs from Ukraine, Anya