



Ivano-Frankivsk Church of Christ Update – February 2025

Hello there!

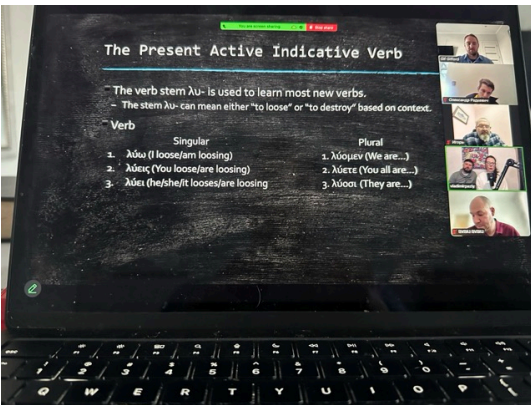
True to its usual form, February was the quickest month of the year. We had what was by far the coldest weather this winter, but we had plenty of activities to do to keep us warm. Most of our month was swallowed up by humanitarian aid efforts. In our warehouse, we had several items that were meant to be used in the cold weather, and we wanted to make sure we got those out while the weather is still cold. It took several days of dedicated packaging and loading, but we managed to get all of it out to help where it can be useful.

Personally, I've been able to keep up a pretty good teaching schedule between both King Daniel University's English courses and Bear Valley Bible's online Greek course. Our Greek course has been very productive and I have really enjoyed teaching. The students are incredibly interactive and seem to be keeping a pretty good pace at learning the language. I'm hopeful that by April we can have them translating some basic Bible verses with ease. It is quite challenging to learn a dead language from someone who is speaking through an interpreter in a foreign language, but their efforts have been admirable.

At King Daniel University, even though the classes are focused on improving the students' English abilities, I have been able to turn a lot of conversations toward biblical principles, and even in some cases have been allowed to speak very openly from the Bible. Just this past week, we had discussions about what it means to have a "good" life, the proper attitudes toward money, and even whether evil people can ever do enough good deeds to deserve forgiveness. These classes have also led to opportunities to have more conversations over coffee with both students and teachers.

Now of course, not everything has been perfect: frozen pipes at the church building, heating problems in the van, and several different illnesses among church members have all been challenges for us in the past month. But, a lot of what we did in the past year helped prepare us better to deal with these things, so we feel like we can focus on the positive things and deal with each new challenge as it comes moving forward into March.

-Gif



Working with some very talented students



Spending some time with church members



Perry and a small group of volunteers



Unloading a container at the hospital

From Perry Baker

The older I get, the more time appears to vanish at sonic speed because two months of the new year are already gone. February was very busy as we completed sorting the remaining 300 bags of clothing by gender, size, winter, and summer. Still, without our Christian sisters, this task would have been monumental. Along with this, Gif and I spent another several days packing hygiene supplies, hand warmers, and winter clothing into plastic bags to be sent to the soldiers on the front line. Within the month the church gave clothes to soldiers on the frontline, in hospitals around Ivano Frankivsk, IDPs, the community, and members who were in need.

Thanks to Sergii Tvmkiv and his team for delivering all the items to the soldiers throughout the front line. None of this would be possible without the love and donations from our brothers and sisters across the USA.

We continue with our regular meetings with some university and high school students and with adults across town in Sergii Tvmliv's office who want to improve their English. Sergii and I also met Dr. Oles Teslenko and his team who collect pharmaceutical and medical supplies, walkers, and crutches.

The container from Montgomery arrived full of needed equipment, beds, medical supplies, surgical tools, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and other supplies. These were delivered to the central hospital in Ivano Frankivsk. We met Dr. Sergii, Dr. Angela, Dr. Marina, and many helpers and unloaded. The remaining load was unloaded at the church building with the gracious help of Sergii and his team who met us there.

It's been wonderful to meet with various members during the week to build stronger relations and to learn more about them, their families, and their conversion stories. The marvelous home baking and great Ukrainian coffee were an added treat.

The great blessing of doing the Lord's work is meeting all the various individuals and groups is that doors are being opened with the gospel seed being planted. But Lord willing it will reach rich soils and pray God will give a large harvest. Our biggest prayer is that this terrible war and the loss of so many lives will end soon. Please continually pray for the brave Ukrainian people especially our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Items loaded and received



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