



Ivano-Frankivsk Church of Christ Update – May 2025

Hello there!

Another month has come and gone and we have finally seen off the last of our American visitors. The first few months of 2025 have basically been a revolving door of supporters coming to check in and see how the work is doing here. We are always happy to have them come! It is not an easy trip between flying, driving, walking, and all the other modes of travel it takes to get here. Plus, there's the added difficulty of the constant war that is raging here. Even though it isn't headlining the news in the US as much as it was 3 years ago, it is still very much a daily reality here. Therefore, the risk that our friends have taken to visit has not gone unnoticed.

This month has been a little different than most. Our usual church interpreter, Inna, had to leave the city early in May to take care of her ailing mother. Fortunately, as of today, her mother is out of the hospital and doing better, but still needs your prayers. Inna's absence has given me the opportunity during the weekdays to focus on those who speak English—because that's all I can do. I was offered some very special opportunities to go and speak at conferences at King Daniel University on several



One-on-one English practice with students

different topics. Specifically, they wanted me to talk in one conference about my methodology for interpreting New Testament Greek, and at another conference to tell some stories about mission trips I've taken over the years. So, there are easy spiritual connections to be made through these outlets! On other days, I've found some good speaking clubs in the city, most recently one hosted by our friend Sergiy, who is helping us with humanitarian aid distribution. He has been a valuable connection since my arrival and he's very interested in the church work.

Additionally, I have had some wonderful conversations over coffee and dinner with the man who has been cutting my hair. He is very religious, and very interested in the differences in the church of Christ and what he has experienced. There are great open doors everywhere and we look forward to exploring more of them in the future!

-Gif



I received excellent advice about what not to say from local interpreter students



Talking about some mission trips at a conference



Very smart kids at the local English club