



# UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

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## IN THIS ISSUE

- Reports from Ukraine highlight positive developments for the Lord's Church
- Ivan Skoleba sends his greetings and news of the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation
- Great news from Kharkov, Ukraine on a container delivery
- News from India
- Greetings from the Chairman of the Board



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## The beginning of a New Year: Old Successes & New Opportunities!

As 2010 began we were enjoying the visits of Ivan Skoleba and Tanya Zozulina. They were able to visit and meet many of those who join with them in the Lord's work in Ukraine. Their visit was beneficial as it permitted many to hear from them about the Lord's work. Their presence also helped to underscore that mission dollars are well-spent in supporting our efforts in the mission field. Hopefully, Ivan's visit helped to secure an increase in support to be received.

Of course, the latter half of January was consumed with the Haiti earthquake and the phenomenal outpouring of Christians to send relief to those affected. We will devote next month's newsletter to Haiti.

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

## Ivan Skoleba returns to Ivano-Frankivsk

During his recent visit to the USA, Ivan was able to visit with individuals and congregations in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas. Upon his return to Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, Ivan sent the following message saying he had arrived back home safely. (This illustrates how the instant translation programs do not do a linguistically competent interpretation.)

*Hello is a brother John! I flew so far normally, on it races without adventures, talked at home to Svete and brothers our about your hospitality. All was healthy. I got large inspiration. It was happy to be next to you. I thank you for brotherly love. Hello of Jennifer. Sveta thanks Jennifer for a woman's jacket which it helped me to purchase for Svety.*

*I read Your letters and see as much now for you works with humanitarian loads on Haiti. We pray for you and your the family.*

*With love in Khriste Ivan*

## Ivan Skoleba reports from Ivano-Frankivsk

Greetings, dear Brother John!

In our prayers we always thank God for you and the work that you do to spread the Gospel of our Lord throughout the world as well as here in Ukraine. In your letters we read that so many people from different countries receive humanitarian aid and that afterwards Lord's churches begin in those places and the Lord helps those people to receive salvation and see a new way to the truth of life. On behalf of this congregation, I would like to thank you and all brothers and sisters who take part in this project.



"A family that lives in Ivano-Frankivsk Region in a small town called Kalush. These are friends of our Sister Marina. This young couple, Vasya and Nadya, wanted Marina to be the godmother for their one-month old son Vasya. When Marina refused saying that baptism must be biblical they could not understand it. Later on, Marina and Sveta visited with that family and besides the young couple there were Nadya's mother, Lesya, and Nadya's sister, Natasha.

They had a prolong discussion...they had never read the Bible, had never heard about biblical baptism or repentance, and they heard it for the first time that Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and people."



It's February 2010 now and Ukraine is anxious about the new Presidential elections. Many Ukrainian people are discouraged and lost. God is giving us this time to spread the Gospel so that many more people will hear about God's love and His law. Since Western Ukraine is known for her spirit of fanaticism and cult, for her obeying many rites which are being popularized not only in villages but also on TV. Young people are taught to tell fortunes.

In one of the pictures you can see a family that lives in Ivano-Frankivsk Region in a small town called Kalush. These are friends of our Sister Marina. This young couple, Vasya and Nadya, wanted Marina to be the godmother for their one-month old son Vasya. When Marina refused saying that baptism must be biblical they could not understand it. Later on, Marina and Sveta visited with that family and besides the young couple there were Nadya's mother, Lesya, and Nadya's sister, Natasha. They had a prolong discussion. The whole family claimed to be Catholic believers. But they had never read the Bible, had never heard about biblical baptism or repentance, and they heard it for the first time that Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and people.

Another young girl, Olya, had a daughter without a husband. She always asks us for help. Her girl is eight-months old. We do help Olya from time to time. She has already heard a lot about the Living God and about His Church. She asks one and the same question every time: why she was left without parents while growing up and why now the father of her child abandoned them. We pray about them and try to help as much as we can. Marina's relatives, too, started asking questions when they got to know each other a little better. They started asking questions from the Bible. Marina's aunt Olga and uncle Michael keep all Catholic rituals. But the Bible is being opened to them for the first time and they are sincere in their questions and answers. They do not mind seeing us from time to time and we visit and talk on different topics, biblical in the first place.

Many a time have I written you about the wonderful ways that God uses humanitarian aid to spread the Gospel and His church. We received a lot of thanks from different organizations and hospitals, both in city and villages, as well as village administration and individuals with families. All administrations sent us (the church in Ivano-Frankivsk) New Year's greetings and asked church to pray for their families and lives. There are many religious organizations in Ivano-Frankivsk and the Region that do not take any part in the life of the society. Thus some officials from the Administration began to show interest to church of Christ and began offering different joint projects to work with children's homes and social institutions. I talked to you personally about this when I visited the States to report on the work.

#### **Life of the church**

We get together on Sunday at the same hotel. The assembly lasts from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.: 1:00 – 1:10 – singing; 1:10 – 1:40 p.m. Bible class; Lord's Supper is from 1:45 to 2:00 p.m.; sermon is at 2:00 to 2:40 p.m.; 2:40 – 3:00 p.m. – singing, announcements and closing prayer.

We study the Old Testament heroes of faith in our classes and I also ask to study on their own about some Bible characters that they like most of all. Every Monday and Friday we visit the sick and elderly.

I would like to share some sad news with you – Vitaly's father had to have to have his legs amputated because he has gangrene due to the poor treatment of his fracture (this situation was reported in a previous month where the



"Andrew and Marina had their wedding at church of Christ. Conducting a wedding was a new experience to me. I think everything went well. So church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk had their first wedding."



hospital allowed him to be in corridor without treatment until I intervened). Plus, they found out he has diabetes. After his father lost two legs (they were amputated) Vitaly is very depressed. Vitaly's father has five children and only one takes care of him as all the rest turned him down. Vitaly's father abused alcohol and did not take care of his children. Now he does not have much time left for him. He cried and said that he saw now that Vitaly believed in the Living God. He is in the Emergency Department. He is very weak but we talk to him about repentance and baptism. Please, pray to be merciful to that family.

There is good news as well. Andrew and Marina had their wedding at church of Christ. Conducting a wedding was a new experience to me. I think everything went well. So church of Christ in Ivano-Frankivsk had their first wedding. Andrew and Marina are very thankful to the brethren who have prayed for them. Now Sasha, Marina's son, has a father. Andrew loves Sasha and often asks for advice on how to give his son Christian upbringing. So I have had a lot of new experiences here and I myself still have to learn a lot to be able to give right answers to questions on Christian life. Dear Brothers and Sister, we would like to ask you to pray for our young family, Andrew and Marina. All Marina's relatives and friends are Greek Catholic and all Andrew's relatives and friends are Orthodox. They are spiritually young still and do not always know what to do in different situations. I am sending you pictures from their wedding.



I am thankful that the Lord gave me opportunity to come to America and spend time with brothers and sisters, to see how you conduct services and to tell you about church of Christ in Ukraine. We continue studying Genesis. I answered questions that arose while I was gone. I told the church about my trip, gave everybody your greetings and told them about your love to this small church. Before I went to the States I had trained Andrew, Vitaly, Roman and Dmitry. I was very thankful to them for having done everything as I had taught them. Andrew taught a class, Vitaly read Psalms, Roman lead singing and Dmitry lead the prayer. Sisters helped them to set up Lord's Supper. They said they were nervous but they did it.

Every Friday Sveta teaches ladies' class "Women of the Bible." The latest topic was Sara. We had a visitor last Sunday. It was Michael from Krivoy Rog. He was in Ivano-Frankivsk on a business trip and we invited him to worship with us. Michael had not even seen the Bible before and he listened very carefully. We gave him a Bible and he wanted to read it. After services, he asked a lot of questions and he said that he had never heard the Bible being explained like that. He could not understand how the Lord can forgive people if they are so sinful. He was concerned about bringing up his fifteen-year old son in the Lord. He asked if he could bring his family to our worship service and he was surprised to hear everybody say they would love to see all of them.

We received another container and are working on the distribution.

We are sincerely thankful to Brothers and Sisters who help us with our work here. С Люб. Иван, Света (With love, Ivan, Sveta)

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## NEWS FROM A CONTAINER SHIPPED TO KHARKOV

Privet dearest Johnchik! 😊

First of all wish you a really Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year! May our Lord support you in all your efforts and bring you much joy, peace, comfort and many nice people on your way! Sorry couldn't get in touch with you before. My computer got broken (mother board got burned) month ago. So, I am out of connection and could not really greet anybody with Christmas and New Year. And because we moved into the country from the city there is no internet cafe here close by. And I just physically did not have time to come to the city and send all the messages. Right before your Christmas I got stuff from one of your containers!!!!!!

It was ssssoo great. I was able to give each of my kids a gift and my staff was so excited to get dishes, office supplies, cute children's chairs and tables for my teachers. I am very thankful for the cabinet for the papers in my office. Also the children's clothing is great, some dresses are just adorable. And we have two newborn girls in the village and one more is expecting, so it was so timely!

Each of my boys got a pair of cute shoes and also several school boys who really do not have much got a pair. One of the boys (he is 10) has only grandmother and when I saw his shoes he was wearing (they had holes and we have much snow here) I invited him to my office to find some shoes for him, he said: no, thank you, I have another pair at home. I insisted and realized that he was just embarrassed because his socks had holes also. He looked really happy when we found the pair which fit him. Thank you!!!! I just can't express my GREAT appreciation enough to you for everything.

Beds, walkers and crutches I left for the rehabilitation center for former drug and alcohol addicts, actually those young men who stay now at this center helped me to unload the containers and then to load the stuff I took from there into the truck.

I have not seen the stuff yet from the second container. You probably know we have very much snow and really sleaky roads here for more than a month already, the warehouse is in the country and it is almost impossible and very unsafe to get there. I am waiting for our city government to clean the roads at least some, may be it will happen before the second part of elections ☺ I never thought it would take me 5 months to get my stuff when it is already here in Kharkov, but it was cleared up from the customs only in the mid of December.

I will send you pictures when have chance to use someone's computer longer and with faster speed.

Heard you are busy now with another disaster where people need help, may God bless your labor many times back to you! Love you and admire and appreciate the work you are doing!

Also miss seeing you ☺ God bless!

Гиль Ирина (Irena G) 🙏🌸

"(W)e so greatly appreciate what you and the church have done over the years. We are most honored to be able to facilitate your efforts to reach out and help others. We value our partnership with you and look forward to many years of working together."

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Ira Gill, Kharkov, Ukraine

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## NEWS FROM THE LORD'S CHURCH IN INDIA

To the respected my great beloved brother John L Kachelman and family and church members and saints in your country.

Hearty immense greetings and salutes to you one and all in the Holy name of Jesus Christ. We hope and pray that this letter finds you all in good health and prosperity. The Ibrahimpattam congregation church members, elders and our family members are saluting you one and all. Specially we are praying for you and your church members for the development and prosperity. I am in receipt of your generous help of \$200 and thank you so much for the same. We the church elders purchased the rice and the same is distributed to the widows, and orphans with the help of you. My church elders send the work report and pictures to your postal address in soon. The beneficiaries are conveying their thanks to you all. Many widows are involved in sick and they are required the medicines and injections and so we request you to kindly cooperate and help them since they are deserved to share your love and affection. On behalf of your congregation, we have also distributed the clothes to the poor preachers and the said preachers are conveying their salutes and thanks to you all. So thank you very much your great support to India evangelism work purpose. Brother please send my special thanks to my brothers and sisters to churches of Christ and especially send me my special thanks to every brothers and sister to Ukraine Missions.

In the month of January 2010 there were gospel meetings done well and I met about 119 preachers in various places working there. Brother this is a good news I am travel on Sunday 24th Jan evening after worship at Bhadrachalam, Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh. Two days gospel meeting on 25th & 26th Jan 2010. I am preach the New Testament truth and especially I am preach the subject of why I am church of Christ member. The people are very interesting in New Testament truth, I will give the four baptisms, this area Hindu community area, biggest Hindu temple (Sri Rama Temple) there in Bhadrachalam town. This is also tribal and forest area. One of my cousin brother working in telephone office Aswararaopet Village is arrange this gospel meetings. Really through your encouragement I am able to render my service for developing the God's work in India, by bringing the perishing souls to the feet of Christ. This is a God grace in my life. Once again thank you very much in your great prayers and cooperation, my gospel work development purpose.

I never forget your great Christian love in my life. Today morning I am back my home. Brother next week Feb'10, I am planning at Nellore District Kundam area brother K. Devadas preacher, is invited to me. So please pray him that area gospel meetings. Actually my place to Kundam village 325 km's approximately, so please pray him. There are some unsupported poor preachers are working and accompanying with me in God's service. In this connection we are encouraging them through your prayers and advices. My wife Rajeswari has been availing her time amongst the women conducting Bible classes. If there are sisters wishing to work in India, please send them to deliver their messages against the women folk in India.

In the year 2010 in the month of September, there is Anniversary day will be celebrated in Ibrahimpattam church of Christ and in this aspect, on behalf of our church and congregation we are inviting you to attend the said Anniversary days. Really your messages are highly required to the persons



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Hello dear John, I wish send you small report: We visited few orphanages. We had one Christmas visit to one orphanage on Eastern Christmas Day (6 January). Two days ago we visited New orphanage. Which is far from us (100-120 km). There are normal kids. We had good meeting with kids. We showed good puppet show. After we had have sing songs together with kids there. Kids received Christmas gifts.

I'm very happy that God blessed us in this trip... Director was very open and glad for our visit. He invited us to make program there, Sunday school classes, summer camp other things. I'm planning to make McDonalds project for this kids. Why? Because these kids live in downtrodden, not civilized places in village in wood. I want that kids visit McDonald which never was there and for them is big dream to visit McDonald. I started pray for this orphanage for orphans which live there. I pray that God will give for us good and productive service there. I invite you to join me in pray for this orphanage. Much love and blessings, Viktor

and preachers who are going to attend the same from other places in Andhra Pradesh.

Brother I need some Telugu language tracts, so please help me. The poor widows and orphan childrens and my co-preachers and my church members and elders send the special thanks to you and your family members and especially your church members.

Brother please remember in your prayers one of the preacher and one of the church member & two poor widows at present hospital, need of your great and powerful prayers. Everyday my family conducting a special prayer to you. That God is providing many blessings and good health in your home. My family members and church members are conveying our thanks and salutes to you one and all. Daily we are praying for your good health and success in all your attempts. Please pray for our ministry. Brother I am attention so please write me your happiness replay letter. Expecting a communication from you please.

Yours brother in Christ, N. Vijayaroo, Christian servant

PS: Today I send my work report and pictures to your postal address. We have received in soon.

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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

The impact of our effort in bringing recognition to the Lord's Church because of its generous benevolence is making its way through a number of amazing places. Recently I received a handwritten note expressing appreciation for the efforts of the Lord's Church from one in a well respected organization.

*Dear John,*

*As the Chairman of the Board of Counterpart International I want to thank you and your congregation, and those in the churches of Christ, for your generous and heartwarming response to the disaster in Haiti. We are very thankful that Counterpart is able to assist in the logistics and delivery of the relief items that you have donated.*

*Your generosity and commitment to help the earthquake victims will be remembered as another chapter in our relationship as we have wanted to bring comfort to people in need. We greatly value our relationship over the years and particularly in this time of critical need.*

*With Admiration,*

*Robert J. Reynolds*

*Chairman of the Board of Directors  
COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL  
[www.counterpart.org](http://www.counterpart.org)*

Dear John, I have been back from Ghana a couple of weeks ago. While there, I was able to talk with a government official at the department of social welfare and he gave a direction for us to pursue. I know that you have a busy schedule more so with the Haiti situation. Thanks so much for your commitment to serving selflessly in the Lord's kingdom. May God bless our effort to show forth His love to the world of lost souls, Benjamin Okai