



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

January 2011

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“He was as happy as a child when he saw the wheelchair and told us that now he knew for sure that God does exist”

The above comment comes from Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine where Ivan Skoleba reported on how the Lord's Church is busily engaged in the Lord's work in western Ukraine. The New Year of 2011 began with earnest labors in a number of different nations where we are involved. This first newsletter of the year will be able to highlight only a few of these places.

The New Year always begins with excitement but also a sobering realization that there will be multiple problems and compounding anxieties as new opportunities are presented and former opportunities continue to present themselves for work. However we remain confident that the Lord will provide the means if we will present ourselves ready to seize the moments to get the work done.

As I write this newsletter, Ivan is currently visiting in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee to report to supporters and attempting to secure additional funding for the operations of the Lord's Church in western Ukraine. The work in Ivano-Frankivsk continues to grow and produce memorable fruits for the Lord. The Ivano-Frankivsk congregation is growing numerically and maturing in faith. Their fellowship is strong and provides the boldness essential to preaching the gospel in that difficult region.

In this newsletter you will also read of the encouraging work of our brethren as they labor in Ghana, Afghanistan, India, and Haiti. We continue to send out general email reports that offer a more complete report than the summaries in these monthly newsletters. If you do not receive the general emails please advise and we will add you to the news mail-list.

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

Ivan Skoleba reports from Ivano-Frankivsk

From Ukraine 28.01.2011 Ivano-Frankivsk

Greetings to you, dear brother John!

We continue working with humanitarian shipments and we also give away Bibles and talk to people about salvation. The shipping of humanitarian aid gives us opportunity to show our Christian love and care in our deeds. This benevolence action helps to show those in our community that the churches of Christ are interested in giving love rather than demanding money and service as the denominational churches do. People continue to be shocked that we do not force them to pay for the benevolent items they need or for the Bibles. The denominational churches here charge for everything—even prayers and baptism!

**THE LORD'S CHURCH IN
KRIVROY ROG, UKRAINE**



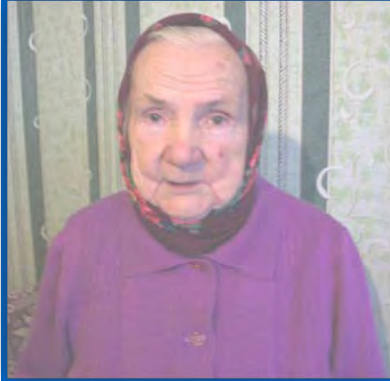
Krivoy Rog is some distance from Ivano-Frankivsk. There is congregation there but it needs brethren who will work with them and help them. It is city of 800,000. There is no preacher. Some of us from Ivano-Frankivsk travel as often as possible to preach and teach but it is difficult (this is Andrew's home city and you will recall his mother and sister were immersed by you). I have sent some pictures of your brethren in Krivoy Rog so you can find joy in seeing them. They are small in number but their faith is great and their hearts of dedication are strong. Please pray for these brethren.

To illustrate this fact here is a story that I wish to share. We received a request to help an invalid named Vyacheslav who lives in Krivoy Rog. He lost his legs and for five years had stayed in his flat. He could not go out because he lived on the fifth floor. He only moved around in his flat with the help of a stool. His neighbors were not pleased because they had to hear the noise he made when he used the stool (moving it across the floor by pushing it). For five years he wrote to different organizations but nobody would help him. The population of Krivoy Rog is 800,000 people and the Social Service has only a total of twenty-four wheelchairs available, which is not enough for all disabled people. Thus they have to wait until someone using a wheelchair dies and the wheelchair will be given to the next one in the line. Vyacheslav had waited for his wheelchair for five years. Then he found out that the Ivano-Frankivsk church of Christ helps people. He saw John on the television reports. After seeing those reports he called us and talked to us about his problem. I visited with the church of Christ in Krivoy Rog (where you immersed Luba) and reported to them of this need. I brought a wheelchair that was shipped in a container for the church to present to Vyacheslav. When we gave a wheelchair to him he cried and told us that he had prayed to God saying, "Lord, if you do exist, please, help me." He was as happy as a child when he saw the wheelchair and told us that now he knew for sure that God does exist. When we gave him a wheelchair we also gave him Bible and told him about the church of Christ as found in the New Testament. We also told him about American brethren collecting and loading humanitarian aid for us free. Vyacheslav thanked all Christians who helped those like him. He asked us to give greetings to John and all the brethren.

We asked Vyacheslav if we could take a picture of him in his wheelchair and he begged us not to do so because he was ashamed of his looks. We hope that as we spend more time visiting with him and he becomes more familiar with us that he will become more trusting. Maybe when John and others visit in April we will be able to provide a picture of this grateful man.

Vyacheslav lives in Krivoy Rog and that is some distance from Ivano-Frankivsk. There is congregation there but it needs brethren who will work with them and help them. It is city of 800,000. There is no preacher. Some of us from Ivano-Frankivsk travel as often as possible to preach and teach but it is difficult (this is Andrew's home city and you will recall his mother and sister were immersed by you). I have sent some pictures of your brethren in Krivoy Rog so you can find joy in seeing them. They are small in number but their faith is great and their hearts of dedication are strong. Please pray for these brethren. If you know of some brethren that would be strong in Faith and faithful to Word of God please ask them to consider Krivoy Rog.

We continue giving benevolent aid to hospitals and to all people in Ukraine. In December through January 20 we had customs and taxation inspections. This was a most difficult experience as we were suspected as criminal until they saw all we did was legal. In was only in late January that we were allowed to open warehouse where medical supplies and clothes were stored and distribute these most needed items. There were inspectors from Tax Department and the Prosecutor's Office. The new government was checking out everybody who was doing benevolence. Twenty-eight benevolent organizations were shut down for breaking the law. As for us, thankfully, everything went well. Now we are back to work and helping people. Of course this inspection hindered our reports.



This is Fyokla and she is 92 years old



Anya & Sveta Skoleba in front of their New Year's decorations

Life of the church

I am happy to say Lord's Church is doing very well and growing strong. We assemble twice a week. On Sunday we assemble from 10:00 to 12:00. The lessons have been about Faithfulness to God on the Book of Daniel. I also preached sermon that was "Can a Man be a Friend of God" using examples of Abraham and Moses. On Wednesday we assemble from 6:00 to 7:00. We study Isaiah, chapters 1-4.

We rejoice in that we had some visitors this month – Zhenya and Lena Strakhov from Simferopol as well as Sasha from Krasnoarmeisk came with his wife.

Many people at church are sick with colds now. Our average attendance is 16-23 people.

Property for the church building

You will recall that because of our benevolent actions in distributing the containers you ship that we have been offered TWO property lots in Ivano-Frankivsk. I rejoice to report that this month we have received papers for one of the lands where we plan to have church building! Please, pray for us so that we would be able to build the building where we could assemble. And, please, pray for my family and our ministry. It is true that there are still those who speak against us and try to slander our efforts. But God knows the truth and we rejoice in the fact that all such lies are being exposed as false words and our efforts are being seen to glorify God.

We love all of you!

Ivan and Sveta

Rejoice in this news from our Haiti efforts

A year ago we were overwhelmed with the devastation of the earthquake that struck Haiti. We continue efforts to help in Haiti's rebuilding and will be shipping another container into Gonaives very soon. David Smith sent the following update on an upcoming trip as well as reports on how he brethren in Gonaives have utilized the earthquake tragedy to help bring the Lord's peace into the communities. His reports are always encouraging and I know that you will rejoice in the good that you have helped accomplish. In the last container shipped into Haiti we were able to send a number of the items critical to this mission trip (That container took only NINETEEN days to arrive and be distributed and the cost was only \$5,900.00!). Here is David's report and the pictures follow.

Pictures of Good News in Gonaives (HAITI)—many new converts—our team leaves for medical mission work project February 25-March 4

We will travel to work in Gonaives and surrounding areas on February 25. Medical, dental, and eye team will hold clinics. A 15 man construction crew will work on low-cost appropriate earth bag (12 houses) village (low-rent housing)—housing is still a desperate need in Haiti.

Some of the story is illustrated below. We have never had this type of church growth in our history in the Gonaives area. There are so many and increasing opportunities for good and for evangelism. I am praying for unity (which they currently have) during this time of wonderful growth and transition.

**THE LORD'S CHURCH IN
IVANO-FRANKIVSK,
UKRAINE**



I am happy to say Lord's Church is doing very well and growing strong. We assemble twice a week... Many people at church are sick with colds now. Our average attendance is 16-23 people... You will recall that because of our benevolent actions in distributing the containers you ship that we have been offered TWO property lots in Ivano-Frankivsk. I rejoice to report that this month we have received papers for one of the lands where we plan to have church building! Please, pray for us so that we would be able to build the building where we could assemble.



HOUSING
Affordable?
Appropriate?
Appealing?

\$1800-2200

In previous reports we have shown the construction of the earth bag houses that are pictured above. On our last container we shipped enough of these bags that will be used to construct TWELVE more of these earth bag homes in the Gonaives area. The church is using these in a very positive way as they use the gospel to reach the lost. Look at the next slide and see the phenomenal increase that God has brought to the Church in Gonaives.

Spiritual Development

1999 Auburn, AL, elder counsels
Poteau church members

3/2011 – 6 of these men elders

Attendance
1999- 30
2004-130
2009-180
2010-330

**2010
135 Baptisms**

MARJEH, AFGHANISTAN



Thank you so much for your contribution to the local children out here in Marjeh, Afghanistan. I will definitely make sure all the items reach needy kids. I and all the other Marines really appreciate your support. Well, as far as items we miss from home..... :) We all love Little Debbie cakes. And we definitely love real food like tuna or those little cans of chicken salad. We eat a lot of MRE's out here so anything other than that is great. Thank you so much. I will definitely keep in touch. Take care!
Sgt. Teresa Noble

Local elders oversee missionary

1. Avoid problems of US hired national preachers
2. Local eldership receives funds – hires, selects, participates in and oversees mission



“About six months ago, the elders and men of the church heard of a group of people about two hours away. They started visiting Nan Poul, and preaching every Sunday. In this short period of time, 159 people have confessed their faith and have been baptized. In our area, these numbers of conversions are unprecedented. We are so thankful that the hearts of so many have been touched and it is certain that the outpouring of compassion shown by the relief supplies have played a significant role in making a statement of love that attracted them to hear more about the love of Jesus.”

Nan Pol – August 15 – January 23, 2011 -- 231 baptisms



**REJOICE IN HAITIAN
BRETHREN'S LABORS**



Powerful new pictures—Vocational Missionaries- Nan Pol – no clean water, no Latrines, no well, no hospital, no school, etc...Cholera is a challenge & 36 people baptized... You must look at these inspiring photos – of a small church truly performing great mission work.

True vocational missionaries (Pacius is the preacher). In Nan Pol 36 more were baptized so now there have been 251 people baptized by the six Poteau elders and other church members and Pacius since August 15, 2010. (David E. Smith, MD)

Voodoo priest/family baptized 1-2-2011

Elders/wives teach priest & wife



Former priest confesses faith in Jesus Christ



Voodoo worship objects burned



“The now deceased father of Jacky (one of the elders who also is head of the microloan) was a voodoo priest for 38 years. Jacky was instrumental in leading the voodoo priest to the Lord. Both he, his wife and other family members were baptized.”

NEWS FROM GHANA

For several years we have been working to help our brethren in Ghana to receive permission to ship containers of benevolent items so the Lord's Church could distribute to the communities. We have encountered problem after problem and constant delays. However I received an email from both Benjamin with pictures reporting on an effort that sent some items into the nation to show what we could ship. It seems that has helped us to get closer to shipping a full container. Here is Benjamin's report and some of the pictures are found in the sidebar.

This email is for you to see what was able to be done through your prayers and contributions to glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am particularly grateful to you for your incredible support in diverse ways. So far, 23 bed sheets and about 50 window curtains were donated to a local hospital in Ghana. It is our prayer that the Lord will bless this ministry to reach out to more needy communities in rural Ghana.

A detail report will be sent to you in due time.

May the Lord richly bless you all as we partner to share the love of Christ to the rural communities in Ghana.

For His-mission, Benjamin Okai



OUT OF THE SHADOWS LESSONS IN SPANISH

Brother John, It is a pleasure to greet you again, hoping you are enjoying of good health during this winter. In this occasion I am sending you the files Lessons Out of the Shadows. I hope they are useful for the Spanish speaking brotherhood and communities, as much as they have been for me. I have been translating "Anger" lessons and some sermons that you have uploaded to the Judsonia's Church of Christ Web Site; I'll send them to you as soon as I finish translating them. May God Bless you in your service for Him. Your coworker in the Lord's Vineyard.

Jaime Hernandez
Queretaro, QRO, Mexico

APPLAUSE FOR AFGHANISTAN PROJECT

Some weeks ago I received a request to help collect and send ink pens to LTC Reid Smith in his efforts to help the children of Afghanistan in their educational objectives. I sent out an appeal and a number of you responded in a wonderful way. Many have already shipped writing pens. I have received a number of emails about this project. Below is a report from Roene Blankenship in Carthage, MO. She was able to enlist the community schools in assisting the Lord's Church. There was excellent media coverage from the television and newspaper on this project. I am copying a brief reply from LTC Smith after Roene's note.

Hi, LTC Smith, As you can see from the photos all 3 boxes are on their way to you. You will find a variety of pens that are the stick, click, twist, pump, even light up, etc., so it will be an education in and of itself just figuring out how the pens work. I did find some of the new pens to be difficult at times to get them to release their ink. After serious coaxing on paper, however, they did work. They are in ziplock bags or paper boxes, so storage and sorting shouldn't be too difficult for you once you receive them. They come in all sizes, types, colors, styles, ink colors, shapes and designs. Even many of the pencils that are included are of various colors with neat little pictures and designs on them which I feel the children will be thrilled with, too. I believe I can speak for all of us who have participated in this project that we have been both thrilled and honored to link hands and hearts with you in this effort to encourage children to learn and explore, to find self worth and value in education. Thank you for your service to your country. May God bless and keep you safe and guide you in all you do where ever you go. Sincerely, Roene Blankenship

Thank you so much for all of this, it has been far more than I expected. The volume of pens has far exceeded my expectations and really kind of taken on a life of its own. They will definitely be well received by the Afghan children. I was able to finally get enough band width to be able to see the local news that was on TV there in Carthage. What a great story that turned to be, thanks again for all you've done there. LTC Reid Smith

GREETINGS FROM BRETHERN IN INDIA

Dear beloved bro. John L Kachelman Jr., and family members and church members,

Hearty New Year greetings and salutes to you and all in the holy name of Jesus Christ. Thank you very much brother I have received your blessing hands help of \$250 on 29th Jan'11. brother I will use the funds Telugu Tracts printing purpose and some funds I will use poor widows and orphan childrens daily bread purpose. Who is helping to India evangelism work purpose? Please send my thanks as their brother. I will send my work report and photos to your postal address.

We are in need of your prayers, cooperation, advices, engorgements for the developments for God's work in India. We have conducted Bible classes and gospel meetings in the year 2010 in Tribal area, cities and villages also My Self and my Co-preachers gave baptisms for 316 in various places. Really it is very great for us and it is the privilege given by our Almighty God Jesus Christ. Really through your prayers, encouragement and advices and we are



This is for you to see what was able to be done through your prayers and contributions to glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am particularly grateful to you for your incredible support in diverse ways. So far, 23 bed sheets and about 50 window curtains were donated to a local hospital in Ghana. It is our prayer that the Lord will bless this ministry to reach out to more needy communities in rural Ghana.



able to do this sort of ministry. Youth Bible classes and women Bible classes are going on well with spiritual fruits.

I visited Jammu and Kashmir on my gospel tour on 24-29 January 2011. The Jammu is a very beautiful state and very dangerous area. This is my first trip to Jammu. Especially in this area I am teaching about the lesson GOD GRACE AND PEACE IN GOD. I am very happy brother my gospel travel in Jammu Kashmir was successful I have given the two baptisms Bro.K.Luka and Sis.K. Esther was a Seventh Day Adventist church member but converted to Christian life. After I returning to home I will detail explain about this gospel tour in more details.

I am conducting gospel meetings and Bible classes in different places in India. 18th Jan 2011 I have given the four baptisms at Ibrahimpatnam, Krishna River. I have received one of the invitation from the Nepal (Katmandu) in coming days. My feeling is to go there and to preach there every day we are praying for you so please give me your great suggestions and your great gospel messages.

Brother how is your family members and your church members please send me my greetings to every brother and sister in your country.

Elders of Ibrahimpatnam Church of Christ decided and lead the Preachers Fellowship on 15th January 2011 at Vijayawada in a Hotel for which United States Brothers and Indian Brothers are also participating and the said elders asked me to lead the said fellowship meeting. God has given an opportunity to meet such huge preachers in this New Year for which I am so happy. This grand successful preachers lecturership meeting saw 236 preachers attend. Eight senior preachers preach the messages in three sessions on 15th January 2011. Especially all the preachers conducting special prayer to you and your family and your congregation remembering. Brother so many preachers facing many problems need of your great blessing hands help and your great suggestions and your encouragement to India churches of Christ development purpose. Brother I will send the preachers lecturership meeting pictures to your postal address in soon.

Brother so please help me, Telugu language Bibles and tracts are need. So many denomination people and Hindu and Muslim community people also asking Telugu language tracts.

Brother once again my kindly requesting please visit me India you see India gospel work need of your great and gospel messages to my brothers and sisters in India. I know your work is biggest work in Afghanistan, Ukraine, Nigeria and other places and USA. Brother so please accept my request and special invitation come to India. God is providing many blessings and good health in your home. I am expecting your happiness reply letter.

My family members and Ibrahimpatnam church members are joining me and sending our thanks to you. The poor widows and orphan childrens and my church elders and members, my family members send the special thanks to you. Brother I know you are very busy in your country, if it is any possibility so please write me a few words your great happiness reply letter. Daily we are praying for you all.

Thank you very much

Christian servant
N. Vijaya Rao

A container was sent by the Piggott, AR congregation to help its mission efforts in Kremenchug, Ukraine. The container supplied several orphanages with special needs children.



It is your support that allows me to spend time, energies, and expense in these activities.

It is our prayer that the Lord will bless this ministry to reach out to more needy communities in rural Ghana... May the Lord richly bless you all as we partner to share the love of Christ to the rural communities in Ghana.

To Supporters of Ukraine Missions: Financial Data—January 2011

Dear brethren, below is the summary of the financial expenses for the month of January. Your financial support in January is also detailed below. Thank you for your involvement. I hope my frequent updates communicate just how valuable your mission dollars are and how they are used to help the Lord. Thank you for your financial help because it is critical. *Your funding is helping us to go into ALL the world with the gospel and bringing glory to God!*

SUPPORT RECEIVED...JANUARY 2011 \$2,255.00

During the month of January I received financial support for my work and the various projects being done by the Lord's Church from these individuals and congregations:

- ☛ Meridianville church of Christ
- ☛ North Lexington church of Christ
- ☛ Pleasant View church of Christ
- ☛ Rivergate church of Christ
- ☛ West Huntsville church of Christ
- ☛ Melvin and Carolyn Brown
- ☛ Brian & Rebekah Coggins
- ☛ Jerry & Marilyn Jones
- ☛ Tim and Debbie Meek
- ☛ James Rickard

EXPENSES OF MISSION ACTIONS...January 2011 \$4,258.76

During January I had total expenses of \$4,258.76 charged to the Ukraine Mission account. These included expenses for: Expenses for reporting by Ivan (\$713.78); equipment for Ukraine work (\$50.00); postage expenses (\$51.00); helping with preacher support and expenses in Ukraine (\$1,275.00); salaries in the USA and Ukraine (\$1,300.00); stateside travel expenses (\$345.00); funds to India to help with printing gospel tracts (\$250.00); expenses associated with shipments (\$273.98).

I and the preachers and all the saints here thank you and convey the thanks of down trodden people of India for your great love and concern for us. Your love for the needy and poor Christians are very great. No doubt you will be on the right side of God at the time of judgment (the sheep will be on the right side) God will say to them blessed are you, inherit the kingdom of your father, because you clothed me when I was naked, you gave me drink when I was thirsty and gave me food when I was hunger etc. thank you for your great love. Sir, I once again thank you for your kind loving sacrificial helps. You are in our daily prayers. Kindly continue to pray for us and for the work here. Closing with love, thank you once again for your great love and helps. In Christian love, yours in His service, Immadi