



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

April 2011

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- Overview of the Spring 2011 mission trip to Ukraine



"Because of the tender mercy of our God...from on high shall visit us, to shine upon them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death."

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Spring Mission Trip Report!

I have returned from the most recent mission trip to Ukraine with great encouragement from the way the congregation in Ivano-Frankovsk is maturing and the opportunities that continue to be presented for teaching the New Testament Truth to seeking hearts.

A maturing congregation! The brethren in Ivano-Frankovsk are maturing and that is encouraging. The men are stepping forward and becoming involved in leadership roles. On previous visits Ivan had to do everything in the worship assembly; but now the other brothers are leading singing, reading Scripture, leading prayers, giving a devotional thought for the Lord's Supper, and managing the contribution. Any decisions that are made go through a process in which the men of the congregation meet and discuss the needs and together they determine what should be done. As in other congregations there are some difficulties, conflicts, and opposition by Satan's evil forces that tempt one to become discouraged and "shrink back" or surrender. But our brethren take to heart the exhortation from the Hebrew Epistle, *Cast not away therefore your boldness, which hath great recompense of reward...But my righteous one shall live by faith: And if he shrink back, my soul hath no pleasure in him. But we are not of them that shrink back unto perdition; but of them that have faith unto the saving of the soul* (Hebrews 10:35, 38, 39).

On this trip Ivan had planned for the emphasis to be more on the "rooting and grounding" of the brethren in their faith rather than evangelistic efforts. Ivan's philosophy is that they could immerse a great number but if there is not the maturing then that great number will lead to great problems and the salvation gained will be lost to emotionalism or strong personalities seeking to dominate and control. This has been the emphasis in the past six months and I can see the maturing of the congregation. This is not to say they have ceased evangelistic efforts because they continue to invite and welcome guests but it simply points to an emphasis at this time. During the next six months the congregation says it intends to increase its aggressiveness in reaching out to others.

Another effort that has consumed the congregation's time and energy over the past six months is the securing of the plot of land that has been given to the congregation. All legalities are now confirmed and the property does in fact own the plot of property and has official permission to build a "church" building and other structures. The property is a large piece and is located on the main road of the city. It is right off the highway and has about one-half mile of frontal property. Ivan says the city has told them that the Church can use additional land adjacent to the property that was given to them. This is a truly amazing development.

The work of the congregation continues to utilize the benevolent shipments that we send. Through this work Ivan has managed to use the

THE IVANO-FRANKOVSK CHURCH OF CHRIST



THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP



THE CHURCH AT WORK UNLOADING A CONTAINER



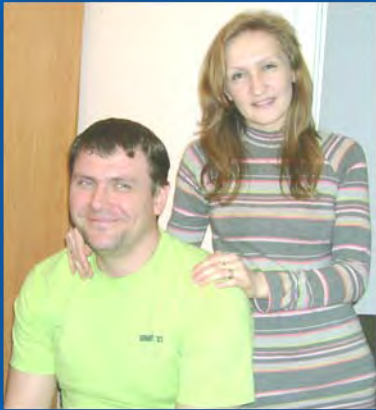
VOLODYA

benevolence items to leverage a positive position for the Lord's Church. Through these containers the name of the Lord's Church has become etched in the minds of the Oblast leaders and, consequently, a strong and friendly relationship has developed. This relationship is critical because of the oppressive efforts of the Greek Catholic Church. Ivan has refused to compromise to even the least degree. He is determined to follow the New Testament order and is doing so even though this brings one obstacle after another. As you look back on his reports, you will read where the religious opposition in Ivano-Frankovsk has sought to silence and eliminate the Lord's Church. They have tried to get him to register as a "branch" from a "mother church" in Kyiv or to not register at all but to just meet in private. They have refused to authorize advertisements. They have obstructed the registration of the congregation for two years. The opposition has not caused our brethren to give up. They have been discouraged but they did not shrink back! They continue pressing forward with an expectation that God's power will provide what they need. They are utilizing the benevolent shipments to highlight the Lord's Church in the most positive way and it is working!

A marvelous potential for harvest! This trip has brought into focus once more the fact that "the fields are white unto harvest." On this trip I visited with three small groups that are seeking to understand the Bible. Like Apollos, they need a more accurate teaching in the Way of the Lord but my visits were much too brief. There needs to be a prolonged visit and intense study and longsuffering from a teacher. The Devil has been very successful in persuading people to be satisfied in being religiously in error. There are abundant opportunities but very few teachers who are willing to go to these locations. These groups have the Bible and some printed literature but they need personal instruction. Many have consoled themselves thinking that if they send the Bible then all will read, understand, and obey the Truth—but it does not work that way. The Eunuch was very religious and had the Bible and was reading it, but he needed personal instructions! *And Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except someone shall guide me? And he besought Philip to come up and sit with him (Acts 8:30, 31).* The Bible stresses that one must be sent if the message is to be communicated accurately: *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent? even as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good things! (Romans 10:14, 15).*

Unfortunately, the Lord's troubling observation is as correct in our modern day as it was when He walked on this earth: *The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest (Luke 10:2).*

It is an indescribable event to walk into a group that is religious but blind in their understanding. They have a wonderful sincerity, a commendable devotion, and an intense desire. But they are erring and unless corrected all of their sincerity, devotion, and desires will not keep them from going to Hell (Matthew 7:21-23). The Church's obligation is to go and teach and seek to turn the erring to the correct path of Truth. The consciences of the four lepers were pricked with these sobering words: *We do not well; this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, punishment will overtake us; now therefore come, let us go and tell the*



ANDREY & MARINA

Vasya says that it is such a joy to live a Christian life. He says he could never imagine that their lives would change so much, that they would gain inner peace and their feelings towards each other would be revived. Ulianna had wanted to divorce Vasya several times. But they started attending Bible classes after baptism and found out from the Bible what a family should be like according to God's plan. They prayed and asked God for help. And Vasya says that God has answered a lot of their questions through John Kachelman's lessons about the Christian family that he taught in April.

king's household (2 Kings 7:9).

As I look back over this trip's events and view the pictures and watch the videos, I am immediately thankful for those who offer financial support that makes these things possible. Not everyone can "go." Some need to "send." The critical point is that all must be involved to the degree possible. Satan will continue to obstruct and dishearten, but we must not shirk back!

What are you doing to help the gospel of Christ spread throughout the world?

I am devoting this newsletter to the operations associated with the spring mission trip. There will be two additional reports that will discuss our operations in India and in Haiti.

Thank you to all who supported the spring mission trip. Thank you to all who continue to support my efforts throughout the year!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

Ivan Skoleba reports from Ivano-Frankivsk

Dear Brother John! We thank you and all the brethren for your support, for your trips to Ukraine, for your sermons and lessons that you teach in Ukraine, for humanitarian aid, thanks to which we have free access to many people occupying different social positions in this country. You help us spiritually to get to a better level of life. And we can see changes in our members' families. You know, Brother, about the relationship that Ulianna and Vasya had, but now they have become closer to each other. Vasya says that it is such a joy to leave a Christian life. He says he could never imagine that their lives would change so much, that they would gain inner peace and their feelings towards each other would be revived. Ulianna had wanted to divorce Vasya several times. But they started attending Bible classes after baptism and found out from the Bible what a family should be like according to God's plan. They prayed and asked God for help. And Vasya says that God has answered a lot of their questions through John Kachelman's lessons about the Christian family that he taught in April.

God helps many people restore their lives through their faith in Jesus Christ. Likewise, at some point my and Sveta's lives were changed through church of Christ. It has not been long enough since we became Christians – 17 years – and now we see our children pray and trust God. We thank God and those brothers and sisters from America, whose hearts are opened by God to come to Ukraine and preach the Gospel. We heard the Gospel thanks to them. That's why today my wife and I try to tell as many people as possible that the Lord is the only one able to change things that seem impossible to us, restore our lives ruined by sin, give us joy, hope and peace through our trust in God.

Thanks to all of you, dear brothers and sisters, for sacrificing your time and everything you have so that others could be saved.

Life of the church: We continue assembling for Sunday worship service from 10:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m.

Bible class studies 2nd Thessalonians. Then we have a sermon preached and Lord's Supper. All brothers participate in this ministry—Andrew, Volodya, Vasily, Ruslan and I.



IVAN & SVETA



**THE CHILDREN IN THE
CONGREGATION**

It has not been long enough since we became Christians – 17 years – and now we see our children pray and trust God. We thank God and those brothers and sisters from America, whose hearts are opened by God to come to Ukraine and preach the Gospel. We heard the Gospel thanks to them.

Bible School does help our brothers. And you, John, have seen and heard it yourself that they do understand very well what they are talking about during services. All brothers do their best as they prepare for services. We also have Wednesday Bible classes at 6:00 p.m. (through 7:00 p.m.). We study Daniel.

We are having holidays through May 3, and the work with shipments is on hold. We have received Health Care approval and on May 3 we will start clearing medical equipment. After that we will distribute it to hospitals according to our Distribution Plan.

Please, pray for this congregation
Ivan and Svetlana
(С люб. Иван и Светлана)

LETTERS FROM YOUR BRETHREN IN THE IVANO-FRANKOVSK CHURCH...

Here are a few letters that were given to me by the brethren in the Ivano-Frankovsk congregation. On the trip DVD I have video messages from others as they describe their lives and what factors played a prominent part in leading them to Christ's Church.

Volodya..

Hello, my name is Volodya. Maybe those that will read this letter will know me. I have already sent greetings to brethren in America. Today is Sunday and it is the last day of John Kachelman's visit with us. I feel a little sad. John always encourages me to follow Christ.

Thank you for making it possible for John to come here and encourage and support us in our lives.

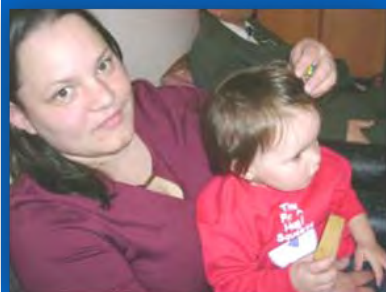
I am sending my big HELLO to all of you. Thank you for your prayers and I would like to ask you to continue praying for me.

Dmitry...

My name is Dmitry. I am already three years in church of Christ. Unfortunately before I did not know about church of Christ and lately appealed to God. I am sick, I have liver cirrhosis, because before I smoked and drank a lot. Last three years I treat from this illness due to church of Christ, which helps me.

When I have the opportunity I try to be present at Bible lessons and at the worship service on Sundays. Only in Lord's Church I found out about brotherly love and how is good to live in Christ. Thank you for your love and support. I see young people which study in Church and become stronger in their faith. I very regret that I did not come to God before I was old and that I did not bring my children and grandchild to Him. It is sorry that I could not be good example for them.

Pray for me and my family. Thank you John Kachelman and John Durham for your arriving to us.



OLGA & MARTHA



My name is Olga. This is my daughter Martha. A year ago, I did not know how I was going to live and raise my daughter.

Life seemed to have stalled... Today I have big hope, I learned about God and His Church, that God loves me... Every time I listen to preacher Ivan, my faith is strengthened... Thanks to all brothers and sisters, which help the church of Christ be here in Ivano-Frankovsk to teach God's Word.

Andrey and Marina...

My name is Andrew and it's my wife Marina and son Alex (Sasha). Most recently, I did not know that life in God is so different from the worldly life. I was baptized and began studying at the Bible School. God gave me a Christian wife and young son. It is the big responsibility for me. Please pray for me and my family. Lessons of John Kachelman and John Durham opened my eyes to a new relationship in marriage. Previously, I had no idea that marriage is God's will and God's laws should be in it. I wandered in this world and live by its laws, and now I want to live in Christ.

My name is Marina. Since childhood, I was taken to the Orthodox Church. Later I began to independently read the Bible and then I saw that there was discrepancy between the Orthodox Church and the Bible. When I was invited by Svitlana to worship service on Sunday, I did not think that will get the answers for which I was looking. I am grateful to God that I heard the answers to all my questions by learning to read the Bible. Now in Christ, I found a new life.

Thanks to all brothers and sisters for their support of the Church here. Thank you John Kachelman and John Durham that you can come to us.

Olya...

My name is Olga. This is my daughter Martha. A year ago, I did not know how I was going to live and raise my daughter. Life seemed to have stalled.

Today I have big hope, I learned about God and His Church, that God loves me. The Church takes care of me and Martha. Every time I listen to preacher Ivan, my faith is strengthened. Sister Svetlana always gives a good advice on raising daughters. All the brothers and sisters helped me a lot. Brother Volodya and brother Ruslan helped me to carry my things and furniture when I moved, and Svetlana and Anya took Martha to them at this time.

When John Kachelman and John Durham went to us I unfortunately became ill and could not be in the classroom, but Svetlana brought me materials and I will try to get all the lessons. I am sure they will help me later in my life. Thanks to all brothers and sisters, which help the church of Christ be here in Ivano-Frankovsk to teach God's Word.

THE TRIP'S PERSPECTIVE FROM TANYA'S VIEW...



Greetings, dear Brothers and Sisters! Love and peace to you from our most generous and loving Lord Jesus Christ!

I pray that the Lord is keeping you safe and healthy guiding you and giving peace and comfort to your kind hearts. We have heard here about horrible tornadoes and floods that you have had this year and have been praying for your safety. Thank you so much for thinking about other nations and helping them in spite of those natural disasters that you have been facing yourselves. It is a marvelous example of Christianity to us.

I would like to thank you for supporting John Kachelman's trip to Ukraine. He has been coming since



**ANDREW AND VOLODYA
SEPARATE GARDEN SEEDS
SENT BY THE KNOB CREEK
CONGREGATION. THESE
SEEDS WILL BE PLANTED IN
THE GARDENS AND PROVIDE
FOOD FOR THE COLD,
HARSH WINTER MONTHS.
THESE SEEDS WILL BE
DIVIDED AMONG THE
CONGREGATION,
ORPHANAGES, AND
ELDERLY HOMES. KNOB
CREEK HAS BEEN SENDING
THESE SEEDS FOR MANY
YEARS!**

the very beginning of The Church here and he has become a dear friend to us who is always supportive, inspiring, loving, caring and committed to the work here. His trips, teaching, preaching, encouraging, his example are like "cold water to a weary soul" to us (paraphrasing Solomon). Igor Kozlovsky, who used to work at the Regional Religious Department, wrote a history book about churches of Christ in America and here. I do not have that book but I have seen it and John's name is mentioned often there. It speaks with respect and appreciation of the work that John has been doing here along with other missionaries – the work has a historical significance. And, of course, all of you who have been supportive of the work whether with prayers or financial support have made an invaluable input in this work. You are actually an inseparable part of the work and success! Thank you for your desire to help your fellow brethren in this country, for your willingness to help those in need, for your generous hearts that are opened wide as you live by the principle that Paul states in Galatians 6:9-10: *"And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."* Your example is always an incentive for us to do more and better for the Lord.

This time there was a lot of traveling again and great good accomplished. We were introduced to new places that benefited from shipments. One of them was a Children's Rehab Center in a town not far from Korosten, Zhytomir Region. Director and all the staff there were so thankful for the children's rehab equipment they received. We also visited some places that need help and will receive it with future shipments. Indeed, it was another amazingly successful visit where God worked things out in best possible ways. More and more people learn about Lord's Church. April 24 was Easter here and Marina and Uliana's grandparents invited Church from Ivano-Frankivsk to celebrate it with them in their village. Some brethren could not go (Volodya had to be with his family as well as some others) but Ivan, Sveta, Marina, Andrew, Uliana and Vasily with the kids were there as well as John Kachelman, John Durham, Ira and myself. Marina and Uliana's relatives turned out to be so nice and hospitable. They treated us to delicious Western Ukrainian dishes. We talked about different things and Ivan as well as both Johns spoke about God and Church and faith to them. And they, being Greek Catholic, admitted that churches of Christ stands on sound doctrine. Marina and Uliana's grandparents told Ivan that they felt so much better because they could see that Church their granddaughters attended was not any kind of sect! It was such a compliment on one hand; on the other hand, it spoke to the fact that they were open to hear about God and Truth. There are so many more stories like that and we praise the Lord for His guidance and help. I am so thankful for Ivan's ability and willingness to use humanitarian aid to spread the Gospel and show the love of the Lord to people around him. Please, continue praying for him, the Church in Ivano-Frankivsk, John's benevolent and missionary work here. We keep you in our prayers and thank God for you all the time.

May our most gracious God continue blessing each one of you throughout your lives giving you guidance, assurance, keeping you safe and taking care of every need that you might have!

In Christian love, Tanya

**UNLOADING
CONTAINERS OF
BENEVOLENT ITEMS
SHIPPED**



**A container shipped
into Slavyansk, Ukraine**



**Unloading in Ivano-
Frankivsk**

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL NEEDS DEVICES BRING SMILES IN ZHITOMYR, UKRAINE!



The time in Zhitomyr was spent visiting and following up on the containers sent there by the Glen Allen, VA congregation and one from Judsonia, AR. The containers had arrived last October but they just received permission to distribute. During my visit I was able to go on several trips to participate in actual distributions and then to visit and see items that had already been distributed. The very first thing that Ira (the Consignee and member of the Lord's Church) told me was that the bags of clothes on the first container (the one sent from Judsonia just "vanished" because there was such a need—we sent 422 bags!). The Glen Allen brethren sent 224 boxes of clothes, shoes, and household linens. These have just been released and the congregation in Zhitomyr will distribute them.

There were two special families that I visited...each had received a family bucket from Glen Allen and special needs walkers and wheelchairs that helped the children to be mobile. The first was a family of four that live in one room. They have a 6-year-old named Andrei (Andrew). I walked into the tiny room to find Andrew on one of the disabled children's walkers that we shipped in the Judsonia container and that C.U.R.E. had brought to us. Andrew has CP but with our walker he is able to move around. Andrew is one of the "Chernobyl Children"—born after the reactor meltdown in 1986. Because of the Chernobyl accident, 95% of all births in this region are disabled children and only 5% are normal. Andrew has an older brother who is also disabled. Andrew's father was a fireman in Chernobyl and is slowly dying of radiation poisoning. Thanks to the Lord's Church, Andrew is able to move about his one-room living quarters. His mom asked me to give BIG thanks to all that sent the walker so Andrew could move around.



The second family I visited also had a disabled child named Peter. Peter has Muscular Dystrophy and was abandoned by his birth parents as soon as he was diagnosed. Peter was taken to a miner's orphanage and forgotten. Some kindhearted people became aware of Peter's situation and knew that if they did not get him out then he would die. So Ira worked with a family that arranged to adopt Peter. Peter was also given one of the special needs wheelchairs that we had shipped in the containers. The amazing fact is that this family already has seven children and now they were adopting a special needs child. I walked into that home and was amazed at the loving environment. I was greeted by two of the sweetest little girls with precious smiles. The dad and mom were just as loving and kind. The dad has been adding on his house so the children will have room and Peter will have a



"Ivan as well as both Johns spoke about God and Church and faith to them. And they, being Greek Catholic, admitted that churches of Christ stands on sound doctrine...It was such a compliment on one hand; on the other hand, it spoke to the fact that they were open to hear about God and Truth. There are so many more stories like that and we praise the Lord for His guidance and help."

large room. I saw Peter and instantly recognized a special needs wheelchair that we had shipped in one of our containers. We then gave the family two boxes of clothing and household items and one of the family buckets that the Glen Allen brethren had put together and sent in the container they loaded. I wish you could have heard the joyful exclamations and seen the tear-brimmed eyes of the parents as they looked at the items presented to them from the Lord's Church.

BERDICHEV'S "LITTLE RAY OF SUNSHINE": HOW THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST ARE HELPING DISABLED CHILDREN

In October 2010 as I was leaving out of Nashville, TN's airport I received an email from Washington, DC asking if I would take time to assess the potential needs and supplies for the Zhitomyr Region of Ukraine. This was the Region hit hardest by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986. This was exciting to me as the Glen Allen, VA congregation has been involved in Zhitomyr for years and had shipped a container to the Church there. I met with a number of others and viewed the various locations. One of the areas was a city call Korosten and the Consignee there accepted two containers and distributed through their area. One of the recipients was located in the city of Berdichev. Berdichev has a population of 98,000+. One of the places we helped was a clinic for disabled children. Every week this clinic offers treatment to 310-380 children who have a broad scope of disabilities (physical, mental, emotional, and genetic). This clinic receives no funding from the State and is totally dependent upon kind hearts for their services.

The Director of the clinic is Timothy Petrovich. He is a kind man with a great heart of compassion for these children. The clinic opened in 1994 and Timothy Petrovich says that four generations of post-Chernobyl victims have been treated. The staff is composed of one Physical Therapist and three others. Their efforts are supplemented by volunteers and parents of the children receiving treatment.

But the story of my visit to Berdichev, Zhitomyr Oblast Ukraine began months before the call in October 2010...C.U.R.E. is a ministry of the West-Ark church of Christ in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Our partnership with C.U.R.E. has enabled us to do so much as we ship benevolent items all over the world. Ron Moreton is the usual driver that brings truckloads of commodities to us. On one of his deliveries he asked if I would be interested in "a whole lot of children's disabled equipment." He said they had just been offered many of those handicapped items from hospitals and clinics in Iowa and Missouri. I was not sure what I would do with them but I told him that I would take them and soon our warehouse was piled high with some of the strangest looking items I have ever seen. Most of us working there had no idea what these items were designed to do. Visitors to the warehouse, who did know what they were doing, looked at the items and were amazed at the quantity and expense involved. At that point I had no idea where to ship these odd looking pieces.

Fast forward to the assessment visits in October 2010. As I walked through the various places that we had identified as potential recipients, I was shocked to see some of the very items that had been in the warehouse for so long. I asked about them and was told that these were very few in

ENJOYING AN EASTER DAY MEAL IN A VILLAGE



number because they were so expensive and difficult to get in Ukraine, but they were greatly needed. I was amazed that here I was looking at one piece that was treasured and I literally had HUNDREDS of things like them in the warehouse!

As I made the follow up visits in Zhitomyr a couple of weeks ago and then the visit to Berdichev, I could not help but think of the marvelous and amazing way in which those handicapped equipment had made their way from Iowa and Missouri where C.U.R.E. had picked them up from hospitals and clinics to Ft. Smith, Arkansas to Judsonia, Arkansas and ultimately to the Zhitomyr Oblast, Ukraine.

While visiting in Berdichev I was shown exercises and tasks that the children do to help with motor skill development. One young lady showed me some beaded flowers that she had made. The older children knit and I was given two of the knitted dolls. (Thanks to Roene Blankenship of Joplin, MO we have been able to ship several boxes of knitting yarns and these are given to the special needs schools so the students will have materials).



UKRAINE EFFORTS HELP POW/MIA ISSUES

When I was in Ukraine last October I received first an email and then a telephone call from the Department of Defense's office on POW/MIA issues. The call informed me that there was a cooperative effort between the former USSR veterans and our military trying to bring closure to POW/MIA issues from Vietnam, World War 2, Korea, and other conflicts. The Red Army veterans assisting our people were from Kyiv, Ukraine. This group has been able to provide significant data that helped our military recover some MIA soldiers and gather intelligence facts on others who are missing. The Kyiv Veterans group had volunteered to assist. As an expression of appreciation, our POW/MIA office wanted to send wheelchairs and other items to the veterans in Ukraine but they hit problem after problem. The call last October was one of desperation asking for my assistance in pushing the delivery through the bureaucratic maze. I was glad to assist as it provided us a wonderful opportunity to assist. During the following months we worked on gaining the necessary approvals and collecting more items to ship. The loading was to be in April 30 in Cincinnati, OH and was coordinated by the Vietnam Veterans group from Licking, Ohio.

Helping to frame the importance of this project from our nation's perspective is this snippet from an email that was sent after the loading: *"John, On behalf of the all the members of the Veterans Initiative Program*

FACES FROM UKRAINE



and the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America I want to thank you for making this possible for us. This project started several years ago when relations were established between the former Soviet veterans and our VIP team. As a unilateral effort on their part they provided information which led to the recovery or fate of American pilots who were lost to the SAM sites around Hanoi during the war. Without their help we may never have found those Brothers...I want to thank those who persisted and stayed with us during the long saga of figuring out the logistics system...This International Band of Brothers (and Sisters) has accomplished more good for more people than the war could ever pretend to do...Please convey our best wishes to General Vorontsov and the All Ukrainian Veterans for us.

On the day the container was loaded in Cincinnati, I was in Kyiv meeting with General Vladimir Gavrilovich Vorontsov and his staff. They showed me the storage facility and are so excited about the commodities being shipped. They were really hoping for a more modern ultrasound but we were unable to secure one for this load. Hopefully, we can find one to send later. (They are currently using one that is 25+ years old and missing some of the diagnostic parts) They really need everything. It is amazing to me that they are able to do so much with so little. They serve a group of 320,000 and each month will see 4,000+ people.



Helping to frame the importance of this project for the Lord's Church an interesting benefit has emerged... Five years ago I had been contacted by a congregation in Kyiv asking if I could assist in supplying needed benevolent items to a disabled group in Kyiv (this disabled group has 700+ families). We have not been able to respond

to this request because neither the congregation nor the disabled group had the storage facility required. I discussed this problem with the Kyiv Vets and asked if they would accept a container that would have commodities for the Vets plus the disabled group and General Vorontsov was very willing to do so. So this means I will send at least one more container to the Kyiv Vets. We will plan to load out of Judsonia, AR.

This project has provided some great benefits already for our efforts in the Lord's Church and the willingness of the Lord's Church to "do good unto all men" will continue bearing good fruits as we look forward to future plans in other projects.

Here is email "chatter" regarding the success of this project:

From: Gary and Diana Jones
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2011 9:04 AM



We did it!

Last Friday VVA chapter 10, chapter 55 with help from the Veterans retirement home in Michigan and many others collected, packed and shipped about 8 tons of medical and personal equipment to our veteran friends in the Ukraine. The container should depart from NY and arrive in Kiev around July 4. We filled the 40 foot container box to the top with a few sturdy old

souls who spent the next couple of days recovering. It has been a very long and at times frustrating project, but we did it.

Gary



In a message dated 5/9/2011 2:42:04 P.M. EDT, Svetlana Shevchenko writes:

Dear all,

I sincerely thank you for everything that you have done, from those two wheelchairs that my colleague and I brought as a gift from you to the Ukrainian vets two years ago to this enormous gift of your hearts that you are sending to the Ukrainian veterans now.

I would also like to thank John Kachelman, who took upon himself this huge bureaucratic burden of going through all the paperwork to meet all the requirements of both the Ukrainian and the U.S. governments to deliver the gift.

I bow my head before all those who helped to make it happen.

V/r,
Svetlana Shevchenko
Foreign Affairs Specialist
Arlington, VA 22202

From: National League of POW/MIA Families

Sent: Monday, May 09, 2011 3:34 PM

Subject: Re: Wheel chairs

Congratulations to all! That is truly a remarkable achievement! And it is bound to be more than helpful to the work of the USRJC and our specialists in DPMO's JCSD and JCSD-Moscow. We are indeed grateful for the hard work and generosity of all. I know how much this project meant to Svetlana, and it meant even more to the veterans in Ukraine from whom we are continuing to see support. This is precisely the kind of humanitarian reciprocity that means so much to all who care.

Best wishes, and with heartfelt gratitude,

Ann Mills-Griffiths, Executive Director
National League of POW/MIA Families
Falls Church, VA 22041



BUCKETS OF BLESSINGS



Label says: "Churches of Christ—
Where everyone is loved"



From: Gary and Diana Jones

Sent: Friday, May 13, 2011 8:06 AM

To: JohnDevine; SvetlanaShevchenko.mil; National League of POW/MIA Families; John L. Kachelman, Jr.

Cc: Jerry Oberndorfer; 'Tatyana Zozulina'; 'Ramzi Soubra'; 'Rang Hee Kim'; 'Diane DSCA/PGM/HDM Halvorsen'; 'Marshall, Phylliss, DSCA/PGM/HDM';

John,

On behalf of the all the members of the Veterans Initiative Program and the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America I want to thank you for making this possible for us. This project started several years ago when relations were established between the former Soviet veterans and our VIP team. As a unilateral effort on their part they provided information which led to the recovery or fate of American pilots who were lost to the SAM sites around Hanoi during the war. Without their help we may never have found those Brothers. They sought us out because of the sincere relationship which had developed between the American veterans and the Vietnamese veterans in resolving the problem of accounting.

I want to thank those who persisted and stayed with us during the long saga of figuring out the logistics system. Svetlana, in particular, kept me to task when I was really frustrated with the system.

This International Band of Brothers (and Sisters) has accomplished more good for more people than the war could ever pretend to do. While it is a relief to have finished this promise, it is even more a feeling of great satisfaction and comradeship to have helped each other.

Please convey our best wishes to General Vorontsov and the All Ukrainian Veterans for us.

Most sincerely and with great respect,
Gary (LT)

From: JohnRowan@vva.org

Sent: Friday, May 13, 2011 9:00 AM

To: Gary and Diana Jones; JohnDevine@vva.org; Svetlana.Shevchenko@.mil; National League of POW/MIA Families; John L. Kachelman, Jr.

My congratulations to all for this wonderful humanitarian project. I hope we can get some publicity. Thanks John

John Rowan, President
Vietnam Veterans of America

"Only in Lord's Church I found out about brotherly love and how is good to live in Christ. Thank you for your love and support. I see young people which study in Church and become stronger in their faith. I very regret that I did not come to God before I was old and that I did not bring my children and grandchild to Him. It is sorry that I could not be good example for them. Pray for me and my family. Thank you John Kachelman and John Durham for your arriving to us."