

The Lord's Work in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine

NOVEMBER 2011 REPORT

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters!



In November, we had a lot of important meetings with governmental officials and heads of different organizations that we work together with doing humanitarian aid. All of them thanked Lord's Church for help. The Regional Governor said on television that this is the only Church that helps medical institutions and citizens of Ivano-Frankivsk Region so much. He said that our people are not like sect as some try to present them. Of course, it was good to hear such words but we understood that there was someone who was putting obstacles in our way. That is why the Ivano-Frankivsk Religious Department was delaying church registration for many years and every time they turned us down they would not give good reasons.

I was told that in order to get legal registration for Lord's Church I had to have Greek Catholic Church's Regional Patriarch's blessing and then there would be no problems. After that I went to Ruslan Olegovich (the Vice Governor of Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast) myself and explained the situation to him. He called Tatiana Nicholaevna, the Head of the Ivano-Frankivsk Religious Department, and asked her what the Patriarch had to do with the government and what were her grounds in turning down the Church's registration. She had nothing to say in response. Then Ruslan Olegovich asked me to leave and remained with her in his office. In five minutes she came out and said that we got what we had been seeking for but we should remember that we gained enemies now. I felt sorry for her because she did not understand whose side she was fighting on. I told her gently that I do not want to have enemies and the Supreme Judge would take care of all of my enemies. So registration has been taken care of. Lord has removed all obstacles.

We continue having the Church's assemblies on Sundays at 10:00 – 12:00. Wednesday Bible Class is from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Our attendance is 16-24.

We visit the sick as well as help needy people through humanitarian aid, give away Bibles and preach the Gospel.

Thank you, dear brothers and sisters for your prayers and support, for your faith and love to the Lord and His Church. To be a part of the Body of Christ is a great joy and wonderful blessing to our congregation and my family. We can see how great and strong the Kingdom of our God is on earth and nothing can change the plans of our Lord.

Brother Dmitry was in coma for two weeks and it took him several months to recover. He is back to Church and assembly. He came up front and spoke to Church thanking everybody for prayers and financial support to buy medicines. Doctors told him that it was almost a miracle that he was still alive, such is a very rare case. Prayers of the church and faith in God affect our lives a lot. Dmitry has changed and prays and thanks God more.

Also, our efforts on the meeting place for the Church progresses. Andrew helped us with the blueprint for the church building. This is the strict architectural rendering with the plans (which is different from the draft copy that you saw when you were here). I am sending you several pictures to the blueprint. Of course these are in Ukrainian but you can still see the overall drawings. The main thing is that now we have overcome the obstacles that were against us and can construct with legal permissions. Having a visible and public recognized meeting building will silence those enemies who seek to call us a devil's sect.

Please pray for our small assembly of Christians in western Ukraine. We have been in struggles ever since arriving. The Satan has indeed sought to destroy us and even some who claim to be Believers in Christ seek our ruin. The Greek Catholic Church is now our greatest enemy, as Tatiana Nicholaevna has threatened. Such constant opposition is draining to our strength. But you brethren encourage us greatly. Thank you for your help and support in every way. It is a joy to be partners with you in spreading the gospel and strengthen Lord's Church in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine.

As I write this report I am in travel to America. Some Ukrainian businessmen have paid tickets for me and Tanya to go to America and try to locate some hospital equipment that they are willing to purchase. This will provide us an opportunity to meet with some of our brethren and discuss with them any questions regarding the work of Christ that is being performed in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. We look forward to meetings and offering our face to face gratitude for those who send support for our efforts.

In all things may God and His Church be glorified!

With love, Ivan I. Skoleba
С люб. Иван и Светлана.



A grateful face from a Boarding School in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine for abandoned children. Ivan and the congregation regularly take school supplies, personal hygiene items, clothes, and medicines to this home.