



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

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JANUARY BEGINS 2009 FAST AND FURIOUS!

The New Year began with a full schedule of activities involving all aspects of our work. We completed and are in the process of producing a study series on the "Letters to the Seven Churches" in the book of Revelation. This study examines those ancient congregations and discovers their failings that continue to corrupt the purity of the Lord's Church now. The commendations then are still to be sought today. We loaded and shipped containers with benevolent items from the USA while containers arrived and were unloaded at distant places. We continue to struggle with unreasonable and illegal Customs in Ukraine and have enlisted the support of high positions to help us. We were able to travel and report to some supporters on the incredible successes and opportunities in which we are involved. It seemed as if all of these actions were only one day and there were 30 other days of equally busy work!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

Ivan Skoleba's labors in Ivano-Frankivsk

Dear brethren!

Last year went by way too fast and it was filled with different events. Forgive us for not writing you more often. I had my hands full last year. Your prayers and financial help were a valuable aid in our work. We appreciate your kind heart!

God has blessed us with a family that now attends church. It's a young family—Vitalick (26 years old), his wife Svetlana and daughter Angela (2 years old). I am attaching a picture of their family.

Funds that brethren sent were used to help many people in this region. We had opportunity to help Vitalick and Svetlana and their daughter Angela. When flood came their house was flooded, and their property was spoiled. We bought food and clothes for them. Kathy Cadden sent clothes for little children.

We also helped with food that old woman that used to live in a broken house (we sent her picture before). Now thanks to church of Christ's concern the administration has built a little house for her where she lives now.

We also helped disabled people without family in the Disabled Home. It's a village close to Ivano-Frankivsk named Cherniyv. We help them with food, medicines and humanitarian aid that brethren sends here. Also, we have Biblical discussions there once a week. There are people of different ages there. I told them about you brethren and about how churches of Christ are helping Ukrainians at the difficult time of crisis in the country.

We received container on January 30, 2009 and unloaded it in two hours.



Ivan and the Ivano-Frankivsk congregation distributed a large quantity of benevolent items including sweaters, towels, and personal hygiene items

"Thank you for not leaving us alone in our need. Please, give our heartfelt regards to all brothers and sisters who know and remember us."

Ivan and Sveta Skoleba



Ivan and Vitalick break the seal and open a container shipped from Judsonia, Arkansas. The container was unloaded and is awaiting Ukraine Customs clearance before distribution.

Everything is sealed now by Customs and nobody can take anything. People call me every day and ask when we will distribute help. I'm doing paperwork now and set my hopes only on God because the hearts of people with power are in His hands.

A young man came to church yesterday. He asked for a wheelchair for his daughter who is ten years old and her legs are paralyzed. This young man said that he has to carry his daughter to the bus-stop, which is three kilometers away from his home, to take her hospital. He said he's been asking the local authorities for a wheelchair for two years already but no results. He said that he and his wife were desperate and prayed to God and after that he met with Vitaly, who helps me with my work and attends this congregation. Vitaly listened to that man and told him that we had received humanitarian aid from churches of Christ with wheelchairs. The man, his name is Nicholi, wept and with tears in his eyes he confessed that there is God because in his prayer he said, "God if You do exist, please, help me."

And this not the only situation when God has helped people through your work. I think it's a good way of preaching the Gospel whenever we confirm it with our deeds. I appreciate your work and your help with our work in Ivano-Frankivsk.

Please, give big thanks to all who participate by supporting this work. Gratitude is sent from this congregation and from all those who, thanks to your work, received help. It means a lot to all of the Ukrainians at this time of big crisis in Ukraine. When our government does practically nothing for needy people and there are no programs for such people. Crime and suicide rates have increased. At this time the work of church is in special need to encourage and support people. And thanks to your help we can do a lot in this area. We are very thankful to you for your support and you cannot even imagine how timely and necessary it is. Today many benevolent groups give up their work because of bureaucracy and all paperwork that slows down good deeds. And every day is a part of our lives that can never be relived again and bureaucrats steal that from us with their restraints but we do not give up and continue moving forward.

HERE IS NEWS ON THE LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION IN IVANO-FRANKIVSK:

On Sundays we studied the epistle of James and I preached the following sermons: How to Preserve Ourselves in Trials; Life According to Faith; Wisdom of Faith; The Control of the Tongue. During January our average attendance was 8-15. During the week we meet on Wednesday and we have studies from Matthew's Gospel. We are also teaching children's Bible classes. We have been blessed in having some families begin attending that have small children. At this month three children came and Sveta taught them and Anya sang and taught Christian hymns with them. During this month the church has been busy as we distribute humanitarian aid to needy people and try to preach to them and to give New Testaments to them. The use of benevolence gifts continues to bring good success and opportunities for us to make church of Christ known in this area of Ukraine. More and more are now becoming informed about us. Now our challenge is to help them see that we are seeking only the truth of God and not traditions of man. This is our big challenge in this area because many trust in man's doctrines and traditions and that is difficult to change. It takes long process and great prayers for patience. Please pray for us in this matter.

NEWS FROM MY FAMILY FOR THESE PAST FEW MONTHS:

We had difficult time in November—Sveta's mother was very sick as well as my father. In December Sveta's mother left this world for eternity and my

Stillwater, Oklahoma brethren load urgently needed supplies for Zambia Missions in Namwianga



*"Good afternoon,
dear Mr. John!
I am very glad, that from
you have received my
messages! I hope, that at
you and at your relatives
all is good also you enjoy a
life and work are glad well-
being of people which
require the help and
supports. Thanks, to you
for your kindness and the
help which you render for
people of Tajikistan.
Vulnerable the population
which receive your help, is
no time we will not forget
your kindness and I the
witness of that they always
pray for yours of health
and to well-being of your
relatives.
Yours faithfully
Mavjuda Khakimiva"
(Dushanbe, Tajikistan)*

father passed away in January 2009. Of course, they were old but it is always painful to part. Those were heavy losses for us but we are comforted knowing that they were Christians. We know that in the Lord everybody is alive and this separation is just timely, thus this hope gives us comfort. God is the God of living people not dead.

Our children are maturing. Our older daughter Katya is going to have her second child. Ruslan is having his examination session and is in Kiev now; Anya goes to the 3rd grade. Both Sveta and I are very happy in the Lord. And the older we become the more we realize how important it is to be in the Lord from young age and how much responsibility have parents in this respect.

Thank you for not leaving us alone in our need. Please, give our heartfelt regards to all brothers and sisters who know and remember us.

With sincere love, Ivan and Svetlana

WORKING WITH THE ORPHANS IN KARLOVKA

Greetings, dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ! I am sending my heartfelt Christmas and New Year's greetings to all of you! May the Lord bless you in abundance and keep safe your homes and families! May the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with love and grace! Thank you for your kindness!

Another year has flown by and, thank God, we have overcome all the hardships and problems of the past year. There were fifty children in Karlovka in December. I taught three classes. Before New Year our congregation gave money and I bought fifty packages with sweets. Even though they are teenagers they still get excited when given candy or shown concern. Children and staff of the Center are very thankful to all Christians (from our congregation and all of you) for your care, love and help. They asked to send thanks and greetings to ALL, who have helped Karlovka Rehabilitation Center.

Money that I was given in December I spent on transportation (bus tickets and once for taxi to take supplies there) as well as treats for children who come to Bible classes.

This is all the news at this point.

In Christian love, Natasha Sekerina

ZAMBIAN CONTAINER SHIPS UNIQUE ITEMS...

During the closing days of 2008 we loaded and shipped four containers to Zambia. One of these containers was organized and loaded in Stillwater, OK. The brethren reported this container was loaded with a unique variety of items. It carried several benches and constructions materials for our schools within the Namwianga system. There was also a road grader loaded and shipped that will definitely prove very useful. *"The roads in Zambia are not good and all of our schools and medical clinics are on dust roads. Having this grader will allow us to keep the roads somewhat passable and extend the life of many vehicles. Also on the container were many bicycles that will be given to the needy. Owning a bike in Zambia is like owning a car in the USA. These bikes will relieve the burden of walking for many people. This container also shipped lots of bags of used clothes. The people in Zambia will be rejoicing when they receive these clothes."*