



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

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The picture with the three-day-old baby says it all! Here a baby starts life better just because we sent bassinets. The mother was told that the churches of Christ were responsible for the bassinet and she thanked us again and again.



Children in Donetsk Heart Center

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FEBRUARY: A MONTH FILLED WITH SMILES! 😊

I receive regular email reports from the various locations where we are involved. I try to forward these reports to those on the mailing list so they can rejoice in the successes of the gospel's power. The monthly reports are a brief summary of all the happenings during the month. If you do not receive the regular email reports and would like to receive them, please let me know and I will add you to the list.

"Thanks to Christ and His Father!" exclaimed this 90 years old woman when she received a pair of shoes, an empty bucky and a mattress from the hand of a little boy in the name of Christ, wrote our brother Erlindo Nunez. February brought good news from several locations where we have been working. From each location wonderful reports arrived telling of the involvement and successes of the Lord's Church in each locale. From Honduras (the impoverished settlement of El Berrinche, the large public El Hospital Escuela in Tegucigalpa, the children's village orphanage in Cortes, and congregations in Teguc and Ojo de Agua), from Ukraine (Kramatorsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Staryy Lisets, Donetsk, and Nebliv), from Zambia's southern province (Kalomo, Namwianga) and Tajikistan came reports with the good news of how the Lord's Church is impacting these areas. Most of these reports have been emailed to you in their entirety. As you read this summary I hope you rejoice in the power of the gospel and the selfless service of our brethren laboring for the Lord in these distant locations. From Ukraine came these words: Each hospitals, organizations or just people were very thankful for help what they received. We have "thank you" letters from them and they keep asking us: "Do not stop doing this work, it is very helpful."

Thank you for your involvement that makes these smiles possible!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

NEWS AND GREETINGS FROM IVAN!

Ivan and Sveta Skoleba are working for the Lord in the western Ukrainian city of Ivano-Frankivsk. This is a large populous area and many challenges are presented as the simple truths of New Testament Christianity are preached. There are religious, cultural, and nationalistic prejudices that present many difficulties. Ivan and Sveta are doing a very good work in this area. Here is an email that was not previously sent, in which Ivan describes his efforts during February:

Greetings, dear brother John!

I hope you stay healthy and work hard. Thank you so much for the letters and pictures that you send. I can see from them how much good you do to the people all around the world and for the glory of the Lord and His church. I would like to pass thanks to you and other brethren who take



The youth group from the Dalraida congregation (Montgomery, AL) sent gift boxes to the orphans in Nebliv



With first day of the spring we—in Dushanbe—got electricity that is great!!! Winter was terrible, but...we are still life. Please find attached the photos made during the distribution of humanitarian aid in kind of clothing, footwear and infants needs sent by you. The aid was distributed amongst children/orphans during the cold Tajikistan wintertime. Thank you very much and best regards. Yours truly, Mavjuda Khakimiva



“SVETA AND IVAN SAID THEY ARE DOING WELL AND CHURCH SEEMS TO BE PROGRESSING AND PEOPLE SEEM TO BE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC.”

part in the work in Ukraine from the people here.

We have helped 1,700 people, including disabled, with clothes, wheelchairs, crutches, hygiene items. We have also helped schools, orphanages, kindergartens and medical institutions. 400 Bibles a lot of children’s literature have been given away. We’ve helped people who stayed in Ukraine after the USSR fell apart to renew their ID documents. February 19 we bought 20 chairs, tables, toys and literature for the kindergarten in Nebiliv, which enabled them to have one more group of children to go there. People are very thankful. Parents said that they were not able to purchase those things and that now their children can grow and develop in good conditions. Gifts that Johnny sent have been given to the orphans in the orphanage. Children were very happy to receive them. We’ve given seeds that Kathy sent to the elderly women. We’ve tried to give something to every woman.

Thanks to this help the Administration has given us a meeting place in the library where 20-25 people can assemble. People are very friendly and thankful.

We have also given away help in the village of Lisets and have helped a boy to have a surgery. His family is very thankful to church and you, John, as well as John Durham for the financial help with the surgery. There are rooms prepared in Lisets where doctor Ron is coming in March to set up a dental clinic. Doctor Gary came to Ivano-Frankivsk February 12 and met with doctors of the Regional Hospital where you sent eye surgery equipment in October last year. Plans have been made for this year. This kind of work is very important because thanks to your work people learn more about church of Christ and they can see that there are faithful Christians who are always willing to help with words and deeds.

I am very pleased and feel proud that I believed in the Lord in church of Christ and am now a member. My family and I have thanked God for more than ten years already for your support and help to Ukraine and my family. We preach the Gospel with boldness and we are always assured of our brethren’s support. Thanks to all of you for prayer and such a great work, for your kind hearts and faithfulness to Lord’s church.

We continue meeting at the hotel at 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday and from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday. I have already told Tanya that Hannah came back to church. She repented. Dmitry, Hannah’s husband, continues his treatments. He feels better and attends services after having treatments with the medicines that we have bought for him.

John, thank you very much for your help. I also go to Nebiliv, visit people once a week and work with Julia as she helps church a lot. We’d like to go on with the program we started when Sasha was here. There are 15 people there that we bought food for, and Julia is asking what will happen with them. I cannot make any decision without discussing with you as to finance possibility. What do you think about this? All those people came to assembly in Nebiliv and you remember them.

I also continue working with WBS, and we already have some students in this region. Dmitry and I are looking for an office and building for church so that people would have a place to come during the week. Hotel does not allow us to have a sign with our schedule. I put all invitation in newspaper ad. This is all the news at this point. I will send pictures.

Ivan



Yoely was baptized at Ojo de Agua



Members of the church in Honduras receive shoes



Members of the Lord's Church in Piggott, AR loaded a second container that will help seven special needs orphanages.

ENCOURAGING COMMUNICATION FROM ERLINDO

Erlindo Nuñez is a faithful brother serving the Lord in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. During February Erlindo performed a critical service for the Lord in assisting us with containers that we shipped into Honduras. Erlindo, his son, and others took items from one of the containers and distributed them in one of the impoverished communities near the capitol. Through Erlindo's hard work the Lord's Church was recognized and a front page article appeared in the national Honduran newspaper *La Tribuna*. A full report of the distribution and the impact it had for good was previously sent on our mail-list. Here is a note Erlindo sent showing the positive impact made for the Lord's Church.



Hello brother John,

I want to remark that the police provided us of security patrolling the area. They encouraged us to continue this good deed to the poor people living in misery. Thanks a lot to you and all who are supporting this mission. May God bless you as you continue his work. Your servant, Erlindo Nuñez

OUR ORPHANAGE WORK IN UKRAINE

We have several locations in which we are working with orphanages. Natasha Sekerina works with the Karlovka orphanage in the Donetsk Oblast where she goes and teaches Bible classes on a weekly basis. She also provides food, medicines, and clothing for the children residing at that orphanage. We help to supply funding for Natasha's efforts. We also help to support several orphanages in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast where Ivan Skoleba works. In February we were presented with an incredible opportunity to purchase new clothing at seventy-five cents a piece. Kathy Cadden discovered this opportunity and informed us about the opportunity. Through the generous special donations of the Judsonia congregation 3,000 pieces of this clothing were purchased and then we purchased another 1,000 pieces from funds within the Ukraine mission account. During 2008 these new clothes will be shipped to orphanages in Ukraine and Tajikistan.

The Dalraida youth group (Montgomery, AL) collected and shipped eighteen shoeboxes of school and personal items to the orphans in Nebliv.

At the end of February we assisted the Piggott, AR congregation in loading and shipping a container to Kremenchug, Ukraine. That container was fully loaded with items that will be used to help seven different special needs orphanages in that area. Jerry Morgan coordinated the collecting and will be in Ukraine to supervise the distribution. This was the second container that Piggott collected and loaded this year.

Here is Natasha's report on the Karlovka Orphanage in Donetsk...

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

I'd like to tell you about my work. I took small New Year's gifts to the kids in Karlovka before New Year's (notepads, pens, chocolate—250 grievnas worth total, which is approximately \$50). I taught classes on the Sermon on the Mount.



An orphaned boy in the Heart Hospital in Donetsk



Children unload food purchased for the Karlovka orphanage



Natasha goes shopping for food that will be taken to the orphanage at Karlovka



Valentina, who is a teacher at Karlovka, helps me a lot there. Every Saturday she comes to the Center (even though it's her day-off), allows me to use her classroom, helps me keep discipline in class. And recently we have agreed that she will teach girls to embroider. I have already bought everything necessary for embroidery and spent 150 grievnas (approximately \$30).

I would like for you to know about Valentina's help in the spreading of the Gospel. It would be very difficult for me to work without her help. And if you don't mind I'd like to share with her the support that you give me and for which I'm very thankful.

May the Lord bless you and your families in abundance. In Christian love and with Christian greetings, Natasha Sekerina

During February Kathy Cadden was in Ukraine. She sent back a number of reports on the work of the Lord's Church in Donetsk and Ivano-Frankivsk. Here is one of Kathy's reports about the work we are doing in the Karlovka orphanage.

The kids were excited as they could see the gifts as they helped to unload. The only juice they have is what we had been bringing. The cookies we bring are the only ones they will have. There is a big shortage of food funds. Natasha started her lesson. While I have been here she does her lesson different. Everyone comes in the big room and some of the kids are going in and out, text-messaging on phones or talking to each other. Natasha does as good of a job as anyone could under those conditions. Usually she meets in a smaller room with about twenty kids who would truly want to be there...Little Tanya, the girl who had just recently lost both of her parents let me hug her and she almost hugged me back. Big Sasha, who I have known for three years, most likely will be gone the next time I come. The kids were sorry to see us leave as they were beginning to realize we were there because we care. Twenty percent of these kids will commit suicide within two years of leaving at age 16; 60+% will turn to crime and prostitution; and less than 20% will lead productive lives. Please continue to pray for the work that Natasha is doing as she is reaching kids with God's love and pray for the kids!

Constant Needs Are Communicated

In order for operations to run smoothly there is constant communication on various needs and requests. In dealing with the orphanages' great needs it is common to receive emails like this one where there is a great need for assistance. Your support helps us to provide some of the funds that are requested. It is a typical dilemma for our brethren to try to decide how is the most judicious way to spend the limited resources that are available. In this email you can see where Ivan is struggling to find financial resources for the basic operation expenses for the Lord's Church in Ivano-Frankivsk.

Ivan is asking if he could use some of the funds that Gary brought as operation funds since they do not have any work fund for basic expenses that are necessary for the church. Also, concerning food supplements for orphans, he does not trust the guy that said he could get the food supplements very much. He did not explain details to me but he is asking if he could use that money to buy some things that Nebiliv children need—ten chairs for the school, four tables and children's chairs for the kindergarten. Those are things that are really needed.

ZAMBIA IS CLAPPING AND SMILING

“I will try to get some pictures of the actual distribution of some of the things on the container. I know they were putting desks in classrooms, hospital beds up, and a lot of other things all afternoon. The driver really had a time getting here as he had several blowouts coming from Lusaka, but he did make it and was able to get through the rain-filled road. It was interesting as the seal we put on in May in Abilene was still on the container—it had never been opened!

“It is hard to put into words the appreciation the people of Southern Province in Zambia have for this container. They were clapping and smiling all day.

Without your assistance this would never have happened. We are going to have school uniforms for children that only have tattered clothes to wear. We will have chairs in classrooms, equipment and beds for hospital patients, medicine to help with treatment, buckets to help with sustainable gardening, school books, and the list can go on and on. When the lorry driver was getting ready to leave he asked if we had any Bibles he could have. Of course we were more than happy to give him and his two assistants Bibles. You can see them holding the Bibles as they were leaving.”



Namwianga brethren unload the container



Vlad talks to a visitor and gives her the book "How to become a Christian"



The nurse from the hospital for small children without parents received items from the Lord's Church in Kramatorsk

VLAD PAZIY REPORTS FROM KRAMATORSK

Vlad and Oksana continue to do a wonderful work in the city of Kramatorsk. They have recently sent a report on the impact the distribution of benevolent items shipped from brethren in the USA is having. Here is part of his report:

“All medicine equipment we delivered to hospitals... All doctors and administrative staff were glad and thankful for items which are necessary for them to work with...on each room door we put the inscription “*All equipments in this room was presented by the Church of Christ*”...Also in container we received clothes. We brought it to our church building and Christians of our congregation took it out and placed it nicely on the tables so people can easily find what they need. We invited people and more then 100 came and took what they need not only for themselves but and for their friends and neighbors. Each of them received from us the book “How to become a Christian” and each of them know enough about our congregation about our location, with some of them I had a little Bible study. Total, more then 400 people from Kramatorsk received help...Of course we gave them books and booklets and let them know that God love them and each of them can be a part of God's family. Each hospitals, organizations or just people were very thankful for help what they received...Thanks for your hard work, you brought happiness and satisfaction to many lives in Ukraine...I took the box with new bibles and presented it to Valeriy Ivanovich and his workers. I would never do this if we did not work together.

Thank God for the opportunity. Vladimir and Oksana Paziy”