



# UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

March 2008

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*All orphanages got shoes and clothes and toys. Kindergartens asked for toys. Baby orphanage got baby clothes, blankets, toys. Also orphanages got toothbrushes. Rehab center: wheel-chairs, crutches, walkers, different toys, including special developing ones, and when the wheel-*



*chairs are handed out each kid will get presents that I picked*

*out from the container, it would have different soaps, tooth-pastes and brushes, toys, antibacterial soap, etc.*

Anya Dovogopol

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## MARCH MADNESS & NAIL BITERS

During March we received constant communications from various locations where our efforts are making an impact for the Lord. I have forwarded most of these emails to those on the mail list so they can rejoice in the on-going successes. This month's report reviews the roller coaster ride of a last minute loading and also contains a summary report of Kathy Cadden's trip. Thank you for your continuing help!

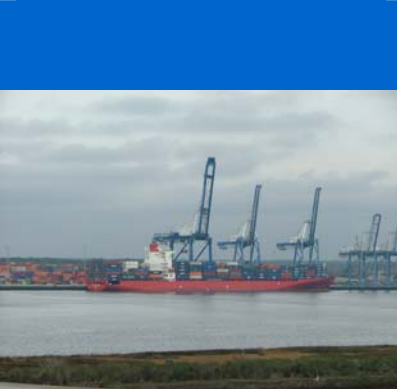
—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

## THE IMPACT OF THE DOLLAR'S DEVALUATION!

The month of March served to remind me that you cannot escape the impact of finances in our work. The decline of the US dollar has had a dramatic impact upon our efforts. When the dollar is strong it buys more overseas, but in recent months the value of the dollar has dramatically declined. This translates into the practical fact that our efforts are able to do much less. In Ukraine the dollar is usually exchanged for the grivna (Ukraine's money) at an average of 5.5 last year. Recently, I received an email stating that the exchange was 4.7 on that day. Buying power and salaries have taken a hit with the weaker dollar.

The impact of the weak dollar hit our efforts in another way. Purchasing of American products by overseas has escalated because of a simple fact—overseas money buys more in the USA. This has resulted in two significant factors affecting our work. First, the sea-going cargo ships are booked and space is available for containers only after a long wait. Second, the demand for containers to ship American materials overseas has made the containers scarce.

During March these factors were highlighted in a nail-biting situation. At the end of February I received a call from Colorado telling me that a group was losing their warehouse and had items that they needed to send (three containers each was valued at about \$175,000). I was asked if I would accept these items and ship them. This group had collected, inventoried, and would load the containers and I could ship them to any point. I decided to ship to Tajikistan and Ukraine. The troubling point was that all had to be done by the end of March. Time was of the essence. We went ahead and made all logistical plans for the loading even though we did not have the Kyiv approval. I contacted Vlad Pazyi in Kramatorsk, Ukraine, and he began working feverishly to get everything in order. Vlad has a great working relationship with Valery Ivanovich. Valery Ivanovich is a prominent businessman with good connections in the national government. The Chairman of the Humanitarian Aid Commission in Kyiv had changed and there were new regulations implemented that hindered the speedy approval. Vlad and Alexander worked hard to get all documents ready but there was



Charleston, SC, harbor loading containers into a ship



While Kramatorsk was scampering to get the approval documents for another container, they were unloading a container sent from Columbus, MS



still a need to confront the new Chairman in Kyiv. Consequently, Tanya Zozulina had to make a trip to Kyiv to meet and finally the approval was given. *But things were not finalized.* The minutes with the approval had to be signed and the one to sign the minutes was ill. On our side the plan was moving as if all were approved, but in Ukraine we were nervously trying to find out where the signed minutes were. Once again Valery Ivanovich and Vlad worked constantly. Alexander was sent to Kyiv to get the minutes scanned and emailed. We were loading on a Friday and on Thursday we still had no signed approval. I awoke on that Friday to find the minutes had been emailed! *But things were not finalized.* In order for the loadings to take place we have to have a container that is free to be delivered and there must be a space in the seagoing cargo ships available for the container once loaded. While those in Ukraine were frantically trying to find out where the signed minutes were those in Washington, DC were scampering to locate any freight forwarders that had a spare container and that could schedule space in the cargo ships. On Thursday they had secured and scheduled a container and ship space for the Tajikistan load and by Thursday afternoon had located a container for Ukraine but could not find any ship space. I was called asking if I would be willing to pay the extra storage that would occur if we loaded the Ukraine container on Friday but could not get it to a ship until April 2. I agreed to pay the extra cost because those in Ukraine had worked tirelessly and the contents in the container were really needed. By Friday morning we had the signed minutes from Kyiv, had secured a container, and were prepared to store the loaded container. This container is scheduled to be in Kramatorsk on May 29.

By the end of March and because all were working together, we sent containers into Tajikistan and Ukraine with a combined value of close to \$400,000! The last weeks of March were definitely nail-biters but with the Lord's help all concluded successfully.

## Thank You from Zambia

*I would like to thank you most sincerely for the humanitarian shipment that you made to Namwianga, Zambia. You probably have no idea how much that shipment has blessed the people of Kalomo and Zambia. Most of our people struggle with the day to day basic necessity of life...To grasp the full magnitude of your generosity you would have to see a little bit of the joys and smiles on people's faces from the few pictures taken by Mrs. Hamby...Words alone can never express our deep gratitude and appreciation for this gesture. This Spirit of giving to the needy is what marks the great American people. It is what sets them apart from any other nation on the face of the earth. We pray and hope that the hurdles experienced in bringing this container to Namwianga may be overshadowed by the relief of suffering and the joy that it brings to the people that do not have much at all. May God be praised. Sincerely yours in Christ, Roby Banda*



**John's next trip to Ukraine begins April 21!**



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## Kremenchuk Reports Distribution

Hello John, a quick note to say that container is here! I just got back home from unloading it! ☺ it's in the church building right now, we are starting the hand-out tomorrow...Each of the directors of the institutions expressed their high gratitude! (I will mail letters to you like I did before after the hand out is done). I have a list of places where things went: 1) Potoki orphanage 2) Svetlovodsk orphanage for visual impaired children 3) Svetlovodsk orphanage for kids with minor and inactive forms of TB 4) Kremenchuk baby orphanage 5) Gradizhsk oprhanage 6) kindergarten 27 (usual state one, director is visiting Church and Bible classes!) 7) kindergarten for children with disabilities 8) Kremenchuk Rehabilitation center for disabled children 9) Gadyach baby orphanage (4-5 year olds). Churches of Christ receiving things to distribute in community: 10) Central congregation 11) Michael's congregation (Krukiv) 12) Victor's congregation 13) Globino congregation 14) Komsomol'sk congregation.

~Anya

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## Kathy Cadden's visit to Ukraine

The last Thursday of February, Tanya and I went to Konstantinovka to see the unloading of the container that was packed the Friday before Christmas in Columbus, Mississippi. It was a wonderful experience to arrive at the Chernobyl hospital and see the American flag flying beside the Ukraine flag. We were greeted warmly by Marina and then taken to Oleg Anatolievich Panchenko's office to visit and discuss the unloading of the container. We took a break to test a medical video telecommunication conference with Kiev. I was introduced to the people in Kiev as a member of the church of Christ in American who helps to send in medical aid by containers. Then it was time to go and cut the seal on the container. It was wonderful when the doors swung open and there was our stuff! There was nothing stolen; all was just like it was when we closed the doors in Columbus. It took less time to unload it than it did for us to load it. We were treated to an amazing lunch while the men from the hospital unloaded. Someone came up while we were eating to brag about how good the container was. It was distributed the next week.

We arrived in Ivano-Frankivsk on March 2 and were met at the train station by Sveta as Ivan was resting until worship time. Less than a week after having emergency appendicitis surgery, Ivan showed up early for worship. I could see that he was in some discomfort as he climbed the stairs to the second floor meeting room carrying the song books. Sveta was carrying the dishes for the Lord's Supper. There were seven of us plus Ivan and his family. It was discussed that many of the members and others that attend knew that he had had surgery on Monday and thought he would not be there for services. *I do not know anyone back home who would have had the type surgery he did and show up five days later to preach and led singing.* After services we went to a Ukrainian restaurant for lunch. By the time lunch was over poor Ivan was white and had a bead of moisture over his top lip. He drove Tanya and I back to the hotel and set a time to pick us up the next morning to go to the village of Staryy Lisets and met the mayor.

Ivan, Tanya and I traveled over bumpy roads to the village. I was sitting in the front seat and as we bounced along I watched Ivan out of the corner of my eye. Several times I saw him winch with pain. I told him I would be fine just staying in town and visiting with him and his family as I was worried about him. We met with the Mayor Anatoly and discussed future containers

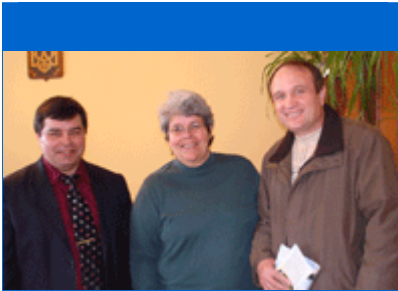


The container loaded out of Columbus, MS



Kathy helping to unload the container

*"I am impressed and pleased that Ivan makes the time and takes the effort to come out to the village. On the way home Ivan was pale and in pain. We were dropped off at the hotel and later when we called to check on him we were told that his wound had started bleeding."*



Mayor Anatoly, Kathy, Ivan



The playground consisted of a large tree stump with several small tree stumps as the table and chairs. Then some painted tires for climbing.



Magdalena and Kathy

*“On behalf of Namwianga, allow me to express my profound thanks to you...In February, 2008, Namwianga Mission received a shipment of medical supplies, orphan supplies, school supplies, uniforms, to mention but few...These supplies will go a long way in improving the health, wellness, and quality of life of our vulnerable people. Namwianga Mission and we people of Zambia are thankful indeed... Your help is a true spirit of love and compassion for fellowman kind...May God bless you and great country of America.”*  
(George Phiri)

and the air force field where the fire truck from Chicago would arrive. I was very impressed that the mayor appreciated all the work that Ivan was responsible for in the village. Too bad there is not a preacher for the village. I am impressed and pleased that Ivan makes the time and takes the effort to come out to the village. On the way home Ivan was pale and in pain. We were dropped off at the hotel and later when we called to check on him we were told that his wound had started bleeding.

The next day a taxi was hired and Sveta, Tanya and I went to the village Nebliv and meet Julia the soon to be mayor. We went to the preschool for children 3 to 6. The churches of Christ had helped with the start-up of this school by buying blankets, beds, chairs and several other items. Their one request to me was help with their playground. The playground consisted of a large tree stump with several small tree stumps, the table and chairs. Then some painted tires for climbing. Hopefully, we will be able to help with this need on a future container.

We went to visit Magdalena (the older lady who for 35 years had scooted on her elbows around her one room house because her legs did not work). Remember she had received a wheelchair in October from a container. She was so glad to see Sveta and talked about how Sveta and Ivan were the only ones who would check on her and always would ask if she needed anything. Magdalena needs a new rug on the floor to make it softer for her when she is down on the floor. As we left I gave her a hug and assured her that Ivan would be back soon to visit and John would be there in May. I left her with \$50 givenas so that she would be able to buy some fruit or juice. She asked if I would see if I could get some type of pain medicine to help with the constant pain she has in her legs.

The next place was the school. The teachers and director warmly welcomed us and were so concerned when they heard about Ivan's surgery. I could tell that they thought highly of Ivan and the help he is getting for the school. Our teachers back home would quit if they were asked to teach under these conditions. Chairs had been bought for the teachers lounge/work room. Each teacher thanked me knowing it was the American Christian generosity which made it possible for them to have chairs. They are in need of basic items: chalk boards, teacher desks, paper, pencils/pens, scissors, chalk, etc.

Wednesday the MEEST boxes arrived! Christmas time! John had sent in peanut butter, children's gloves, gift packs and other stuff that I didn't see. Then my boxes had the sweat suit items that we bought for \$.75 a piece. We went through them checking to see if they were OK and only found maybe 6 to 8 pieces that had flaws. It was discussed that maybe Magdalena could take them and repair them or make pot holders out of the material.

Sveta had prepared soup and a meal for us and as we sat eating I discovered that we had met back in 2000 and that Sveta and my cousin Linette Britt Baker are friends. Small world. There were not enough soup bowls so some had soup out of serving bowls. As I looked around their small apartment in the attic I wondered how we could get the money to buy a church building with an apartment. I think a permanent, physical meeting place would help the church grow. On Thursday night we said good-bye as we boarded the train to head to Kiev and then I would fly home.

~Kathy

For information and reports on John's next trip go to [www.Kachelman.com](http://www.Kachelman.com)