



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

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Luba's immersion greeted with joy and smiles!



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MAY'S MISSION IN UKRAINE!

The month of May was consumed with the events associated with the spring mission trip to Ukraine. I left for Ukraine in mid-April and returned in mid-May but the subsequent follow-up on items associated with the trip consumed the remainder of May. Most receiving this report have also had the opportunity to receive the email reports sent back during the trip. If you did not get these reports, please log on to my web site and go to the Ukraine missions page and you can find the reports and pictures. This report offers a brief summary of the events during May. Thank you for your continuing support and prayers!

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

LUBA'S IMMERSION—KRIVY ROG, UKRAINE

As I arrived and met Ivan Skoleba, I was informed that he had been studying with Luba for several years and she had decided to be immersed into Christ. Luba lives in the city of Krivy Rog and I was asked to immerse Luba as I visited that city. Luba's journey to salvation in Christ has been a long and difficult one. She was raised in the environment of religious rituals and traditions. Her husband is Peter. Peter had come to know and obey the Truth several years ago and had patiently encouraged Luba to study the Bible and obey the Truth. On the day of Luba's immersion Peter's grin was as broad as Luba's.

Last fall we had three containers that we thought were lost to greed, but they were snatched away from those seeking to take them and transported into Krivy Rog by Ivan's quick actions. I never heard of Krivy Rog until the distribution pictures and reports started coming to me. I became more impressed with the city (it has a population of one-million) and those willing to cooperate with our objectives. It was through this shipment that we were able to contact Luba, Peter, and others. Now, because of a shipment that we initially thought was lost, we have a strong presence, solid influence, and a willing cooperative spirit in this large city.

EXCITING EFFORTS IN KRAMATORSK, UKRAINE

Vlad and Oksana continue to do a most wonderful work in Kramaorsk, Konstantinovka, and a small village called Krasniy Shahtar. I had the opportunity of spending three days in Kramatorsk with Vlad and Oksana. They are always the most delightful company and it is a real blessing to have them as brethren and colleagues in the Lord's work. I was able to preach at the Kramatorsk congregation and even though it was a holiday weekend there was a good number present. I was able to see the good work that Kramatorsk is doing with the distribution of benevolent items and how they



A picture of those that came to one of the Bible classes taught at the Carpathian Hotel, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine



Anya Trofimina from Nebiliv/Perehinsk receives some money to help her buy food.



John speaking at the DOS conference (Svetlanya is interpreting)



John receiving the certificate of appreciation from the DOS (Rang Hee Kim and Gerald Obendorfer are also pictured)

plan to follow up on those that have been given items from our containers. Over four-hundred families have been helped thus far. Vlad has collected contact information on each person that has been helped and is planning to send them regular mailings about the Lord's Church. Vlad had also scheduled for me to visit and inspect some of the hospitals where items have been distributed. As a result of this trip, there were three newspaper articles written that highlighted the congregation and our efforts. Tanya is going to translate these articles and I will email them to you.

SPEAKING IN KYIV, UKRAINE

As my trip was concluding, I was scheduled to speak at a conference in Kyiv that was hosted by the United States Department of State. Attending this conference were representatives from Washington, DC and Arlington (USA); Kyiv, Odessa, Donetsk, Kramatorsk, Konstantinovka (Ukraine); Minsk (Belarus); Tbilisi (Republic of Georgia); and Kishinev (Moldova).

Following my presentation I was surprised with a presentation of a certificate of appreciation from the United States Department of State for the work that I have helped coordinate in a number of different nations.

REFLECTIONS ON THE MISSION TRIP

As I think back on the trip, there is one thing that has greatly impacted the work—their economic situation. Prior to leaving I had been warned about the impact of the devalued US Dollar in the currency exchange and I had been told of a 40% inflation rate in Ukraine. But hearing of these economic negatives is not felt as dramatically as actually being there and having to live with the reality. Together these economic factors are having a terrible impact upon our efforts. In our financial business in Ukraine we deal in dollars but with the devalued dollar everything we purchase costs more because the dollar is less. We have money set aside to buy food for the widows and orphans but food costs have basically doubled. So what we thought we could do for \$100 is now costing us at least \$145 and it continues to increase. I really do not know how some in Ukraine are able to survive without assistance from other sources.

I was talking about the price increases with a friend in Ukraine who is among the “movers and shakers” of Ukraine business. He looked at me and said, “We dream of the increases in America! If only our increases were as little then it would be so much better.” His comment reminded me that even though we think it is bad in the USA, we still have an economy that is envied by other nations and we take our blessings for granted. Please pray for those that are struggling with such an oppressive economic situation.

Dear John

I would like that you know that 3 local newspapers print articles about humanitarian work in Kramatorsk, I will scan it and will send to Taniy, she will translate for you.

Have a great days, Vladimir