



UKRAINE MISSIONS NEWS

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

December 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

- Greetings from Ivan Skoleba
- End of year thoughts by Tanya Zozulina
- The year's summary from Vijay in India



A VILLAGE IN WESTERN UKRAINE, DEVASTATED BY HISTORIC FLOODING, RECEIVES BENEVOLENT ITEMS SENT BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE COORDINATION OF IVAN SKOLEBA.

CONTACT INFORMATION

John L. Kachelman, Jr.
Judsonia Church of Christ
P. O. Box 422
Judsonia, AR 72081
Office: 501-729-3004
Cell: 901-626-4538
jkachelman@centurytel.net

2008 WAS AN INCREDIBLE YEAR!

The conclusion of any year is always a time of reflections and resolutions. The conclusion of 2008 is no exception. It seems incredible that the year is over. It seems incredible that throughout this year we were able to see the Lord's successes in such monumental strides. It seems incredible that we have been able to broaden the scope of respect for the Church's work to such an extent that governments are calling and asking if the Lord's Church would be willing to help and then allows us to set the controlling parameters. It was incredible to see the magnitude of items shipped, the number of actions in foreign nations, and the joy in the distribution. Many more incredible factors can be observed. Look back over the monthly newsletters, the emailed up-dates, and the letters and pictures and add to this brief list. Above all, it was truly incredible to see brethren throughout the world rise up and participate in actions that were designed to bring glory to God. This was truly an incredible year. Thank you for your part in helping the Lord's Cause in so many nations.

—John L. Kachelman, Jr.

Ivan Skoleba sends you a great report

One of the incredible highlights of 2008 was the door of opportunity that the Lord opened for us to send in flood relief to western Ukraine. Out of all the incredible events of 2008 the flood relief is significant because it validated the hard work of Ivan, provided a means for the Church to be recognized by the national and regional governments in Ukraine, provided us irrefutable evidence that on the USA side our efforts have made a significant mark, and allowed us the opportunity to demonstrate the benevolent concern of the Lord for those who have been traumatized by natural laws corrupted by sin.

The demands of coordinating, receiving, distributing, and reporting on the containers were enough to keep several people busy but they fell upon Ivan to do it all. He also had to deal with a number of other items that demanded fulltime attention—he had an emergency appendectomy and the incision became infected and was constantly bleeding; he aggravated a previous back injury and was literally flat on his back for some time; he was informed that his landlord was selling the apartment where he lived and had but a few days to get other living quarters or purchase the apartment; his mother-in-law was seriously ill and passed away; he continued to struggle with evil opposition whose jealousy sought to slander his good name; and, there were other stresses that he faced. And, another "incredible" fact of 2008 is that Ivan struggled through these adversities and was able to still serve the Lord with diligence! Here is the first of his reports on the distribution of the flood relief that was sent by the USA and distributed through the Church.



IVAN SKOLEBA DOCUMENTS THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOSPITAL LINENS TO A HOSPITAL IN THE IVANO-FRANKIVSK OBLAST THAT TREATED THOSE INJURED BY THE HISTORIC FLOODING.

“Twenty ambulances were equipped with cots, splints, sheets, first-aid sets, disposable medical supplies needed to give people medical aid...The Head Doctor of the City First Aid Hospital looked at everything with surprise and said that never before had he received such aid...They could not hide their joy and thankfulness.”



THROUGH OUR EFFORTS MANY CLINICS AND HOSPITALS RECEIVED SUPPLIES THEY HAD NEVER “DREAMED” OF RECEIVING FOR PATIENT SERVICES.

Greetings, dear Brother John!

As always I apologize for not writing more often. Last half a year has been a serious test for me because I had opportunity to work with humanitarian aid in such great amounts. The amount of humanitarian aid was huge and I had to distribute it in a short period of time and then do follow-up to make sure everything is used as it should. Of course, I praise Lord for everything because He is the only one to give us strength and opportunities to serve people so that His name would be glorified. We don't always understand what God's plans and purposes for us are. I could not imagine that this humanitarian aid from American Brothers and Sisters would bring forth such good fruits; would open doors to institutions where people did not want to even hear about us before.

These six containers, distributed to more than fourteen districts of Ivano-Frankivsk Region and in Ivano-Frankivsk itself, were a timely and very needed aid to hospitals, rescue services and common people who suffered from the flood. Twenty ambulances were equipped with cots, splints, sheets, first-aid sets, disposable medical supplies needed to give people medical aid. Ivano-Frankivsk Regional and District Hospitals also received supplies they needed to help flood victims. Pictures that I am sending you and faces of people in them speak for themselves. The Head Doctor of the City First Aid Hospital looked at everything with surprise and said that never before had he received such aid and never before had he seen such cots, splints that would be so convenient to transport people with traumas. They studied directions right away. They could not hide their joy and thankfulness. We had to deliver aid ourselves to the flooded areas because people could not come and get it.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I am very thankful to you for the funds to help flood victims that you collected and John wired here. Thanks to the funds we were able to deliver humanitarian aid ourselves to areas and people who were in true need. We could also help individuals to buy food and other necessary things to be able to survive while their houses were rebuilt.

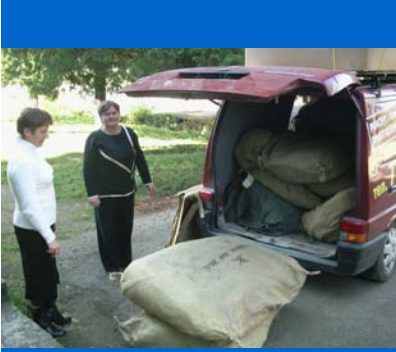
After John Kachelman and John Durham left Ivano-Frankivsk Regional TV and newspapers for a whole week talked about humanitarian aid sent from America to Ukraine. Our small congregation is thankful to you and on behalf of many people, doctors, and teachers we would like to thank Brothers and Sisters from churches of Christ for their kind hearts and understanding, for their prayers and financial support.

Now we can freely go to many places such as schools, orphanages, hospitals, and share Gospel with people. And it is very important that people in Western Ukraine learn more and more about church of Christ. Without your help and concern we would not be able to do what has already been done. You help us tremendously and this help makes our work together visible and vitally important. James 2:14-18—these words of James speak about those who are true believers. Of course, deeds by themselves do not save us but they make us more mature, help us learn to understand others and feel for them.

With love, Ivan

GREETINGS FROM TANYA ZOZULINA

Dear Brethren!



EMERGENCY RELIEF CREWS NEEDED HOUSING AND THE USA SENT TENTS THAT WERE DISTRIBUTED BY IVAN AND OTHER CHURCH MEMBERS.



CHILDREN IN A VILLAGE SHOW THE BOOTS, CLOTHING, AND BED LINENS THAT WERE BROUGHT TO THEIR VILLAGE TO AID THOSE WHO WERE RUINED BY THE FLOODS.

"I could not imagine that this humanitarian aid from American Brothers and Sisters would bring forth such good fruits, would open doors to institutions where people did not want to even hear about us before...Now we can freely go to many places such as schools, orphanages, hospitals, and share Gospel with people. And it's very important that people in Western Ukraine learn more and more about church of Christ. Without your help and concern we would not be able to do what has already been done."

As the year of 2008 is coming to an end I would like to say a few words about some of the incredible opportunities God has given us. But first of all, I would like to thank all of you for all the support you have provided with your prayers, your love and interest and with the funds you have kindly directed to help needy people in this country enabling us to show the love of the Lord to the people around. Thank you a million times!

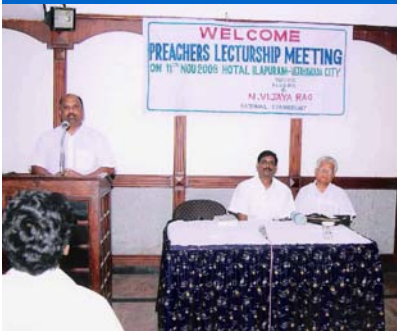
This year's work was concentrated on Western Ukraine where the church of Christ was introduced only 3-4 years ago. As you know from John's reports that section of Ukraine is Catholic and the roots of Catholicism in the West are stronger and older than those of Orthodox in the East. Wherever you go you can see little chapels with Virgin Mary. The people in villages do not greet each other saying "Hi," "Hello" or "Good day." They greet one another saying "Glory to Jesus." So people are religious, very religious there and simply telling them that their belief is not quite right just would not work. They judge people by their works. John Kachelman, his team of Christians and fellow brethren in Ukraine has tried to show God's love to people despite their religious/political/social background just as Galatians 6:9-10 tells us to do.

There have been a lot of highlight events and one of them that, to my mind, need to be mentioned first is the humanitarian aid sent to Western Ukraine where severe floods destroyed buildings, bridges; and people lost houses, gardens with crops and other properties. To me it is hard to imagine the desperation when you see the walls of your house fall down or water coming up into the house. There were many places like that and many families lost most if not everything they possessed. We met with a girl who actually saw walls of her house fall down. I cannot imagine it. I would probably go insane. And I can imagine that many people, many families didn't know what to do and where to go for help—they were devastated. We heard a story about one guy from Chernivtsy who had taken a huge loan and bought stuff to sell at the market. When flood came and destroyed the market the man lost everything. And he shot himself. Sad story.

Right at the time when floods were a greatest desperation you, our dear brethren, thought about us and started collecting humanitarian aid that was so critical. Then the United States Department of State offered six containers of new goods for the victims of the flood. And God provided a way for these goods to come through church and John Kachelman. It was a sign of recognition for church because United States Department of State contacted church of Christ, namely John, to see if there are consignees in the West that could do a good job of receiving, dealing with Customs and distributing of the aid! So thanks to these humanitarian efforts more and more people learn about church and consequently thank God for His love and care. Thanks to your kind and generous hearts Ivan Skoleba had funds to help deliver flood relief to needy people in Ivano-Frankivsk and villages around it and purchase living essentials for them. Without your help so many flood victims would not have received things they needed so badly. TV and newspapers in Ivano-Frankivsk gave a good coverage of this project, which has also helped spread news about church, spread Gospel in a way and tell people they need God because He loves them and cares for them. John was also asked to ship humanitarian aid to Chernivtsy and two containers arrived there a couple of weeks ago. Right now they are under Customs clearance. It was great to find out there are brethren in that city and to meet with some of them! Now whenever shipments are cleared Chernivtsy brethren together with Regional Administration will distribute the aid to the needy and God's church will be mentioned again. Humanitarian aid is a



"I love you with the love of the Lord and thank Him for my HUGE family where everybody is loved...There are no words to adequately express how grateful we are for you!" (Tanya)



"God has done much more work in the year 2008 through our Ibrahimpatnam Church of Christ... we have established 27 congregations...We have invited 150 preachers to Vijayawada Town and we have talked with them for 14 hours and advised them to build the congregation strengthen and through this meeting...We have been comforting the 83 widows and 9 orphans...Please pray for much more work to be spread in the year 2009 in India. My wife Rajeswari, my two sons and Church members and elders have been co-operating me in God's work and so I was able to conduct prayer meetings in 436 villages in the year 2008." (Vijay)

powerful means to communicate to community that God's people do love and care because they look up to Christ in everything they do and Christ teaches us to go beyond ourselves helping others so that God would be glorified.

Right now economic situation in this country is not promising at all. I think we go through another political crisis (we have had so many ups and downs lately) that affects economy in a bad way plus overall bad economic situation in the world. Prices on food have doubled and utilities have increased. Thankfully, public transportation is the same price still and that is about it. Many businesses and state enterprises give their workers leaves of absence without pay. My sister-in-law had two weeks of such a leave. However, she did not stay home because there was a lot of work (work had not been reduced) and she had to work free. I have heard many places reduce their worker's salaries up to 30%. It is an unhealthy situation when on one hand we have escalation of prices and on the other hand decline of people's income. I know that economic situation in America is not very good either, and I am praying for your country all the time. And I would like to ask you to pray for us as well because "the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

I love you with the love of the Lord and thank Him for my HUGE family where everybody is loved. I pray for God's endless blessing to be bestowed upon you, your families and our family in the Lord! There are no words to adequately express how grateful we are for you! God bless you richly in everything!

Yours in Christ, Tanya

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM INDIA...

Dear Beloved brother John L. Kachelman and family and church members,

Hearty Greetings and salutes to you one and all in the Holy name of Christ. We wish and pray that all the saints in your congregation, elders, preacher and your country people to have successful and prosperous New Year 2009, from the people of India, church members, elders of Ibrahimpatnam Church of Christ. We are all daily praying for you all. We are cordially and heartfully inviting and requesting you to pay the visits of preachers and saints with you to our India and to our place also. We want to listen your messages and thereby many perishing souls should be saved through your messages in India. God has done much more work in the year 2008 through our Ibrahimpatnam Church of Christ beyond our thoughts and we have established 27 congregations newly in the new places in this 2008 year. We have invited 150 preachers to Vijayawada Town and we have talked with them for 14 hours and advised them to build the congregation strengthen and through this meeting, the love of each preacher is developed and everybody was encouraged. We have been comforting the 83 widows and 9 orphans but we could not provide daily bread to them, and so we are feeling hurt.

Please pray for much more work to be spread in the year 2009 in India. My wife Rajeswari, my two sons and Church members and elders have been co-operating me in God's work and so I was able to conduct prayer meetings in 436 villages in the year 2008. My wife Rajeswari has been availing her time in teaching the truth amongst the women folk and my two sons have been conducting Sunday schools for school going children. Please accept the salutes and thanks from my family, Church members, orphans, widows and preachers. Daily we are praying for you all. Please pray for our ministry. Thank you so much for your co-operation.

Your Brother in Christ,
n.Vijayaraol, Evangelist, Ibrahimpatnam, Krishna District, India