

GRADUATION 2017 AND THE FUTURE OF OUR GRADUATES.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In May, we had a happy event, our graduation ceremony. Four students graduated this year. They fully completed our two-year program and got the certificates of graduation. I will try to tell you more about our graduates and their plans.



Yuriy Romanov and his family, Katia and Matthew, joined our program when we were still located in Ternopil. Their home congregation (Church of Christ in Shevchenko city district of Kyiv) had a crisis and the congregation needed a qualified minister. This young family wasn't afraid to relocate having complete trust in God. Now Yuriy and Katia are faithfully serving this congregation. Yuriy is a full-time preacher and he is a very good evangelist. During the last year of their service a few new people were baptized and added to the church.

Sergey Ponomarenko. As of right now, Sergey will be helping in Kamenskoe. Half a year ago Sergey



Pavlenkov's family (our graduated as well) relocated there. Our hope is they will work together through the summer in Kamenskoe and the missionaries that support the work in this place will make the decision about his future involvement. Sergey proved to be a very good student over the two years, his grades were good and he got high scores at his finals.

Our last graduate is Yuriy Sundukov. He is from Kramatorsk in Donest region. He had joined the program in 2013 when we were operating from Gorlovka in 2013 but later he took one year off for personal reasons. He got married to Nastya that year and got a wonderful newborn son. Yuriy was very determined to finish the course and last year he joined us again and finished the second year. Currently Yuriy preaches in one of the congregations in Kramatorsk. This congregation is self-sufficient. They don't have any outside support and the brethren take turns preaching. They still don't have enough funds to hire a full-time minister.



Also this year Anna Ushakova graduated. She is helping with the children's school "Sunflower" in Slovyansk Church of Christ.

So, as you can see, all our graduates will be serving the Lord. Every year I pray that the studies in our Bible Institute will not result in obtaining the certificates and brought good fruit in the future service. It's very important to teach our students the Biblical truth but it's not less important for our graduates to share their knowledge and experience with other people

(2Tim. 2:2).

We are very thankful to all our Instructors, both American and Ukrainian ones. The partnership brings wonderful results. This year brother Jim Sherman who had been faithfully coming to Ukraine all these years could stay for our graduation ceremony. Usually he would teach for two weeks and leave on Friday to be back to his congregation by Sunday services. Now he is retired and we could enjoy his presence at our graduation.

Last month our first year student Pavel Yavich and I visited Kremenchug Church of Christ where we were looking for the opportunity for our students to practice their preaching skills. As a result, this congregation has become yet just one more place that will welcome our students and let them practice while in training. This summer more than 10 congregation were willing to let our students help their work. The students got practical assignment for the summer time. We've got some potential students for the new school year as well, six men and one lady. We are praying for them and do everything possible to make sure we have funds to train these people. If you want to be a part of this work of training preachers and servants of the Lord, please contact Terry Harmon, the Bear Valley Bible Institute coordinator for the Ukrainian branch - harmon99.th@gmail.com.

Thank you all for our prayers and your support. The Faculty and students express their deep appreciation of your efforts in training ministers for the church in Ukraine.

May God help you and guard you, your brother Dennis Sopolnik.