



Bear Valley Bible Institute - Ukraine

Our 20th Year!

In the words of the Director of the Master Program for the BV extension schools, Gary Fallis, "Unless the Lord had been with Bear Valley Bible Institute - Ukraine (BVBIU), there is no way it would have survived." Brother Fallis said this because in May 2014, a day after the graduation of BVBIU students for that year, the Church was worshipping on a Sunday morning when 25 men armed with AK47s stormed the building and forced everyone out. Thankfully, no one was harmed, but obviously it was very stressful and tense for a long period of time. After this episode, BVBIU had to flee the town of Gorlovka and relocated in western Ukraine (but has since moved to central Ukraine - Bila Tserkva) due to the war that began and still continues to this day. Under normal

conditions, it would have been easy for the program to have folded, but the Lord has been with BVBIU every step of the way.

Just two years after these traumatic and discouraging events, BVBIU had more students signed up than were almost possible to support (17). For this coming academic year (which begins in a month on Sept. 1st), we are also planning to have the same number of students. This shows the power of our God and the desire of many to learn His Word. Although this could be overwhelming, we remember the words God told Joshua before heading into Canaan, "*Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to*



the left, that you may prosper wherever you go (Joshua 1:7). While today, salvation comes through Jesus our Savior, we know that God will be with His people for all time if we remain steadfast and strong to Him in His Word. Additionally, in the past twenty years, many brethren from both America and Ukraine have put in a lot of time and effort to teach the students sound doctrine at BVBIU, and the fruit of those labors are substantially being seen at this time.

BVBIU is vital throughout Ukraine for many reasons. Over the years, many sound churches have been established and Christians are being encouraged to remain faithful. BVBIU is constantly involved in evangelism, teaching the students the importance of

reaching out to the lost. A couple of weeks throughout the school year are used to evangelize, with the students talking to people on the streets who are interested in Biblical literature. BVBIU has always been involved in establishing new congregations, and in the past couple of years, graduates have begun works in the towns of Lviv and Brovary. Other recent graduates have become full-time evangelists at existing congregations in Kiev, Dniprprejinsk, Leman and Ternopil. What is exciting about these efforts, is that almost all of these places had less than solid doctrinal teaching, which has now been replaced with the Truth of God's Word being delivered consistently.

To promote further solid teaching of the Word, BVBIU is constantly involved in having seminars for the entire Church in Ukraine to participate in, where everyone is invited, and important discussions concerning the Bible take place. Not only has the Church grown in Spirit and Truth (John 4:23-24) as a result, this has also resulted in a strengthening of unity among Ukrainian brethren. There literally instances of some congregations now working together because they understand that Truth is being taught. This is important because there are groups who refuse to teach the whole counsel of God and only offer a partial Gospel. God never wants this and BVBIU is striving to adhere to teaching *"not to the right or left"* (Josh. 1:7), just keeping to solid Biblical teaching.

So you can see the importance of BVBIU in Ukraine, but it is also vitally important in Europe. When you think of other countries on this continent, it is pretty hard to see much acceptance of the Gospel. The Church in Ukraine is strongest among European countries, which is very important at this time, since there is an influence of Islam in many of these countries. We pray that Christians in Ukraine will begin doing mission work throughout Europe in the near future.

Brethren, there is a need upon us and we are asking and praying for your help. BVBIU needs another \$1,500 a month to train all of these men to preach the Gospel. One-time contributions, or more consistent monthly support, will benefit the program and we will be grateful for anything that you may be able to give. If you, someone you know, or the congregation where you worship is able to offer monthly support of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$200 or more, this will help BVBIU in a much needed manner.

BVBIU has helped train and strengthen so many individuals, families, and congregations in Ukraine, and we pray that you might be able to help us with this wonderful work!

**Contributions can be sent to; Christiansburg church of Christ
1250 S. Franklin St.
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Attn: Dennis Curd (the evangelist at that congregation)**

We thank you so much for your kind attention to this request!

[For those who are not aware, I served as the director of BVBIU from 2002-10, and was blessed by the Lord to find my wife, Marina, in Ukraine. Both of our boys were born there, but we had to return to America when our youngest son developed a serious illness. He is much better now, and I am thankful to now be serving as the Stateside Coordinator for BVBIU at this time. Terry Harmon]



A BVBIU seminar in Dniprpretrovsk, Feb. 2016, where many preachers, Christians, and BVBIU students participated.