

Dear brothers and sisters,

Usually in the end of the year we are reviewing our achievements, making corrections and setting up new goals. I'm very grateful to God for my large Christian family worldwide being very encouraged by the news from Keith Kasarjan, the director of Bear Valley Bible Institute foreign extensions, about our current 25 foreign extensions with 518 students. Our Ukrainian extension is an instrument of this worldwide orchestra spreading the Gospel.

This year we had a lot of memorable events.

Due to the efforts of our Instructors Viktor Semikoz and Andrew Zhuravlev a new congregation was established in Brovary. This town is not too far from Kiyv. We pray that they are successful in this place.

We have 17 students this school year. It's a huge blessing to be train workers for the Lord's Kingdom. In 2017 two graduates became full time preachers. Sergey Ponomarenko works in Kamenskoe and Yuriy Romanov serves Schevchenko District Church of Christ in Kiyv. Also our graduate Anna Ushakova teaches regular children classes in Slovyansk Church of Christ. Andrey Drogaitsev has ministry in Nikopol Rehabilitation Center.



Sergey Pavlenkov occasionally preaches in Kharkiv Church of Christ. These people prove the importance of having education for workers in the local churches. Last year we had a few regional seminars and one more on a larger scale. Our Ukrainian Ministers developed a tradition to have a seminar in a certain part of Ukraine (Kiyv, Kramatorsk, Kharkiv, Bila Tserkva) every four months. We discuss topics and issues that are current for our congregations. We would study and prepare for the discussions, share our thoughts. This had a very positive effect on the fellowship inside our circle of brethren and has strengthened a lot of us. We also held

a wonderful seminar on Church Growth in the Institute building. We had 60 people in attendance, having remarkable speakers from Ukrainian side as well as American brethren (Denny Petrillo, the President of Bear Valley, Keith Kasarjan and Terry Harmon, the Ukrainian extension coordinator).



We have 4 students in Masters' Program. I hope that they will be our Instructors upon graduation. We regularly add new Ukrainian Instructors to our staff. It's yet another addition to the spiritual growth of the Church in Ukraine.

In our local congregation that hosts Bear Valley Bible Institute in Ukraine located in Bila Tserkva there were 4 baptisms last year. This is a good achievement because the total number of members is 30 people. It was a result of joined efforts of the congregation and our Institute. We are very grateful to God for letting us choose this city after the relocation caused by the military conflict in the East of the country in 2014. The



congregation had a very successful VBC and also a Ping-Pong tournament (as one of the way of outreach to the community).

Right now we're are actively involved in the recruiting efforts for the 2018-2019 school year. I'm planning on visiting about 10 congregations in the next few months speaking about the importance of having sound doctrine obtained by systemized educational process with the goal of saving souls.

We thank everyone who actively supports the work of our Institute, who prays for us and helps us train preachers. On the one hand, it's difficult and often unappreciated ministry but, on the other hand, this is the most valuable work in the world because it's about saving souls! (Mark 8:36).

God's blessings to you in the new year!

With Christian love,

Dennis Sopelnik.