

Dear Brethren,

I hope this letter finds you doing well and the congregation you are a part of finding success as you seek to bring the lost to Christ. I am writing this letter to you because you have been a supporter of my work to Ukraine and I wanted to say thank you. Chris Moran and I have recently returned from a two-week trip to Ukraine and I was able to make this trip with funds raised from past efforts and a couple of special donations. This was truly a blessing for me as my basic expenses for the trip were already taken care of for this year. This blessing was a direct result of your past generosity and I would like to share some of the highlights from this trip.

We began our trip by teaching future preachers in the Bear Valley Bible Institute located in the city of Bila Tserkva. I taught a course on Galatians for the second year students and Chris taught a course on Joshua and Ruth for the first year students. Each evening we travelled to the city of Skvyra where we taught a children's class that consisted of 25-30 children each day. After this class, we held a meeting in Skvyra where Chris and I alternated presenting lessons for the church. On Saturday we had the opportunity to visit one of our brothers named Vladimir who is battling with diabetes which has blinded him and left him in need of dialysis. After this visit, we again taught a lesson at the church for those that were able to gather. On Sunday I stayed in Bila Tserkva to preach for the church in that city while Chris once again traveled to Skvyra to preach for the church during their worship service.

On Monday we left Bila Tserkva for the city of Lviv. This leads me to the most exciting part of this year's trip. We were able to collect funds to have a retreat for the four churches located in Western Ukraine. As far as we know, this was the first gathering of these churches to take place. We met in the Carpathian Mountains for three days and were able to present four Bible lessons on the theme of "Be Doers of God's Word", conduct three Bible classes for questions and further discussion, and enjoy time for fellowship. There were over fifty people present for this retreat and everyone spoke of the encouragement they received from being a part of this historic event. We also met up with a preacher that makes trips to the war-torn area in the east and were able to send funds to help these brothers and sisters in their time of need. We plan on making this an annual event for the churches in Western Ukraine in order to bring these churches together so that they can gain strength from each other. I ask that you include these efforts in your prayers.

After the retreat, we returned to the city of Lviv where Chris and I taught at the Sunday morning service for the church. We enjoyed time with the church after our assembly and were able to enjoy a walk around the city with the preachers and their wives as the day ended. On Monday we had a meeting with the men of the congregation where we discussed a couple of issues that are arising in the churches in Ukraine and causing division. We offered advice and teachings to the best of our ability which we hope will help in the future. As Tuesday morning came, we boarded a plane and returned home to our families.

Thank you so much for partnering with me in my work in Ukraine. I hope you will continue to consider this work in your budget as I hope to make trips each year so long as I am able to do so. I could not make these trips without your support and I am so grateful to the churches and individuals that support my efforts. If you have any questions concerning this work, please feel free to call me @ 931-691-9898 or email me at walter.rayburn@yahoo.com.

In Christ,

