



Bear Valley Bible Institute - Ukraine

August 2018 Report

Greetings brethren,

We pray all is well with you. In a good way, it has been a hectic summer for our family, which is already 2/3rds of the way over. School is scheduled to begin for our kids in a month. This also means that classes for Bear Valley Bible Institute - Ukraine (BVBIU) will begin in just a little over a month, on September 1st.

The above picture shows the graduation in May, and we are glad to report that all of these graduates are now active in multiple places around Ukraine. What a tremendous blessing to have all of these laborers working in the Kingdom! So much time and energy went into the training of these students, and now they are going to be teaching and training others.

The job now continues of training the remaining students at BVBIU. It is always a joy to work

with students and see them grow, yet the task occurs of continuing this on a regular basis.

As we are currently gearing up for this new school year, a dilemma has come upon us. We are currently underfunded, lacking about \$500 a month just to continue the training the for the second year students. We have consistently around \$2,400 coming in, but need a minimum of \$3,200 each month. Some new congregations and brethren have stepped in to help out, which we are indeed grateful for. However, in order to take in another five students, who are wanting to study at this time, in order to have a regular first year class, we would need \$4,500 a month.

Here is an example from a list of expenses that are regularly occurred, as given from the Director - Dennis Sopolnik;

BVBIU budget for May 2018.

- Stipends for 16 students: \$ 2,650
- Salary for me, teachers, translator : \$ 1,000
- Rent 5 apartments \$850
- Utilities (Electricity, Internet, Water, Heating) \$40
- Office, van and household needs \$60.00
- TOTAL – \$ 4,600

Just how important is the work in Ukraine? One example comes from an ex-student and a current teacher at BVBIU, Andrei Zhuralev, who is also a preacher. Andrei used to preach at two congregations prior to the war in 2014, in the towns of Illovaisk and then in Gorlovka. Both of these are in occupied territories that were taken during the invasion of that year. Even though his family left in order to be safe, Andrei has never forgotten the brethren there. He continues to cross into the occupied territories and work with the brethren. Besides encouraging

the brethren through preaching and visits, Andrei also continues to teach people who come to the assembly. It is actually illegal for him to be so, but the command to teach the lost from the Lord is the higher law (Matt. 28:18-20). Just today, as this is being written, Andrei sent pictures of the most recent baptism in the Gorlovka congregation.

May all glory and praise be given to our Lord Jesus Christ for His magnificent power! We are also thankful to brethren like Andrei

who are willing to risk everything to help spread the Gospel. Others from BVBIU also are working hard to preach and teach, often working on the streets handing out materials and bringing visitors to the assemblies.

Andrei also sent a newsletter as a follow-up to his time in Gorlovka, and I encourage you to read it (it is attached). There is a lot of news in it, and from it you can see how interconnected BVBIU and many of the former graduates are in the work in a few places (but that is

really just the tip of the iceberg).

Thank you so much for your willingness to participate with this great work at BVBIU. The future lives of many in the Kingdom, in Ukraine and perhaps other countries surrounding it, are at stake. As our brother Paul wrote to the Philippian brethren, *"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy..."*

Love in Christ, Terry Harmon

