



Bear Valley Bible Institute - Ukraine (BVBIU)

September / October 2018

Hello brethren, can you believe we are just a little more than two months away from the end of 2018? It seems that this year has passed by so quickly. In September, the new academic year began at BVBIU and we are thankful that God has blessed us with six new first-year students. Combined with four second-year students, there is a total student body number of ten (see picture above). With this newsletter, I am attaching a report from the Director, Dennis Sopelnik, which gives some biographical information about each of the new students.

It has been a good beginning to the new year, with classes being taught by teachers from both Ukraine and America. Our good friend and long-time worker to Ukraine, Jim Sherman, recently taught one of the two classes that he teaches each year, usually returning in May to teach the second class. Jim has taught every

year, two times a year, since the inception of BVBIU in 1997. This year, Jim went with one of the students to the town of Skyvra, where a wonderful work has been recently developing. A BVBIU graduate from 2007, Andrei Pomaz, has been preaching in Skyvra since then (it is his home town) and Andrei invited Taras Danilenko, a second-year student and Masha Rodicheva, a first-year student, to



work with some young people there (none of these were raised in the Church). Taras and Masha have been doing a great job and a

nice group of young people are now meeting there now on a regular basis. These kind of events take place on a regular basis with graduates from BVBIU, and I wish that we could show you how many places have grown as a result of outreach from BVBIU graduates over the many years of continual work.

Another American teacher who has taught in Ukraine for years is Denton Landon, recently teaching Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther to the second-year students. His classes are always beneficial to the brethren and Denton helps us stay in touch with current events at BVBIU. I also participate in teaching, only this time it was through the internet, teaching a Greek class. It has been a blessing to teach this course for the past fifteen years and it is always enjoyable to see the students gain a foundation of the language the New Testament was written in.

We are so thankful that all of

these things are taking place, due to goodhearted brethren such as yourselves, who are meeting the challenge and have contributed to BVBIU so that we can continue to move forward. If you remember, we were struggling for funds not all that long ago, and ultimately, we know that it is the Lord is in control and it is He who is blessing BVBIU with funds, but our God often works through His people. We thank you so much for your love and kindness! It is easy for me to say that I believe in this work, since I worked there full-time for eight years and continue to have a lot of contact with BVBIU on a regular basis, but, even if I hadn't been associated with this work before, it seems that we can look from the outside and see how important it is.

As mentioned before, the Church in Ukraine is the strongest in all of Europe and the hope of reaching out with the Gospel again to the many countries that surround it, likely will be launched from Ukraine. The attack against Christianity in Europe actually be-

gan during the French Revolution, just after our own country began (1789-1799). That continued with teaching in German theological seminaries, which tore the Bible down in every way possible. Combined with a hypocritical religious system (that wasn't following the Bible), the result produced a continent of agnostic and atheistic people. Now, if we don't move to teach, the Muslims will (and are), since they amassing numbers, with the goal of taking over.

One of our graduate students recently contacted the Director of the BV Graduate program, Gary Fallis, about having classes in some of these countries. The idea would be to initially draw interest from the churches of Christ, few as they are, in these places. Our prayer would then be that the brethren would have opportunities to reach out to as many possible. Upon hearing the Truth of the Gospel, we would pray and that these would become New Testament Christians.

Again, we thank all of you who are contributing to this great work, either on a regular basis or to those who have given one-time. Everything counts and makes a difference! When we consider what God has done for us and how He makes our lives better, both physically, but more importantly spiritually (Eph. 1:3-14), we realize that there is nothing on this earth that should make us cling to the things of this world (Heb. 12:22-29). This is the tie that binds us around the world. It is not a physical one, but a



(Above) The second-year students with Denton Landon.
(Below) - Teaching Greek.



spiritual bond, and whether we personally know those who are serving or not, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. May God bless His Church everywhere, as we all serve Him, wherever that may be!

Love in Christ, Terry



Taras with the kids in Skyvra.