



Bear Valley Bible Institute - Ukraine (BVBIU)

January 2019

Greetings and Happy New Year! We begin another year with great hope and excitement, living for our Lord Jesus Christ. In particular, it is exciting to think about how much good work is taking place in Ukraine through the Bear Valley Bible Institute-Ukraine (BVBIU). The older I become (turned 54 yrs. this past November), the more I realize important matters in life. It has recently dawned on me how fortunate and blessed we are to work with such dedicated brethren at BVBIU. Dennis Sopelnik is the Director and has done such a great job for the past 8 1/2 years. He and I are good friends and our families also like to communicate from time to time. God has been kind to help Dennis find students each year. Dennis then works hard to establish a positive atmosphere at BVBIU, while maintaining sound doctrine in the Scriptures. The students receive excellent training, and if they so desire, they can re-

turn for Master's classes in order to further their education. The picture above shows three former students who attended Master's classes with one of the instructors, Jerry Bates. All three are currently preaching, with Dima and Bogdan working in Lviv and Yuri serving at a congregation in Kiev.

Many of the other former graduates are continuing to work hard in various places, but especially encouraging at the moment is the work of a current student. Taras Danilenko is active in the nearby town of Skyvra (also sometimes a couple of the female students help), reaching out to a group of kids, which has expanded in a great



way. All year in 2018, Taras worked with these children, teaching many classes and at the end of the year, they provided service to other less-fortunate families in town. Finally, these kids attended worship services on the following Sunday, which is a great step. These are becoming regulars to the happenings at the Church in Skyvra and we pray someday in the future, that they will become Christians. It is a great work and we give thanks to God!

Over the Winter Break, the other students at BVBIU continued to maintain contact with the congregations where they are from; Dniepr, Slavyansk, Kramatorsk, and Constantinovka - returning to see family and help with the growth of those congregations. Pointing out some other works of various graduates of BVBIU, we will focus on a dear brother and very hard worker, Vitaliy Rodichev.

Vitaly was a part of the very first graduating class of BVBIU in 2002 and has been preaching ever since. Vitaly is from the Kramatorsk congregation, but along with another brother, Vlad Pazyi, both travel to Constantivovka to preach at the congregation there and also to work at an orphan's home. Much good has come from this work over the years. At one point, there was a large group of younger people from this area and they were very active in both the Constantivovka and Kramatorsk congregations. Many of these younger people were young ladies, most who are married to other Christian young men around Ukraine. Vitaly and Vlad have worked with two men, Oleg and Sergei in Constantinovka, who left the Pentecostal church to follow the Bible correctly and both of these are now students of BVBIU and hope to return to preach there after they graduate. Vitaly is always working to see that the Church is growing in every place possible and also takes time to preach at other places when he can, like in the town of Leman, where my wife is from and her Mom has been a long-time Christian of the Lord's church (see picture below). Vitaly also is a teacher at BVBIU, which along with his Biblical knowledge, his practical

experience for the younger students is vital. Vitaly and his wife Lena (also seen in the prior picture in the back, right side) have three children, two sons and a daughter. Their oldest son, Sasha, also finished BVBIU a few years ago and is now preaching in Dniepr, while their daughter, Masha, is one of the current students at BVBIU (seen in picture at the top of this newsletter, seated second from the left). So, you can see that Vitaly and his family are vital parts to the Church in Ukraine. They have been so active for many years and continue to work continuously in various parts of Ukraine to this day, and don't look to slow down any time soon. The rest of this newsletter will contain pictures of some of the good things that are being done by these good brethren. Thank you so much for all of your support! Love in Christ, Terry

