

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Chris Moran from the Mars Hill congregation in Florence, Alabama and I have recently returned from our annual mission trip to Ukraine. You are receiving this letter because you have supported this work in recent years and I want to keep you updated on the work that is ongoing in Ukraine. Chris and I spent two weeks serving in four parts of Ukraine during our trip.

**Bear Valley Bible Institute In Bila Tserkva:** Chris and I both spent four days teaching in the Bible Institute. This institution focuses on training future workers in the Lord's Church. Chris taught a course on Judges and Ruth while I taught a course on Galatians. Chris had six students in his class, and I had four in my class.

**Church In Skvyra:** Skvyra is located about forty-five minutes away from Bila Tserkva. Each day Chris and I would end our classes at 2:00 and make the trip to Skvyra. We taught classes for a group of children and made personal visits to members while working in Skvyra. One of the students at the institute has begun a good work in Skvyra focusing on a group of children in the city. This ministry takes place on Saturday and Sunday. Chris and I were glad to have the opportunity to work with this ministry and I am excited for the future of this work. I also conducted the worship service for the church on Sunday morning.

**Church in Lviv:** After teaching for a week in Bila Tserkva, we made our way by train to the city of Lviv in Western Ukraine. We had the opportunity to have a Bible study in a government-sponsored young men's home, preach in a church service, and hold a special youth study for the young people connected with this congregation.

**Winter Retreat In The Carpathians:** For the second year in a row, we were able to plan and conduct a retreat for the churches in Western Ukraine. To my knowledge, this is the only such gathering in Western Ukraine. There were 63 people in attendance, including several non-Christians. Our prayer is that these non-Christians received a seed that will lead to faith in their lives. Chris and I conducted four lessons on the topic of the spiritual and physical families. Three of the men from the Lviv congregation led three group discussions each on the same topic. We also had several opportunities to gather to sing and fellowship. We hope to continue this retreat next year and our plan is to increase our number to 75.

As I look back on this trip, it is my great hope that we have accomplished good works. I want to offer my sincerest thanks to each and every person reading this letter for your continued interest and support in the work in Ukraine. I could not possibly do these trips without your support. I also want to pass on numerous expressions of gratitude from many of those who attended the Winter Retreat this year. Again, this particular work would not be possible if there were not good people who offer financial support for retreat and those who attend it. Thank you so much for partnering with Chris and I. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me directly at (931) 691-9898. May God bless each of you as you have truly been a blessing to me!

In Christ,

  
Walter Rayburn