



Bear Valley Bible Institute - Ukraine (BVBIU)

April 2019

Spring is here and we pray that you are all well! There are less than two months left to the school year at Bear Valley Bible Institute - Ukraine (BVBIU). Graduation is scheduled to take place on May 25th and this year marks exactly five years since those who annexed the eastern part of Ukraine, took over the BVBIU building in Gorlovka. It was the day after graduation in 2014, that 25 separatists stormed the building with machine guns during the middle of church services, and forced everyone out. BVBIU has since then moved to western Ukraine for one year, and for the past four years, been located in central Ukraine. This has been the best place for several reasons; 1) It is easy access for all the students, since it is exactly in the middle of Ukraine. 2) BVBIU is located where a congregation of the Lord's church already exists, and this has boosted that congregation in a great way. 3) The town of Bila Tserkva is located less than an hour from Kiev and the international airport is there. It makes access for American brethren pretty easy to get in and out

of I still continue to have internet classes with the students once a week and those are going well. Various Americans travel about each month to teach. Recently Denton Landon (pictured above) was again at BVBIU. Denton is a faithful brother who teaches at least two times a year, plus he travels to many other Bear Valley extension schools around the world. Prior to Denton, Mike Underwood and his wife visited, and currently, Brother LT Gurganus is teaching at BVBIU. Combined with the Ukrainian instructors, there is great balance. The Director, Dennis Sopolnik, reported recently that, "Last month our first year students had 1 & 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles

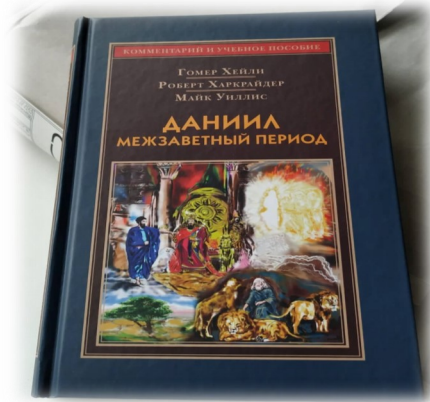


Brother LT Gurganus

Ukraine. (taught by Vitaly Rodichev), Minor Prophets (Andrew Zhuravlev) and started the book of Isaiah (Denton Landon) while the second year students had Prison Epistles (Michael Underwood) and Hebrews (Dennis Sopolnik)."

Additionally, we had another great event, which was the printing of the Book of Daniel. Brother Jim Mettenbrink has once again seen that the Church is being given tools to grow. Dennis reported about this, "Last month we printed the "The Commentary on the Book of Daniel and Intertestamental Period" (1,000 copies). After receiving them from the printers we shipped them to the congregations upon their request. The only expense that the local congregations have is to cover the shipping cost. I received a lot of thank you messages from Ukrainian brethren who got the book. They appreciate this ministry and rejoice that they received such a welcomed addition of a quality book. We thank God and our brethren who support this ministry with their sacrificial donations." Picture below

is what a copy of the Daniel commentary (by Homer Hailey) looks like.



Much progress continues to take place among the current students at BVBIU and among those who have graduated in previous years. The current students are not only studying, but every quarter also practice evangelizing in various places throughout Ukraine. It is common for them to simply place a foldable table on the street and hand out literature and other materials to interested persons who pass by. This gives them a chance to talk to these people and invite them to worship services and/or to study the Bible. Here are some of them



working on the street.

In regard to some of the other students who have graduated, a few of these are about to receive their Master's degrees through Bear Valley on Graduation Day, May 25th. This is

exciting because, not only will they have a more well-rounded Biblical education, but it helps BVBIU to accomplish the goals that we set out to reach from the initial stages of its founding in 1997. To be specific, it has always been the goal of BVBIU to train Ukrainians and have them primarily teach their own people. In order to accomplish this however, an instructor must have a Master's degree. One of these, Bogdan Chigvintsev, will begin teaching Greek classes this fall. Greek was a subject that I instructed for the past sixteen years, and although I enjoyed it thoroughly, I am so happy that this dear brother is willing and capable of taking on this role. This is what we have working towards for the past two decades. Greek can be challenging, and teaching another language can be difficult, but I believe Bogdan will do a great job in this manner!



Bogdan has shown much growth in his young years in the Gospel. When I first met him, he was a very quiet young

man. Since graduating from BVBIU, he joined a group of brothers and their wives, and together they have planted a congregation of the Lord's Church in Lviv, which is in the far western region of Ukraine, close to Poland. Besides working with this team and accomplishing the great feat of finishing his Master's degree, Bogdan also has gotten married and now has a little baby. All of the growth and maturing that has occurred with Bogdan has been wonderful! He is very kind, has a passion for people to know the Gospel, and works hard to help others in the Body. Everyone I know thinks the best of Bogdan. So, thanks to the Lord, BVBIU is advancing even further in growing to where we hoped it

would.

In some other news, we are grateful for the return of one of the students, Sergey Omelchenko, who had been in the hospital for the past four months. We thank God that Sergey was able to heal and come back to be with the students. Today in our online class, Sergey was so glad to be back that he read all the Scriptures that I asked, where as normally, several different ones will take turns. Finally, Dennis asks prayers for the elections of a new President for Ukraine. It is always a serious moment in any country, but we pray for the continued freedom to preach and spread the Gospel in Ukraine. God bless to you all!



Bogdan & wife with the Lviv team



Yuri, Dima, and Bogdan, Lord willing, will receive their Graduate degrees on May 25th.