



Bear Valley Bible Institute - Ukraine (BVBIU)

May 2020

Greetings everyone,

Well, here we are a couple of months into COVID-19 and the world has completely changed. We pray this will be a wake-up call to all, but in the meantime, as was said by the Director of the BV Extension Schools, Keith Kesarjian, *“this virus situation shows us that training locals in their own homelands is the right approach.”* The meaning of this is that there are always going to be hindrances to preaching the Gospel, but if the local brethren are trained in their own countries, they can continue to carry on the work. While it is encouraging to them for Americans to come and help out, we cannot always be there full-time. We are thankful to God that the Bear Valley extension institutes are located in many countries (and continents), and continue to grow for His glory.

Regarding BVBIU, Director Dennis Sopelnik wrote the following; *“Beginning March 12th, due to the rapid spread of the corona virus in Europe, our authorities enforced some radical measures that limited some basic human rights. First, the freedom of movement. All borders are closed for all kinds of transportation, except automotive. Thus, buses and local trains between cities are banned. Municipal buses have limits on the number of passengers. Secondly, the freedom of assembly. Any political or cultural events with more than 10 attendees is banned. Thirdly, the freedom of religion is limited. No more than 10 people at a time are allowed to be in the church building. Fourthly, the freedom of entrepreneurship. Only grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations are allowed to continue business....”*

The students of the Bible Institute are currently at home. They had returned home just before the travel limitations were enforced by the government. The studies continue on-line, via social media chats, such as Messenger, Skype or Zoom. Since all people are staying home, the speed of Internet connection gets slow and we have to choose which one works the best. So far we manage to teach the students and give them the load of everyday work. This way I currently teach Corinthians to the second year students, and Vitaly Rodichev teaches Jeremiah and Lamentations to the first year ones.” [The pictures above show the students meeting online with Dennis]. It is good news that the students at BVBIU are able to continue their studies and I (Terry) am grateful to be able to continue to have classes on Wednesdays with them as well. (Looking back on it, I have taught various classes at BVBIU for the past ten years on the internet!)

Finally, we end with some positive news. Vitaly Rodichev not only teaches at BVBIU (see above), but is a hard-working preacher. After the lockdown in Ukraine, many elderly members of the Church, especially women, were not able to get out to purchase food for themselves and were going hungry. As a result, they contacted Vitaly and he and another BVBIU graduate, Oleg, are now bringing them food and much needed encouragement. An elderly woman at the store who had no family and little money was also helped, and Lord willing, a Bible study will be set up later with her. [See pictures are on next page].

Thank you for your continued support and may God bless you all! Terry

