

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's the middle of February and it seems that Ukraine is the hottest topic in the world or so the television makes us believe daily. We are expecting the Russian military intervention from day to day. It's a very stressful atmosphere. Our government tries to encourage us not to panic and promises that the Ukrainian military is able to fight back. The military activities have already commenced along the borders with the self-proclaimed republics. And in spite of the Minsk peaceful agreements some larger military machinery is being used. I ask you to pray for peace in Ukraine and in the whole Europe. We have got a very aggressive northern neighbor and I'm sure that some people inside Russia are also suffering from the Kremlin aggressive politics.



Everything works according to the schedule in our Bible Institute. Our Instructors arrive on time and teach without consideration of the surrounding events. In January they taught 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles (Viktor Semikoz) and 1 and 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles (Valentin Tsiopa). The students are loaded with assignments to take home. We try and give them the academic knowledge at a level of any other faculty of an Institute.

Our students were able to attend three days' retreat in the Carpathian Mountains. It was an excellent place of encouragement, relaxation, fellowship with friends and our Bible Institute's presentation. The retreat was established 5 years ago for the spiritual growth of the congregations from the Western Ukraine and it was an annual event with 50-60 people in attendance. However, this year we reached a record of more than 100 people who were able to enjoy the time together. We are very grateful to the brethren from Lviv congregation as well as the American churches who could financially contribute to this event. The likewise event took place in Svyatogorsk (in the Eastern Ukraine) and reportedly encouraged a lot of Christians there.

Inside our Institute and churches building we have to save on heating bills. This winter the energy bills grew up a few times. Of course, we don't need to endure some subzero temperatures but any extra layers of clothing are very welcomed. For our students we got some special warm clothes with our brand name, it helps them stay warm while providing some additional advertisement of the Bible Institute.





We send you our love from Ukraine and ask for your fervent prayers for us and peace in our country. The students are very grateful for the opportunities to study the word of God full time not being distracted by the need of some extra jobs.

We all send our greetings to you and our love. Your brother in Christ,

Dennis Sopelnik