

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today Ukraine is living the most difficult period in its new history - the war for independence, democracy and peace. We are being bombed and killed two months in a row, hundreds of people lost their homes, jobs and food. Water is in shortage again, in 21st century! However, we stay strong and fight back. We are ready to fight for the peaceful skies as long as we have any strength left in us. It's extremely difficult to find the right words to describe the atrocities that the Russian soldiers committed in Ukrainian cities and villages. They kill, rape and rob innocent people. We beg God every day to stop this madness and everyday the willingness to resist the enemy increases in Ukrainian people. Could it be God's way to glorify Jesus and His Church? During the last month and a half, a lot of us joined volunteers of different kinds and many congregations in Ukraine actively help the needy.

We try to serve everyone who has problems and tribulations. During the time period we evacuated over 1,000 people from different parts of the country that were under strikes, we distributed pounds of food among the people who hadn't have anything to eat hiding from missiles' landing in their cities. I don't even count the medications and personal hygiene items. Many times I caught myself pondering on why it was happening, but every time after these thought I realized that everything is in God's hands. So many people having received the help from the church were so surprised and thankful. They didn't expect anybody helping them out in love and genuine care. In moments like these you understand how crucially important it was to stand in the Truth and be the messenger of Christ. I know that some congregations opened their church buildings to the refugees. People were helped out, had the Bible studies and eventually were baptized. As of now, we are working on converting our church building in Bela Tserkva into something similar. We are making all the necessary preparations.

The Bear Valley Bible Institute in Ukraine resumed the studies.

We had managed to organize our students' relocation to the city of Chernivtsy and the classes resumed. Currently we have only 4 students and some other people are attending classes as well.



Dennis Sirotenko is in the active military service. Some of our Instructors are also drafted and serve in the military carrying out their citizens' duty.

Last week students had The Wisdom Literature (Instructor Viktor Semikoz). In my calculations this school year is to end in the middle of June. We had a lot of interruptions as well as Instructors substitutions forced by the war.



I received many messages with the words of encouragement. People also help us financially, sometimes even strangers. I am grateful for every penny, every cent that you sacrificed for Ukraine. There's too much pain, destruction and suffering. Unbelievable amount of grief. We try so very hard to help those who are in extreme need. And we're looking at many years of rebuilding our country and our economy. It will take a lot of efforts and a lot of resources.

I ask you to keep praying for Ukraine and peace in our country. I am very grateful for the church and for each of you.

Your brother,

Dennis Sopelnik,

Director of the Bear Valley Bible Institute - Ukraine.