

Dear brethren, families and churches,
I'm very happy to share with you the last month events from life at Bear Valley Bible Institute and the Church of Christ at Bela Tserkva.

In **August** we had a baptism, a wonderful VBS and the beginning of the new school year.

So, on the **4th of September we started 2017 studies**. This year we've enrolled 9 new students. They represent different parts of Ukraine. During the last year I kept in touch with them all, some of them I visited personally, some of them I called and some of them I Skyped. As a result they've committed to study the Word of God for two years and devote their lives to the preaching of the Gospel. We also have 11 students in the second year of studies. **So totally we've got 20 students in the program this year.**

It's a big number for us, not every year we have the opportunities to teach this many. I remember years when we had had only 3 students and we were considering the closure of the program but we kept trusting God and now see the results. Thanks to the cooperation of our Institute instructors and our graduates we are still training preachers, helping with establishing new congregations, evangelizing and baptizing people, teaching children and conducting VBS. And I'm very thankful to God for all the opportunities to carry out the Great Commission.

In August we had VBS that lasted for a week. It was a great time with the children. We had classes, did crafts, praised the Lord in songs and prayers. We hope that these activities will help children to come to church gladly. Many of them have unbelieving parents who display negative attitude towards the Church.

In the middle of last month, we had a recreational trip for our brethren. We invited everyone who wanted to join us. We were camping in tents, sleeping bags, took a lot of food and





necessary products for "open nature" camping. While we were out there one of the night Vitaly whose wife is our student and who has been coming to church for a while said unexpectedly, **"Here's water. What hinders me to be baptized?"** We had Bible studies with him before, he had asked a lot of questions, we would answer them but recently we tried not to be too pushy. So, that night he was baptized for the remission of his sins. It was a very memorable night. Thus, the church of Christ in Bela Tserkva gained one more brother. The school year is now on. Stanislav Kuropyatnikov is teaching "Homiletics I" to the first year students

and Denton Landon is teaching "Ezra, Neemiah and Esther" to the second year ones. We are looking forward to safe arrival of Jim Sherman. The schedule is worked out for the whole year. We just have to finalize a few dates because our Instructors are also full-time Ministers in their local congregations. We are very appreciative of all of them, of their dedication to train new preachers. We understand they have to leave behind their families, their comfort zones to come and teach here. Please mention them in your prayers.

Thank you very much for your support. Without it we would not see so much fruit. We are still in need of your prayers. If you have questions or would like to financially help the work of the Bible Institute, our students and their families, please contact me or Bear Valley Ukrainian branch coordinator Terry Harmon - harmon99.th@gmail.com

Your brother and co-worker,
Dennis Sopelnik.