



DESNA & GONCHAROVSK, UKRAINE 2nd Quarter 2010 Report

April 2010

Greetings, brothers and sisters, from the church in Desna. This month we had the joy of celebrating Easter! He is alive, praise Him; He has risen! It's time to remind ourselves and many people in our country about His death on the Cross and the victory and hope. You can freely say to all the people around you: "Christ is risen!" And they answer, "He is Risen Indeed!" At the service dedicated to Easter, children participated in Sunday school, and adults, telling poems and testimonies. It was also happy to introduce a [newly engaged] young couple (Yura and Yanna), and to pray for their future life together for the glory of God.

Also, we got to welcome brothers and sisters from Australia, who came from so far away, to help us in building this church. The team spent all their time at the construction site, performing work that is not the most interesting kind, but doing it with love and dedication. For our church, they served as a great encouragement and help.

In our church there is a small ministry to adolescents who attend church and want to grow spiritually. This small group gets together every week, spends time together, studying the first steps of the Christian life by God's Word. We try to involve the youth in all ecclesiastical matters and communications, because for them it is so important to see examples of believers, though not their parents.

Our Sunday school also has an addition. Up to 25 children attend regularly. We pray, and ask you to pray, that they will repent of their sins and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of their souls. Kids have a lot to know, and many parents say that they are better behaved when attend Sunday school, but, nevertheless, the most important question remains the matter of their souls, their choice.

The visits of brother Igor Balashov (from the church "Temple of Salvation" in Kiev) has become a special ministry for us. This brother (a former soldier) took courses on the preparation and conduct of extracurricular activities, lessons for high school students, and offered to conduct these classes at a local school and high school (there are about 10-12 higher classes). These lessons are designed by believers as prophylaxis to prevent acute issues related to adolescents. This includes AIDS, abortion, suicide, alcohol, drugs and many other topics. The Lord graciously opened the door to the schools and high school. The students are interested and even the teachers come and listen to the lessons conducted by brother Igor. We hope that this ministry will bear fruit.

May 2010

Last month our church had a good opportunity for ministry (using our building, location, resources) in a joint project with the Youth Christian center of the city of Chernigov. This project was conceived as a way to evangelize unbelieving youth and adolescents, as well as a way of inviting people to Bible study groups (Chernigov), and in the local Desna church. About 55 people from different places participated in I, about half being lost guys from Chernigov, Goncharovsk and Desna. About 15 faithful people came from the church "Temple of Salvation" (Kiev), as well as our team.



We had planned to spend all day together outdoors near the church building, dividing into teams and playing various sports, picnicking, and having a meeting with the preaching of the Word of God and praise. For the lost boys, this day broke down the barriers against believers and helped them to see that a lot of good faithful guys can spend time without the aid of alcohol and other entertainment facilities. The faithful youth showed by their personal example the face of the today's church, representatives of Christ. All the young unbelievers heard the Gospel and had the opportunity to pray and reflect on his life, about the most important choice. Nobody wanted to disperse. The time flew so quickly, even the rain, coming several times throughout the day, was not a hindrance for games and socializing. Almost all the guys said about that this time that we should do it again, and we agreed with them, because we always want to do the work of God, done for His glory.

June 2010

With great joy we want to write you about events that took place this month. You will recall that a year ago, we conducted a children's camp near the church, and not as many children as we hoped attended. This year many of our leadership team (before the start of camp) said that holding a camp near the church is not the right place, because many parents would not let their children go so far. But God gave wisdom to work toward the future, and we understand that we must teach people in Desna toward the church, as well to develop in the children during camp a desire to go to Sunday school. Also, the camp is good publicity for all the people in Desna, because a lot of people learn about the existence of the church through the camp.

This year, brothers and sisters from Maranatha Baptist Bible College helped us in conducting the camp. With their help, we gave away 200 invitations to children's camp. In Desna, children are very fond of Americans, and with great pleasure they came for the invitation, when they learned that Americans were handing out balloons with ice cream. With the help of our guests, we distributed all the invitations. And we prayerfully awaited the next day. We all prayed that God would bless this camp. Kids started coming long before the camp; parents brought their children. On that day in camp we had 79 children ranging from age three and up to twelve years. We had to make two groups, one for small kids and one for the bigger ones. Children help so much in preaching the Gospel, and after the camp we met a lot of people. When we walk down the street, children would call out "Hello." I heard one mother say, "How do you know that man?" The answer: "That man played with us in camp."

At camp the children learn a lot about God, learn verses from the Bible. We give them a verse from the Bible every day, they must learn it and say it the next day. I encountered one child with her mom. The mother said: "I came home from work and my daughter was memorizing something. I asked, 'What are you learning,' and she says: 'We are learning a verse from the Bible.' I said, 'Let me read it too,' and my daughter and I read verses from the Bible.

In another incident, a child went to her mother and said, "Check me to see if I learned this verse right." "What kind of verse?" "They gave it to us to learn in the camp," "Okay, let's read it." In this camp we called the children to pray and to repent, and of them 58 children agreed to pray.

Pray with us:

- 1) For the Children's ministry,
- 2) For the Sunday school,
- 3) For the Sunday school teachers
- 4) For the teen ministry
- 5) For service in the school
- 6) For the youth that young people would join the church.
- 7) For the next camp.
- 8) For the spiritual growth of the church.

