



The Bilyaks Second Quarter Report, 2016

April

Peace to you, dear friends, brothers and sisters in the Lord.

It is a privilege for us to share with you the blessings from our joint ministry. Usually in my letters I write about something that has already happened. In this letter I want to write about our situation and our plans. One time a sister in the faith came to stay with us as a guest. We visited a number of our ministries, looked at photographs.

After a visit to the Rehabilitation Center, she asked, “How do you manage all of this?”

I replied, “I don’t manage it all!” Since that time, nothing has changed. Before, I simply did not keep up. Now, though, I run behind in a catastrophic way. My thanks go to the brethren at the mission office, who remind me whenever it’s time for my next letter.

It is specifically due to my lack of time to accomplish everything that the idea came to me of sharing with you our plans for the upcoming months, and especially for the summer. Please pray for these outreaches that we are planning.

In addition to the special plans, there are daily responsibilities. As you know, we are involved in repairing our building, which God has provided as a church. We are continuing the restoration of the Rehabilitation Center after the fire, and continuing that ministry. Using the abilities of the church, the following ministries are being performed:

- Two children’s groups.
- The teen group.
- Youth meetings on Saturdays.
- Wednesday Bible Study group
- Ministry in the Rehabilitation Center.
- Leader training every other Tuesday

Special events.

The next upcoming events are planned for May 15. A special church day – baptism. If God preserves our plans without any changes, three young sisters in the faith will be baptized. I hope to share details about how all of this goes in my May letter to you. Please pray for Oksana, Ira, and Olya. For two of them, this was not a simple decision. Olya and Ira have problems at home due to their decisions to serve the Lord. Their families are very religious and consider our church to be a cult. The girls have gone through training, the course “Foundations of the Faith,” and the church has fellowshiped with them, and there is no reason they cannot be baptized.

July 25-30 – Extreme youth camp in the Carpathian Mountains for 50 people. First of all, we want to take teens and young adults from our own ministries. The goal of the camp is evangelism for teens and youth. The camp should be held in the Carpathian Mountains, where we will live in tents. One of the main extreme activities will be white water rafting in the mountains... Pray for the team, for unity among the team leaders, so that the leaders will be spiritually prepared to lead the youth in the power of the Holy Spirit.

August 1-6 – The “Choose Life” project. This is a special project that will be conducted in the district of our church. This is in three parts. In the morning there will be a meeting with the Children’s Day Camp. In the afternoons, a social project (cleaning up the park, helping poor people, etc.), and in the evenings we plan to have youth meetings. Young people from various churches in Ukraine will be helping us with this.

August 16-21 – Family-children camp in the Carpathian Mountains. This year we have no possibility of putting on a good, large children’s camp. But God placed it on our hearts to invite to camp both children and their families. We pray for opportunities to get acquainted not only with children, but also with their families. We hope to have 100 people in the camp along with their children. We hope to have the parents pay for their own way, and we will pay for the children who have attended our meetings. We’re a bit nervous because we have never held such a combined family-children’s camp.

We know full well that the results depend more on God; therefore we are in need of your prayers:

“The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord” (Proverbs 21:31).

With best wishes and hopes of your prayerful support, your brother and coworker in our mutual labor of evangelism,
Vitaly Bilyak

May/June

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters, coworkers with God!

In my last letter I wrote a little about our plans. Thank you for praying for us in our joint ministry. In this letter I’d like to share blessings from things that have already happened.

I heard somewhere that various kinds of cars are extremely expensive because they are assembled by hand. Not on an assembly line, but each automobile is made by hand and is an individual, handcrafted. Whenever we do a baptism in our church, I think of this. It seems, just like with expensive cars, that each person who comes for baptism is very valuable because each one is the result of individual work. It doesn’t work for us to bring people for baptism in assembly-line fashion. Whether this is good or bad, I don’t know. If we speak in respect of quantity, it’s probably bad that we don’t manage to baptize more people. If we speak of individuality of the work, then it’s probably good.

When we began lessons for people about baptism, four or five people started to attend. By the time the course ended, three remained. As I wrote in a previous letter, two of those three sisters faced big opposition at home due to their decisions to be baptized. Unfortunately, due to

the non-Christian conduct of one sister in her conduct toward her parents, we decided to wait a little before baptizing her. On May 15 we baptized Olya and Oksana.

As we always do, the baptism was held in a rented pool. Afterward, the holiday continued back at the church. It was their first time to participate in communion. After that festive service, we presented our baptized sisters with flowers and pictures with Bible texts on them. One moment has lodged in my memory. Our dear sister Olya asked permission to leave her gift picture in the church for a while: "My family is very angry at me over my baptism. I don't want my gift from the church to provoke them." But she gave her bouquet of flowers to another sister.

Please pray for our friends who tread the path of opposition from their relatives. Nonetheless, God continues His work in the lives of many people. Several other people have expressed their wish to be baptized in the near future. These are several men from the Rehabilitation Center and several sisters. Please pray for them.

Thank you, friends, for your support of our ministry!
With best wishes to you for peace and good,
Your brother,
Vitaly Bilyak