



**The Bilyaks  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report 2016**

**October**

Greetings, dear friends, coworkers in God's ministry. I'm very glad to write to you concerning the blessings that we experienced in October.

One special event in October was the Harvest holiday. In general, I don't particularly enjoy holidays. Holidays change normal life to something unusual. They create more work, and there are constant questions that demand answers. If everything depended on me, I would do away with 80% of holidays. Probably happily for everyone, this isn't mine to decide. In the Bible there is constant mention of holidays. One of the important holidays of the Old Testament is the Harvest holiday. God wanted people to stop and think about Him.

However, we had been working hard on repairing the church building. And at the Rehabilitation Center we had been working hard repairing and improving the buildings after the fire. We needed a break—the Harvest holiday. This would be so that we could see God's hand on us in the past year, to encourage us to thank God for all of His blessings.

What then? If we have our own building, we decided, then we should hold a special service for the church and do evangelism at the same time. In order to make the service bigger and more exciting, we invited a number of friends from the Bethany church in Dubno, which is the church that blessed me for ministry. The women from our church decided to make special decorations to create a holiday atmosphere in the auditorium. And everything was to lead up to a nice dinner. Many women prepared various dishes at home and brought them to the church, and some dishes were prepared right in the church.

But where to eat? We had planned to hold the holiday celebration in the smaller hall, and at that time repairs were still going on in the main auditorium. Timber was standing around, dust... We looked around and decided we could clean up a portion of the large hall. We got some sheets of plastic to confine the construction chaos in the other portion of that hall. Thus, there appeared a place where we could set up tables.

We did all of these preparations and worried about whether any people would come. We prayed.

But people began to arrive. We had seats for 85 people. For a typical worship service we have seating for 50. Toward the beginning of the service, so many people had come that all the seats were taken. Some people ended up standing in order to let guests sit down. We are especially thankful to God for new people, for new families, with whom the church could get acquainted. After the service nearly everyone stayed for the holiday meal, which was marvelous.

We are thankful to God that He uses you and us in His labor. In that service we had over 20 unbelievers who heard the Word of God. For the church, this was a special time when the church could feel itself as a big family. When they prepared food,

decorated the building, and did clean up, they were one big team. We considered how, in the past, the church could not hold similar celebrations due to the fact that for all these years we had rented meeting places only for services. Please pray that we will be able to reach the people of the district where our church is, so that we can be witnesses of Jesus Christ and can bring them to Christ!

## November

Hello, dear brothers and sisters!

I understand how special it is to have fellowship through letters. I am acquainted with some of you because you traveled here on trips with the BIEM mission. Many of you I have not met personally, but I am very grateful to you for being with us. We here sense your presence through your prayers and through support in various projects.

In this letter I would like to ask you to pray for our family. Sometimes we grow tired. The church is young and small; therefore we end up doing many things ourselves. Please pray for physical and spiritual strength.

My wife Katya also helps a lot in ministry. She leads the children's group. Several sisters from the church help her. During the week they meet to organize, and during the worship service she takes the children for a children's service. So it turns out that she doesn't hear the majority of my sermons. It's good that she can hear these sermons on YouTube.

All of our children attend school. All of them do very well. Of course, Mom helps in this. Katya constantly helps them with lessons. Karina is already almost 14. She is very active in church. She helps in both children's groups of the Sunday school. This year she has begun to attend the teenage gatherings.

David (11) and Mark (7) are very interesting boys. From a young age our children have been with us in church. Some we took to worship services at the young age of several weeks. Sometimes people said to us that we are not normal parents. But it was necessary to conduct the ministry, so this is what we did. Today we need your prayers for our family. Our children are growing up, and we greatly desire for them to decide to follow the Lord.

Summer is an especially active time. Camps, projects... This summer we had no opportunity to go anywhere to rest. We sort of comforted ourselves by saying that in the autumn we would get away somewhere. But when we learned the prices of vacationing in the south, we understood that for the time being we must hold off from such plans. Since we truly needed some rest, I decided to organize our own tour of cities where we had not been before. This turned into a 3-day trip in November, during the kids' fall break from school. We began in the old city of Kamenets-Podolsky, where we saw the castle of the old city of Khotin. In the evening we strolled around Chernovtsy, where we spent the night in a hotel. It was the first time our kids had been inside a hotel. There were many emotions. On the second day we strolled around. Toward evening we drove to Lvov. Although we'd already been in Lvov before, there is always something to see there. It's an interesting big old city. After walking around Lvov, in the evening we returned home because on the next day there were many plans for the ministry.

We are grateful to God for those three special days of relaxation because after that many events happened. Guests came. We organized a wedding dinner (a woman from the church got married), the repairs continued on the church building, we

organized repairs on the Rehabilitation Center, I preached, we continued with the lessons for the youth, had discipleship discussions, prayers for the sick...

I believe that if it weren't for the support of my family, there would be no missionary/minister Vitaly Bilyak.

## December

Hello dear coworkers in the Lord,

I somehow ended up reflecting on the term "coworkers." If we speak of ministry to God, then many people are associated with ministry as volunteers, when ministry happens in people's free time when they're not involved in their main line of work. We see the same thing here. There are dedicated people, people for whom God and ministry for Him are priorities. These are people we can confidently call coworkers.

But enough of volunteering, when human presence is dependent on mood, time availability, adequacy of finances, and many other factors. We are very pleased that the mission has chosen as its motto the words of Apostle Paul, that we are God's workers. We see it in your devotion to the cause of the Gospel. Many of you have lived very modestly, but at the same time support the Gospel ministry we have here. If not for your collaboration, there would not be a ministry here.

I'd like to share a little about events that took place in December. We have such a joke, "Winter unexpectedly arrived in December." Considering how poorly they clear snow from the roads here, it seems our authorities truly are caught by surprise. 😊

There was one service that we canceled due to the snow. For two days so much snow fell that everything halted. Unfortunately, for one Sunday the church was closed. Several days passed, but no one who had a key to the building could get there. For two days we had no power in our home and the road remained unplowed; many people had no water. God reminded us that we are little people who are in need of His care. When the electricity came back on and the roads were cleared again, we understood that a person doesn't really need all that much to be happy as it seems when everything is going well.

Despite the complications of winter life, December brought many blessings. There is one young lady named Kristina. She is a native of Ternopil, but for a long while she has lived in Kyiv. She is a cast member of the Christian puppet theater named "The Pathway." For several years now she has come to our church with this puppet group, and we have held evangelistic services for kids. This year was no exception, but at the same time it was special. In past years we rented meeting places for these services. This year we decided to utilize our almost-ready auditorium for the services. This was a "crash test," so to speak. I should say that the chairs provided seating for about 150 children, and for almost that same number of parents. In order to accomplish this, we had to hold two sessions. At these presentations the children heard the Christmas tidings. In addition, each child received sweets, Christian children's books, and an invitation to our children's church.

Another reason these meetings were special is because some 60% of the children came from the same district where our church is located. We gave out half the tickets to this evening through the school. And they, in turn, distributed the tickets to children from families in difficult straits. We are happy that the parents came with the children. They observed us closely, but we are very happy, because they have crossed over the threshold of the church. For the people of our area, this was quite an event. They are afraid that we are a cult, and there have been many other "horror stories."

Therefore, we are pleased, and in this we are already seeing success. Another portion of the tickets handed out by the children of our children's club and our church members.

My dear friends, please pray that the Lord will lead new people to the church. Pray that the Lord will lead “normal families” to us. Our church already has a number of broken homes or families with problems. Unfortunately, it’s hard to find deacons or preachers from such homes...

With best wishes,  
Your brother and coworker,  
Vitaly Bilyak

