



The Fomichovs

## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report 2016

October

Dear friends!

For us, and we are sure for you as well, there is no greater joy than when people depart from the works of darkness and turn to God and step upon the bright and shining pathway.

That is what happened several months ago, when one couple turned to God. They had lived in darkness and didn't know God. They were servants to sin. But God had mercy on them and stretched out His hand to help; He saved them, and freed them from darkness. They came to God, beaten and lost, and not knowing where to turn. God showed them that genuine life is only in Him.



They began to follow Him, and, trusting their lives to God, He began to restore them, and also to show how they should live. I want to recount how God

is nurturing Lena and Leva, and how God is working in their lives. When Lena and Leva turned to God, they were in bondage to alcohol and narcotics. They had already turned for help to psychiatrists and doctors and tried many things, but all the same they would go backward to their old way of life. But when they turned to God, everything began improving for the better. God freed them of their dependence on alcohol and narcotics. Leva had had problems at work due to his drinking, and they had threatened to kick him out. But after he came to God, the boss gave him one more chance. Lena had no job, and she began to pray for one. God answered her prayer. Lena worried about how her relatives would react to their going to church, and it was a relief that her family supported her in this even though they themselves are not believers.



Their son had an attack of asthma, and the church prayed, and he got better. They testified of this miracle by God. Another testimony for the church is that they are growing spiritually. Before coming to church, they lived as husband

and wife but weren't officially married. They approached me and declared they wanted to put everything in life in proper order and wanted to legalize their relationship. Furthermore, they wished to ask the church to pray a prayer of blessing on their family. They wished to invite their loved ones, so they could be in a church for the first time. So, this Sunday we prayed for God's blessing on this family, and their non-believing parents attended, along with an aunt and four nephews. It was their first time at a church service. Before the prayer of blessing on them, Lena testified to the church and her relatives that God had saved them. This was an amazing event, how God changes people and grows them.

After the service we had a celebration meal, where we could rejoice and get better acquainted with Lena's relatives.

Please pray:

- 1) For Lena and Leva, that God will spiritually grow them.
- 2) For Lena's relatives to come to God.

## **November**

### *Fire*

I don't even know how to begin this letter because in my heart there is pain, but also joy. I will try to convey to you all the feelings that overflow from my heart.

Several weeks ago, brother Oleg and I drove to Kyiv on business. We had barely reached Kyiv when I got a phone call: "Igor, the church is on fire."

I was in shock. I didn't know what to do. We quickly prayed, and I said to call the fire department.

"The fire department is already here. They've begun to put out the fire."

For me this was a big shock. I said, "We're turning around and coming back." So we canceled all our meetings and headed back to Desna. The whole time I was on the phone with Vova, the brother who had phoned from the church. The firemen extinguished the flames very quickly and professionally. For the whole church this was a trial, but we have also seen God's hand at work in this. God was involved, for this happened on a sunny day, and there were soldiers sitting on a bench at the nearby military baths. They were the first ones who spotted the fire, and they quickly ran to sound the alarm. Vova was just coming around the corner when the soldiers yelled that the roof was on fire. Vova grabbed a fire extinguisher and ran upstairs to put out the fire, but the flames were spreading quickly. Next the firemen showed up, and they managed to extinguish the blaze quite professionally. About 60 - 80 square meters of the roof burned, but we can say it was God's mercy that no more burned.

I'm afraid even to think what would have happened if this had occurred at night, or early in the morning. The situation very easily could have ended much worse. Therefore, we give thanks to God for preserving the church from horrible possibilities. And we are thankful to the professional firefighters. It turns out this was started by the chimney, which had not been professionally installed. The people who put it in were not professionals and have declined responsibility. But despite all that has happened,

God is very good to us. Our whole church is thankful to God.

## December

Our dear prayer supporters, we express our gratitude to you for praying for our evangelism in Desna. Please don't stop remembering us in your prayers. We have had many things happen this month. I would like to tell you about this with great joy.

This past Sunday our church received visitors—the choir from the church in Obolon district of Kyiv. And along with them came brother Sergei Debelinsky. And it wasn't so simple getting them all to Desna. Nowadays it's not so simple. You need a special pass in order to enter the town, and we put much effort into getting those. But despite our great desire to receive these guests, the authorities didn't want to grant permission for them to come to Desna, and everyone began to pray. And God showed His hand and His presence. The man in charge agreed to allow them under his responsibility, but this was a big surprise for us. This choir's singing [and brother Debelinsky's preaching] were great encouragements for the church. Some people who had been vacillating shared their impressions after the service and said that God had touched their hearts that day.

### Chicks leave the nest.

In our church there is a sister named Natasha who has been a part of the church since its very inception. She came to the Bible group back when there still was no church in Desna. Then she got involved in all the church's projects. She was baptized and got involved in the Sunday school ministry, and also in a ministry to handicapped people. About a month ago, she asked to talk with me. She told me about her desire to get married. She requested advice but also blessing, as she wanted to announce their engagement to the whole church. We talked a long while, and I understood that this decision of hers was thoroughly thought out, and that she had prayed much about it. So, after several discussions about it, we set a date to announce Natasha and Sasha's engagement to the church. Natasha's desire was for this to be a surprise for the church, and that is how it turned out. The church was pleasantly surprised, and very glad, that God had blessed Natasha with a partner for life. But I am a little sad that an active member of our church will be leaving us.



### God increases our chapels.

Several years ago, we held a camp in the village of Smolin. It worked out that neither the school principal nor the mayor were opposed, and they permitted us to hold the camp on the school

property. However, after the camp one teacher became a thorn in the flesh for us as she wrote up complaints and gave them to the mayor, and also to the person in charge of the village club, to make sure we didn't get permission to gather there. The mayor forbade us from further work with children and asked us not to return. But we never stopped praying for the village of Smolin. And there developed in us a desire to acquire a house in which we could hold services, and where no one could forbid us. But for a long while, due to various reasons, it didn't work out for us to get a house there. But now that long-awaited event has happened; God has answered our prayers. We bought a house and the land, and this is a great success. Now we need to clean the house and begin services in Smolin. The Petrenko family needs prayer, since they will lead the work in Smolin and will involve the brothers and sisters of Goncharovsk in that ministry. But believers in Chernigiv and Desna will also help.

### **I was able to witness.**

On Sunday morning before church I got a phone call. It was Sergei, and he asked that we at church pray for an acquaintance, a man who had cancer of the liver. The doctors had examined him and told his family that he had very little time left to live. But the family forbade for anyone to tell him his bad news. So Sergei asked that we pray for his health and for his family. I must say truthfully that I did not like the situation, for I think about a person going into eternity without becoming reconciled to God. Such a one would have no fear before death, because he would not realize that he is dying. So here I was, thinking of a man with such a condition, and sure, the family is concerned about his psychological well-being, but the most important consideration is his soul.

I headed over to the church and recounted this situation and asked that the church pray that the man would repent and not perish. And God began to work. Sergei went to visit this man in the hospital, knowing that up to that moment no one had told him the truth about his condition. But Sergei spoke to him about eternity and about how he needed to pray and to repent. The friend replied that he did not believe in the priests, but Sergei replied that this was between him and God, and that if the friend wanted, then he would write out a prayer of repentance.

"Can I pray with my own words?" the man asked.

"Of course you can, and that will be even better if you mean those words with all your heart."

Sergei left, and the next day the man called him and told him some very good news: "Sergei, I did what you suggested."

For us, this was the greatest news, that a man had been reconciled with God. A few days later, he died. We trust that he is with our Lord.

Pray for Desna:

- 1) Pray for the beginning of services in the village of Smolin and for the Petrenko family.
- 2) Pray for Natasha and Sasha, that God will bless them and that His will be done in their lives.
- 3) Pray for our Sunday school.

Respectfully,

Igor Fomichov