



## **CHURCH PLANTING IN BILOGORODKA, UKRAINE**

*1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2016 Report*

### **January**

We looked forward to this month, since this is when Christmas is celebrated in our country. It is a much-anticipated, joyous celebration for both believers and non-believers. During this time, people are not working so many days; children have holidays, so we prayed and prepared to use these days to invite as many villagers, both children and adults, to the house of prayer for services.

Preparations were for the morning of the festive worship service, and especially great attention was paid to the children's service, which took place during the afternoon. Our church members handed out invitations for adults and children separately prepared. Children from the Sunday school were handing out these invitations to their school classmates. And in the neighborhood around the prayer house, we put invitations into the mailboxes of homes where there are children.

With the help of teachers and children, the Sunday school prepared two short Christmas plays. We picked them and prepared them with the expectation that there would be adults in the service—the parents who brought their children. The Sunday school also prepared Christmas gifts for children, including Christian literature. Many thanks to our Lord for directing unbelievers to the main morning service. There were even those who had opposed the name of Jesus. Later, there were also many unbelieving parents at the children's service.

It is very pleasing to our hearts when we see young parents coming with their children. This is a good opportunity to witness to them with the Good News. This celebration was attended by over 90 children and 30 adults. The auditorium was filled.

We are grateful to you for your support, for your prayers, and the sincere care that you show to us. May God bless you! Amen.

## **February**

Thank God that in His great mercy the construction house of worship on the opposite side of the village is continuing successfully. And this building could provide space for joint work of God. Seminary students were able live on the ground floor during the winter session. Their feedback tells us the conditions were good enough to stay. Your prayers and support have helped us to accomplish this noble cause.

Construction continues, and we are very happy here. We are ready to meet and work with the brothers and sisters who will come from you to help us accomplish this work. May God bless their path and work and raise His protection over them.

Sometimes on this earthly pathway of following the Lord we are accompanied feelings of sadness. Our sister in the Lord, who sang in the choir and participated actively in the life of the church began to feel ill and went to the doctor. After examination it appeared she has stage 4 cancer. It was sad and terrible news, both for the family and for the church. On Sunday, after morning service, she went and renewed her repentance before the whole church. All her children came to the next service. And when the whole church was in such sad condition, everyone crying, she said: "Do not cry. God is in this diagnosis. If it is His will, then it is the best, because God does not make mistakes." Twenty years ago, she had an operation and they removed her kidney cancer. Forecasts doctors were not for a long life. But the Lord so determined that He gave her all these years and gave her eternal life in Jesus Christ. She found the Lord, repented, and became part of such a great family of God's children, with peace of mind, so why cry? The church received encouragement from her words.

Thanks be to our Lord for His immense love and mercy to His Church. We honestly thank you for your participation in the work of God in our land. May the Lord bless you and protect you. Amen.

## **March**

Praise God, the Lord made it possible for our brothers and sisters from faraway America to come and join us in doing hard construction work to build a prayer house. For us, this was not only physical support, but also spiritual support; plus a lesson on sacrifice and devotion to God and practice in His service.

We sincerely thank them for the contribution they have invested in the work of God in our area. May God reward them handsomely and bless them and their church with His heavenly blessings.

This month we have suffered great loss. A dear sister in the Lord departed into eternity. She was a hard worker, dedicated the house of God. She knew that she was drawing close to her time for going up to the Lord, so she prayed and requested for her funeral to be an evangelistic ministry. And God heard her prayers, her funeral was a service for the glory of God. That day had a clear, sunny weather, although the previous day and the next day were cold and wet. Over three hundred people were at the funeral, and almost all of them were non-believers. A choir from the church in Kyiv came and sang. In addition to their singing, the Word of God sounded forth, and there were testimonies of that sister's labor and her devotion to the Lord.

It was a funeral service, but the presence of the Lord was felt, and the people listened very carefully and no one left the service before the end. And the next day, word spread around the village that believers even have blessed funerals.

Thank God that He allowed us to witness so many people who flatly did not want to come into a house of worship.

Thank you to you for your prayers, for your support and brotherly assistance. Amen.

Anatoly Kosyanchuk



Above: Choir  
Below: New church construction and the new church's kitchen

