



The Kosyanchuks

October 2016

This month we held an event that shook the church and alarmed unbelievers who knew about the event.

Even before the war years of 1941- 1945, in this village there lived a devout family with eleven children. The parents in this family were deeply religious. Local people called them the "apostles." This was their nickname. Most of the children in this family have chosen the same path as the parents. Some went the way of this world. Almost all the members of that family have now gone into eternity; however, one—the youngest daughter of that family—is a member of our church. She still has two living brothers, but they are unbelievers.

And this sister telephoned the church in tears and said her brother is in a bad way, both physically and spiritually, so she wanted ministers to have a talk with him.

When we arrived, he greeted us happily, despite the pain. When his family gathered around him, he said he wanted to reconcile with God. His age was 78 years. For 78 years of his life he tried to live a pious life, reading the Bible and singing psalms at home. People listened to his advice, saying, "The Apostle said so." But he has not been reconciled with God and did not attend services.

In this case, we saw God's immeasurable love and mercy to all of us.

He repented and wept, said that he had been running away from the Lord, but now was in his hand and would forever be with Him.

One day later he passed away. The Lord ended his suffering and took him to his dwelling place. Thank Him for it. His funeral was held at the church.

This story served as an example for his unsaved relatives and for the church.

The Lord is faithful to its promises, "You will be saved, and all thy house." Great praise be to our Lord for His concern for all of us. We are grateful to you for your brotherly assistance through prayer, support and the work of God in our area.

Amen.

November

On September 18 we held a long-awaited event for which people have prayed both in Ukraine and America – the first worship service in the new house of prayer in the village of Bilogorodka, in Kiev region. By the grace of God, it was a special meeting –

the Harvest Festival. With great trepidation, our family and the entire team that has participated in the construction have been waiting for this day. For a full week before the opening of the church people worked from morning until late at night: the last of the construction materials were carried out, they created a decorative display with fruits of the earth, they prepared Bibles and spiritual literature, and in the kitchen they prepared a holiday dinner.

The service was scheduled for 1:00 pm, but at Noon people started to arrive. So many guests gathered that there was not enough space for everyone in the room. Many were standing in the doorway. This small inconvenience caused deep gratitude to the Creator in my heart. We could not imagine that even 200 people would come. Visitors included the Youth Choir and Pastor Nikolai Velichko from the Kiev church "Temple of Salvation," Pastor Anatoly Kosyanchuk and members of the first Baptist church in Bilgorodka, parents of children who attended the summer camp, unsaved residents of Bilogorodka, and many others.

My father Vasily Stepanovich was also at this service, as well as Viktor, the man who lives next door to the church in Bilogorodka. They both participated actively in the construction of the new church building, but so far have not given their lives to God (please pray for them). For them, this church has a special significance since they both had invested much labor, concern, and energy into it. Papa began helping on the very first day, and Viktor came a little bit later. And they planned on coming back the following Sunday. They made sure of the time in advance.

After the service a holiday feast awaited all the guests. For many of those who had come this portion of the holiday became a blessing. But as it is said, man does not live by bread alone. When guests exited the church, they found racks with Bibles for adults and children, Psalms, and hymnals with Christian songs.

Each person could help themselves to anything that pleased them. A big thank you to our American friends for sponsoring the Christian literature.

The culmination of the holiday was a mini-camp for children. We sent text messages to all parents whose children had been in summer camp (the children had given us their parents' contact information), inviting them to the worship service and children to a mini-camp.

We held a quest on the topic "In search of treasure." When we talked about the treasures, each child has their own association and representation. During the game, after completing quests, children got toys and children's Bibles (special thanks go to the brothers and sisters from the United States, who sent toys for both humanitarian aid and in the container). There were 23 children. Four of them came only to the cross after the meeting. Two of them (brother and sister) came with Mom and Dad. They are not believers. Their children had been in the camp for several days in the summer and my mother came to pick them up. Dad came for the first time and for all observed. When the children sang parents also went upstairs and watched. The family lives in a townhouse, a three minute walk from the church. We invited all the children to Sunday school. Please pray for the children and the family.

December

One Christian sister from the zone of military conflict said these words: “The ones in our home—this is our family. But for the Christian, much more precious and important is the family of Christ.”

Two years ago, this woman underwent an operation in Kyiv. Before that surgery, she visited our church and repented. After the operation she wanted to be baptized by our church, but it turned out that in the area where she lives there is a church that belongs to our brotherhood of churches. We gave her its address, and she began attending its services. Before long, her husband repented too, and they were baptized together. For us, this was a source of great joy. That woman came to our church and testified of God’s working and she thanked God that even in her weakness she can perform a bit of evangelism there in the East, where war exists.

However, this didn’t please her daughter and son-in-law, and there arose a barrier between them. The daughter currently lives in Kyiv and did not want her mother to come for the scheduled examinations at the hospital. She began going to a hospital in Lugansk, but that is occupied territory. The hospitals are in sad shape, and she caught an infection from the treatments. Her temperature was rising. She appealed to us with a request that we receive her and help her with treatments. Of course, we agreed and began to pray for her. Yet, the problem was very big. The infection was in her back, and her kidneys began to fail. Her temperature would not abate. Praise God, many members of the church responded to her need and donated funds, and a sister who had access to a hospital assisted in arranging medical care for her with these funds. God moved the physicians to lower the cost of treatment and caring for her. Several women of the church took turns being with her, and by the Lord’s mercy her fever came down after an operation on an abscess. Her kidneys resumed functioning normally.

She isn’t completely healed yet, but great thanks be to God, that He has not forsaken this sister in this difficult circumstance. But the daughter has not visited her mother in the hospital so much as one time. And what’s characteristic is that this daughter’s profession is doctor of psychology. But God is her judge. We are praying that God will help us in this matter, to help her to full recovery. We ask that you, too, pray for full physical recovery of our sister in the Lord and also that He will give her spiritual strengthening as well. This is a great trial but also a great lesson for her life. And for us as well.

Much thankfulness goes to the Lord, and much thankfulness to you as well, for your brotherly love. May God bless you.

Amen.

Anatoly Kosyanchuk



Harvest Holiday photos

