



## The Buyko Family

### Second Quarter Report, 2017

#### April

In the village of Bobritsa, which is located 5 kilometers from Bilogrodka, there was held a children's Easter celebration. We received permission to use the local club building to hold an evangelistic service, and praise God for such an opportunity. In this village there is no Baptist church.

Eugene preached from the Word of God, John 3:16, and invited the children to pray. Everyone stood and said, Amen. Mothers had accompanied some of the children, and also a number of grandmothers. Then there was a musical program, and Sam Slobodian and Misha took part in that. Everyone listened to such musical praise with interest.

Also there was a children's play. It concerned what lives in the heart and who should live in it. At the end, as always, the children anticipated gifts. ☺ For all who wanted one, Christian literature and New Testaments were offered. Many thanks to the BIEM mission for the New Testament and the children's Bibles.

We ask that you pray for each person who was at this holiday service. There are 3 sisters who attend our church, and they greatly hope that someday there will be a church in this village and they asked they we pray with them about this.



#### April, Part 2 – Special Report from Sofia Buyko

A great and happy event occurred in our family: my father, Papa Vasya, gave his heart to Jesus Christ. We've been waiting for this a long time.

In 1994, my grandmother came to church, and in 1996 my mother was baptized. Papa forbade my mother from taking my little sister and me to church. Over the years mother has experienced a lot. Papa Vasya drank alcohol to the point that he became quite crazy. He was constantly smoking cigarettes. During all these years, my mother, and then I, prayed for Papa. In 2010, my dear sister accepted the Lord and also joined in praying for Papa.

When my kids grew up (his grandchildren) they told him Bible verses they had learned in Sunday school and sang many psalms. Also, each time they invited him to church when they were scheduled to recite a poem or sing a song. Grandpa, of course, came to listen to his grandchildren. He has used less alcohol and tried not to smoke when the children were around.

At holiday times, we sang and Eugene read from the Holy Scriptures. In our home Papa always talked to our Christian friends and to relatives on Eugene's side. Dad always concluded they were normal people. ☺



When construction began on the new Bilogorodka church, Papa took an active part. (He had been a builder). All of the other builders (except Papa and the neighbor, Vitya) were believers. All the conversations during the meal times had a great influence on him. When people pray regularly before eating, it leaves a good example.

A special testimony for him was when a group of Americans came during their vacations to help in the construction. All this friendly

atmosphere became a testimony to him.

When services began at the new church, Papa missed only one time: his blood pressure went up, and it was necessary to call an ambulance.

That week was very hard for him. Suddenly his brother (who two weeks ago turned 60) needed to go to the hospital by ambulance. Less than a day later his brother died in intensive care. For Papa this was a hard blow. This again reminded him that you cannot put aside the question of salvation until later.

Through the whole service there was much talk of reconciliation with God. Revelation 3:20 was read: "I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Brother Sam Slobodian talked about missionary work and cited many examples. There were also many good songs. So, when the call to repent was given, thank God, Papa made his move!

Tears of joy shone on many faces. It's really a great joy, not only for church, but for our family.

We know that many of our American friends also supported us in prayer. Many thanks to you for your prayers. I really thank God for answering prayer!

Please continue to pray for Papa, that God will give strength to be firm in the faith.

*Sofia Buyko*

## May

Back during Christmas time, when we had a holiday worship service with the participation of a choir, it was the first time that a particular grandmother came to our service. Traditionally, when we celebrate such holidays, we receive a large number of visitors. We had given out many invitations and posted announcements. And this woman began to attend from time to time. Like the majority of attendees, this woman really liked the singing. After about a month and a half, this lady sat through an entire service despite the fact that she had a nagging, dry cough. We got her a glass of water and at last got acquainted.

Paulina is the pretty and rare name of this woman. Eugene calls her sister Paulina. She enjoys it when people call her that. But one time she replied, "I'm not yet a sister [in the Christian faith]." Eugene replied, "We hope that you soon will be." She smiled. As it turned out, Paulina is a neighbor to the church building. Her home is just two houses away from the church. From the



church windows, her green roof is very visible. Eight years ago, doctors operated on her heart and put in a valve. Such a heart condition gives that sort of dry cough.

On this particular Sunday our whole family sang a song together, and she asked the names of each of our children. All the singing at church touches her, but especially so when children sing. If health allows, she gladly studies the songs, which we sing during congregational singing. Paulina said, "Everything is so clear when it is read and everything is explained." She has three children and three grandchildren (the youngest is 18 years old). In the center of Bilogorodka she has an apartment, which Paulina rents out, but she herself moved in with her daughter. Her daughter has nothing against her mother attending our church.

There is another neighbor woman named Vera. Her yard is across from the church and borders the yard of Paulina's daughter. Paulina tells that family all about our church and our family. Where does she get all of this? ☺ Her son lives in this village. That son often goes to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, where he helps Father Vasily somehow or another.

We ask that you pray for this grandmother named Paulina, that she will accept Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. After the last service, she was asking questions concerning how to greet another believer correctly and how to reply properly to a greeting.

In addition, this past Sunday she brought flowers to plant at the church. Her daughter had bid her to bring them to make it prettier here. We also ask that you pray for her daughter, who hasn't yet been in the church even one time.

### June 2017

In our camp there was one special boy. He's one you simply can't not notice. He is small, thin, but has a very sunny smile. His name is Bogdan, and he's nine years old. Because of sicknesses, he looks like a six year old.

On the first day of camp, Bogdan arrived late (at 11:30 instead of 9:00 a.m.), and then near the church, at the entrance to camp he tearfully said, "I'm late, and there are so many kids here, and it's so happy, but they probably won't let me in." Every morning he receives special injections, and afterward he's supposed to rest a while. Despite this, Bogdan took active roles in team relay races. On the first day of



camp there was an all-camp game called "Gold Rush." In essence, the children look for hidden nuts, which they exchange for special money they can use to buy gifts later. On the second day, Bogdan came early in the morning (he asked his mother to come before the usual injections). He ran up and immediately began to tell me: "My little sister was so happy when I gave her all the gifts that I bought from the Gold Rush game." Bogdan's sister is 4 years old, and these kids live with their mother and grandmother.

They do not have a father. They are poor and live in a house with broken walls. Before the camp began, Bogdan came to eat with the builders.

Now Bogdan says, "You prepare everything so deliciously: meat and sweets. Will the camp be for all summer? Can I come every day? I really like it."

Bogdan is very attached to the church. Please pray for him and his family.