



The Buyko Family

3rd Quarter Report, 2017

August

Yasnogorodka Camp

Every day—new children and new acquaintances. You become especially close to them when you spend all day every day for an extended period of time. We spent such a time in the camp in Yasnogorodka, at the Kyiv Sea. This spot is about 45-50 miles from Kyiv. Not far away is a forest of pine trees and just five minutes' walk away is the water.

This year, a girl named Sveta (I wrote about her last winter), who lives not far from our church in Bilogorodka, was able to attend our camp for only two days. For the course of the whole camp at home, a banner advertised the camp on the Kyiv Sea. No soon did Sveta see it than she asked my children if they would be there? When she heard their, "Yes," she declared she would go.

Even though there was a cost to attend the camp, her parents gave their permission for her to go on the trip. In the camp, Sveta was in the older group. I worried a little about her, since it was her first time to be in such a camp... In a day camp, if a child isn't happy about something, they can simply not come back the next day. But how would she do here?

In the camp we had a full and interesting program. Each day there was a big game that would include everyone in the camp, many sports games, competitions (volleyball, soccer, table tennis), various crafts, musical minutes, games on the seashore, and of course swimming and wading in the water. God blessed us with good weather. Praise Him for it! Most importantly, each evening included a little worship service with participation by each group of children, who sang new songs and put on a skit. The day before camp ended, the whole camp went to see a private zoo in the neighboring village. We had few vehicles, and we packed our cars tightly. Sveta asked to come in our car. In all, we had 13 people in a 7-passenger car. ☺

Sveta joined actively in every possible activity. Each evening before lights out, each group had fellowship time with leaders, and she never was shy about sharing her thoughts.

On the last evening, there was an interesting conversation. We all sat in one large circle and shared our testimonies or impressions, and we sang a lot. Nobody was forced to talk; everything was voluntary. When it was Sveta's turn (if she wanted it), she even stepped into the center with no timidity at all. She told how she wanted to go home on the very first night... but by the third day she had made new

friends. Genuine friends! Sveta teared up and said she didn't want to go home. She had never known such a sincere and friendly atmosphere. After hearing such words, tears welled in my eyes, too.



I ask you to remember regularly Sveta and her parents in prayer, that everything we sowed in the camp will bring forth fruit!

Camp in Yasnogorodka this year last 12 days. Because of the number of days of this camp, and the fact that the camp is very close, the children could fully open up.



Nobody wanted to leave. The last hours in the camp, everyone felt sad, waiting for the separation.

To this camp there came a girl named Yana, who is from a Catholic family. With her came her classmate, who had learned of it from a boy who attended last year and recommended she go. During the final days, when rain began to fall, the boy's father came to pick him up. But Yana declared she really liked the camp and would stay all the way to the end. It was her first time to be in a Christian camp, but she nevertheless enjoyed it very much and attentively listed to Bible lessons, sang the songs, and played with everyone. She gained new friends, and she was invited to attend Sunday school.

Two others in this camp were the brothers Slavik and Danya. Slavik (who is older) attends the Christian school run by the Temple of Salvation, and Danya goes to a regular school. This wasn't the first summer these brothers had been in a Christian camp, but it was their first time in a stationary camp instead of just a day camp.

They enjoyed it so much: the atmosphere in camp, the people, and basically everything, so much so that the mother was inspired to enroll her younger son in the Christian school too. Praise God for this.

Katya S. and I were in the camp as responsible for the musical ministry. Everything went wonderfully. Katya and I taught the children songs. Unfortunately, Katya had to leave two days early, and so all of our responsibility rested only on me.

At first I was worried, but everything went fine. The children tried, and they liked the songs, so it wasn't nearly so difficult as I expected. I thank God for such great experience with children in music.

Delicious food, good conditions, games in the forest, a beach, the sea, and daily worship services—it was all marvelous. Even the rain—which lasted several days—did not spoil the good mood and general friendly atmosphere. Praise God!

August

One of the most important events in the life of a church happened here—the dedication of our church building. More than 20 years ago, believers began to pray for a church in this area of Bilogorodka. The town of Bilogorodka is large and located not far from Kyiv, which has caused a rapid increase in the population. The church is built in an area where there are many houses and townhouses. In this, we see God's mercy.

Huge thanks go to the BIEM mission and to all American friends for financing the construction!

There were many interesting moments connected with the dedication. ☺ A shipping container bearing new chairs and a pulpit from America arrived in Ternopil one week prior to the dedication. (This is about 450 kilometers from our church.) Over the course of two months, the Cabinet of ministers returned the unsigned paperwork for release of the container five times. The whole church



prayed concerning this. On the last Sunday, Eugene said, "Let's stop telling God what to do. May His will be done in everything." On Friday after lunch, we received the green light for release of the container, and on Saturday morning the chairs and pulpit arrived from Western Ukraine. Praise God!



Another interesting story concerns the pulpit. When Eugene was in America in April, they were showing him around a church, and there in a corner he noticed an old, wooden pulpit. He mentioned that our church has no pulpit. And the pastor happily donated that pulpit to our church. The most amazing thing is that the pulpit is topped with red fabric, which is the exact same color as the chairs, which had already been ordered for our Bilogorodka church. Everything matches very nicely! The elderly man who made this pulpit, made a new, even better

pulpit the color of the doors – this is the kind of gift coming to our church on the next container.

A week before the dedication, our church held children's camp. The last day was a Saturday. And the next day there was sanctification. The Lord blessed us in this too. We all had time to prepare for the holiday.

The main joy in our church is the salvation of two people who accepted the Lord. They began learning of Him during the construction of the building. So we already see that the construction of the building was not in vain. ☺

The church was full of people. We even had to put chairs in the corridor. Twelve preachers from Ukraine and American prayed. Great thanks to all who were able to join us for this event! As pastor, Eugene was first to pray a prayer of dedication. This is another touching event in the life of our new church and in our family. And to everyone who helped make this day possible!

We ask that you continue to pray, so that all of the chairs will be filled with new, saved people! May God abundantly reward each with His Fatherly blessings!

September

The camp that we held in June continues to bear fruit. I'd like to share about a boy named Vadim. For him, the camp that was held by the Second Baptist church

in Bilogorodka this year was the first Christian camp of his life. He really enjoyed it, and he came every day.

His parents are not believers. His family lives in a one-room apartment. However, Vadim's grandmother is a believer, and she comes to the church regularly. The boy himself is very modest



and good. Immediately after camp ended, he began to visit the Sunday school as he came to services with his grandmother. At first he was very timid, but now he considers himself a full member of the group, and sometimes he brings along his cousin.



When we had a puppet theater, we gave him two of the main roles, and he truly enjoyed participating in ministry. Then we discovered that he is learning how to play the accordion, so we gave him some notes to simple Christian songs to practice at home. His own accordion is too heavy for him to carry to church, so he

plays on the church accordion that BIEM sent during the summer by shipping container. We are very thankful for it. He is glad for an opportunity to participate in ministry and for the fact that everyone likes his playing, even if they are short, uncomplicated productions. We ask that you pray for this boy and his family.

Thank you for the prayerful and financial support. May the Lord bless you!

The Buykos