



Kosyanchuk

1st Quarter Report, 2018

January

So, friends, the Lord has given us yet another new year. And looking back, we were able to finish the past year with one more children's holiday, the Christmas holiday. In this event there was both joy and sadness. The joy came from the fact that this year our government authorities gave us the opportunity to celebrate events in their proper order: First, the birth of Christ, and next, the New Year. The joy is that now there is even more opportunity to emphasize the significance of Christmas for children in comparison with the New Year; the relationship of the tree and gifts to the first event, and not to the second, which, unfortunately, in our country receives more emphasis according to tradition. The sadness is that, despite all these changes, people are cooling off more and more in relation to God. Thus, for the first time there has been a tendency for the number of children to decrease at our children's Christmas celebrations. They once numbered over 100 people. Last year, about 80, and this year, about 65.

Of course, some people still haven't adjusted to the new date for celebrating, but unfortunately there are also some who don't seek God. This supports that statistic, which shows that after celebrating the children's ministries and camp in our churches, only a small percent of children attend the Sunday school. When we meet them on the street and chat and invite them to come, it's not unusual to hear the reply, "On Sunday morning? At what time, 10:00? Oh no, I'll still be sleeping!" Or, "I have lessons to attend" or "I have to help at home." These are the standard answers, caused by the priorities unbelievers hold, and sometimes it is the choice of children who prefer to rest than to take a walk to God's House.

What can be done in such a situation? Obviously, there's no way to force anyone. Turning the church into some kind of circus with all kinds of fun attractions to lure people in is unacceptable. What's left are the words that the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy when he gave instructions touching upon such times: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

What depends on us today, in my opinion, is the correct, planned, and dedicated performance of the ministry entrusted to us; in prayerful zeal and hope, not in human means, but in God's working in the hearts of people. There are, of course, plans for invitations, and reminders to the children about the church, about Sunday school, about plans for new events. However, in all this we want God to lead us and to arrange everything as He pleases. We believe and hope that, according to His mercy and grace, the number of children in our local church, and in other churches, will grow for God's glory, the expansion of His Kingdom and for the salvation of many more souls!

Recently, through God's love and mercy, and through the appearance of your brotherly care and support, by the prayers of the church, we have received that we needed: specifically,

this was very good pews in the prayer room, tables and chairs for the ground floor. For us, this was a wonderful and joyful Christmas present. When the church heard about your work in this direction, about the way these benches and expenses were taken care of on our behalf, many members of the church, especially the older generation, cried from joy, feeling that fraternal love in Jesus Christ.

We recalled the words of the Apostle Paul: "For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God" (2 Corinthians 9:12). And, getting on our knees, we gave praise to God and thanked Him for you, for your care for us, and for your great work, which you are doing God's field of harvest.

When we installed the pews, we noticed that something was missing. And then we remembered about the pulpit, which had been in another prayer house when they received a new one. And when it was set up, then everything was immediately in place.

We sincerely thank you for everything that you have prepared and passed on to us. May the Lord reward you a hundredfold and bless you with His blessings. Thank you for your prayers and fraternal help.

February

God's love and mercy know no limits, and in this the church is once again convinced.

Around 12 years ago a young sister left the church and married an Orthodox priest's brother, stating that God is there, too, and that they will attend the Orthodox church. And when 10 years ago we invited her to talk, she said that her husband would not allow it. But then she came to the prayer house only for a conversation, saying that there is a family reason not to attend the church.

She had repented at the age of 12 and received holy water baptism when she was 13 and a half years old. At the time that she left the church, we prayed for her, but after the conversation we simply remembered her in our common prayers for those who had fallen away from the church.

However, starting at Christmas she has been coming to church regularly, and this month she went before the church and acknowledged her sin. She repented in tears, saying that she had wanted to bring her husband to Christ by her own efforts, but had herself been defeated. This was a great joy for the members of the church, that one of Christ's erring sheep had been found and returned to His fold.

Unfortunately, there are those who began coming to services when things were hard for them, who even repented, but who went back to their own paths when life grew easy again. Therefore, we began to pray more for such ones, that the Lord would call them out of this situation and that they would follow the Lord.

We thank you for your prayers and for your brotherly support and help. May the Lord bless all of you.

March 2018

Praise God, that in all of our circumstances in life, the Lord doesn't leave us without His mercy.

In the church of the village of Komarivka a tragedy took place in the family of one sister. When she and her husband were away from home, the children lit the woodburning stove themselves and made a tragic mistake. The older sister is 16 (she repented last year),

the middle son was 13, and the youngest 8. The mother was accompanying their oldest son to his military post; he serves in the army.

And so, those who remained at home poured gasoline on the firewood, and the middle son, Svyatoslav held a match up to the firewood, which sparked an explosion from the oven right onto him. His face was burned, but the worst part is that he suffered 70% of his body suffered inner burns. The children saved themselves, but the building burned completely, since they lived on a farm in a forest near the village of Komarivka, the fire truck arrived too late.

All the churches that heard of this tragedy began to pray and to help this family, since the mother and son were taken to the burn center in the city of Zhitomir. There were the necessary finances, plus blood and prayerful support. The First and Second Baptist churches in Bilogorodka likewise responded to the need, and funds were gathered, and people were ready to donate blood, but it wasn't accepted, since the counties are different, and there is no database.

Praise God, we saw this sister in the hospital. They didn't let us in to see the boy, but this was a great comfort to the parents, that they weren't alone in this time of trouble. Before long the boy died. His injuries were too severe to save him. God took this child. When we had the funeral, there was a testimony from members of the church, that this boy never missed a chance to be in Sunday school. After the school day ended, as we were walking home, he always dropped by the church building, and if there were a service going on, he would stop. If there was a need for help in cleaning or something else, he always helped.

As one member of the church said, Svyatoslav was an offspring of the church. But let the will of God be done for all.

Now this family is renting an apartment in the village of Komarivka. The husband (Svyatoslav's father) and their daughter are preparing to be baptized. Praise God for giving strength.

We are sincerely thankful to you for your prayers, support, and your aid. May the Lord bless you. Amen.