



The Kosyanchuks

2nd Quarter Report, 2018

April



How joyful it is to celebrate Christmas: the world seems to become brighter, better. Even those people, who don't relate to faith in the Lord with all seriousness, seem to love that time! To a great degree, this is related to days off of work and gifts. Unfortunately, behind all this "holiday cheer," often far from people's thoughts, are not just the main idea of Christmas, but also the purpose for Jesus Christ's coming to earth—his suffering, death on the Cross, and also His resurrection.

This becomes particularly evident when discussions turn to preparations for the Easter holiday service for children: They understand "Christmas," but "Easter"? How to convey its meaning, and is the

holiday necessary? This is not so simple, not so joyful since, after all, it concerns suffering and death. In addition, to give gifts for Easter is somehow not usually done, and in this regard, and the children get less. All these factors often frighten people off and become obstacles to delivering the fundamental truths of Christianity to those who need them. Jesus said, "Suffer the children to come to me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). That is, they can receive all of his teaching, and there is nothing that is not needed.

Guided by these thoughts, every year in our local church we prepare and hold a children's festive service, and it does not matter whether it's Christmas or Easter: both are an integral part of the gospel! Indeed, as a rule not so many come for Easter as for Christmas; however, with God's help we don't grow weary, but with new strength we prepare both a program and gifts, which we give to the children so that they will associate the holiday with not only the birth of Christ, but also with His resurrection.

This year the Lord abundantly blessed us: at the children's Easter holiday we had more children than at Christmas—in all about 100 people! Many of those who came were new, and we very possibly were the first ones to tell them the truth concerning the suffering and death of Christ, about his resurrection, and the meaning of it all. Also, children participated in competitions, learned a song about the way to Heaven, and in the end, they received gifts, which were intended to remind them of the Most Important Gift, that



the Lord made for them, about His Son and salvation in Him, and also to reveal a bit of God's love in the process! We told a story about how two boys received gifts of new tee shirts, and they wore them to school all week, so glad were they for what they had received. I'm sure they were not the only such ones! And if this is so, then rejoicing in gifts, children's hearts will also come up with thoughts of what they heard at Easter, about those fundamentally important issues without which salvation is impossible, which, can lead them to living faith in God!

Specifically because, evaluating what's been done, over and over we can confirm that such ministries are essential. While God prolongs the time of grace, we dare remain silent and refrain from telling the basics of His teachings to all people, even the smallest!

Amen!

May 2018

Praise God that we've had many holiday services. The church prepared for this service by inviting unbelievers and children from the village, so that these holidays might become the occasion of their salvation in Jesus Christ. These holidays of Christmas, Easter, and Trinity have all passed, and ahead of us loom a very important ministry – the Christian children's camp at held at the church.

We did an analysis and determined that this year all of the holiday services resulted in many more unbeliever children than unbelieving adults. Therefore, camp is a very effective evangelistic ministry, both for children and for their parents, plus a testimony for everyone in the town. Starting on June 25, we will have the first camp on our side of Bilogorodka. The children are already interested, and parents are asking whether there will be a camp. Children on the other side of town are also interested in coming to this camp, but the distance is great enough that they would need transportation, and not all parents can afford that.

When we asked the children where they would prefer to hold the camp, on the church property or at the school, they all answered the same way: it's better and more interesting at the church. However, in order to create no competition between the school's day camp and our church camp, we decided to hold ours after the school camp ends.

At the current time we are preparing the Bible messages, and the teams are being prepared. One team will work with the kids. The second will be for maintenance and manual needs. The church is praying for this ministry, and we ask that you pray for the Lord to bless this labor for God's glory.

We sincerely thank you for your thoughtful help and your support in prayers, and financial support in the ministry in Bilogorodka. May the Lord bless you.

Amen.

June

“...for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few” (1 Samuel 14:6).

These are the words written in 1 Samuel, and these are the words we used to begin our summer camp at the first Baptist church in Bilogorodka in 2018. The thing is, this year contrasted with past years in that our camp team was not so large, and in some ways we didn't even know how we would cope. Therefore we decided to rely only on the Lord, who could cover and compensate for our infirmities and shortcomings. And He did it! Despite our number, with His help, we were able to hold a camp well and bring the truth of the Gospel to more than 90 children, as well as their relatives.

The name of our camp program was “God's Miraculous Salvation.” Each day, the children learned important truths concerning salvation, as revealed to us in the Scriptures:

- 1) Jesus Christ saves from judgment.
- 2) Jesus Christ came to save sinners.
- 3) Whoever looks upon Jesus Christ with faith will have eternal life.
- 4) “To repent” means to turn away from sin and toward God.

5) Only Jesus Christ can change your life.

All the children were divided into three teams according to ages: 6-8, 9-11, and 12-15. A leader was picked for each team, and each team came up with its own name, motto, and team flag. All the teams learned the songs and Bible verses connected with the themes. They listened to the stories and also performed short skits illustrating them. They talked about the current themes and played games.

Each day the children received a tasty breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack carefully prepared by a team of cooks. And at the end of each day there were individual and team awards for participating in the camp.

On the sixth and last day of camp, there was a particularly festive service at which we showed photos and videos from the camp. Each children's team participated, along with a team of leaders. The children invited their loved ones to this service. More than 30 people came and saw what their children had been doing over the course of the week. They also heard the Gospel.

In conversing with the children and parents, we received favorable comments about the camp. Here are several of them:

1. "Do you like it in camp? What was the most memorable part? Will you come to camp next year?"

- Denis (from the age 12-15 team): "I like the camp! More than anything I remember the all-camp games and breakfasts. Next year I will come if they allow my age."
- Marina (from the age 6-8 team): "I like it in the camp. Most of all I remember learning verses from the Bible. I'll come next year."
- Sofia (from the age 6-8 team): "I liked camp. The reward medals are what I remember most. I will come next year."

What a joy to see that the camp left good memories in their hearts, plus a desire to come back again! We will pray that the seed of the Word of God that was sown will also yield abundant fruit to the praise of the Lord to the salvation of many! For Him, there is nothing impossible!

Anatoly Kosyanchuk