



The Petrenkos

2nd Quarter Report, 2018

April

Hello, dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus!

This month we had a chance to continue to hold Sunday school and to share with children about Christ and the Bible. This is a good opportunity to invest right principles in children from childhood, and we hope and pray that God will bring them up according to His timing.

Also, Ira and Vika continued to hold culinary meetings, at which they prepare food and read the Bible together. There aren't a lot of people at these, and they have opportunities to spend time talking to people individually. The kids really like these classes, and it's very unifying when they cook together. Then they eat and continue to talk. I'd like to ask that you pray about this ministry, that those who come would get saved. We also have need for a tabletop hotplate for extra cooking area. And then you prepare at home the main thing for the meal, and the rest is prepared in another location, and it's very inconvenient.

In addition, we continued our floor hockey lessons, and the players can't help but rejoice over the fact that God answered prayers and we have uniforms. Now it remains to print the numbers and the team emblem. Then the uniforms will be ready. We continue to pray with the boys that God will provide finances for hockey sticks and gear for the goalie. And of course we don't doubt that God will answer. This autumn we plan to compete in a floor hockey tournament, and I hope that we will have everything we need for that.

Please pray that our Bible groups with the boys on the team will not go without results. After all, the main reason I got involved with the floor hockey wasn't for the sake of the sport, but in order to tell them about Christ and to read the Bible with them. After all, we know that faith comes from hearing the Word of God. So that is a need, too, so please pray about that.

So that is how our past month went. Please join us in praying concerning the following:

1. For the Sunday school
2. For the cooking lessons and all that goes with that. For a hotplate for this ministry.
3. For the floor hockey team, and that God will touch their hearts.
4. For summer camps.

Thank you for participating in the ministry in Goncharovsk and for praying for the ministry here.

May

Hello, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ! Please allow me to share with you some of our news and prayer requests.

For starters, I'd like to share about something shared with me by sister Luda. This is the same person who comes to our services. Last year she received baptism, and all the time her older son has discussions with her about Christianity and God in general. More than once we have prayed for her, and for God to work in the heart of her son Zhenya. In the beginning, he viewed God as

some sort of unjust despot. But over the course of this past year, Luda has tried to show him the God in whom she believes. And Zhenya has already begun to relate to God much better, and his understanding about God is also changing. If in the past he thought of God as unjust, then he no longer thinks that way now. In addition, she tries to explain to him about Christ, and what He has done for Zhenya.

We are praying, and we ask that you join in prayer for Luda and for Zhenya, that God will continue to work in his life. Zhenya is a fairly well known and authoritative person in our town, and God could use him for His glory. Also, we are in full swing of preparations for the school camp, for which we already 150 registrations of children who will be able to hear about Christ and about His love for them. I've already been to the school and talked with the director of the high school and the teachers, and they said that they are waiting for our help in holding the camp, and that for them it is a great help. So we have to pray together for God to oversee this camp and bless all those who will serve in it.

This month an unhappy event also occurred. Sergei and Dasha from Goncharovsk lost a child. She had just a couple months left before her due date, and the child died. The baby was still born. For them this was a great loss. They are quite upset by the situation. They need our prayers.

During this past month we also experienced a little bit of stress. Our daughter Emma had purple dots showing up on her legs, and when we took her to the doctor, the doctor examined them and said that she didn't like the looks of them. She sent us to the regional hospital. That same day we drove to the hospital and for two hours we made the rounds, visiting all the doctors to whom they sent us, and they did their examinations. The hematologist said that she has fragile vessels and prescribed treatment and that if this happens again, we should contact them again for a pre-examination. We hope for God's mercy to our child and that the treatment will work in her favor.

That's everything we wanted to share with you. Please pray with us concerning the following needs:

1. For the children's camp we plan to hold in Goncharovsk.
2. For Luda's son, Zhenya.
3. For Sergei and Dasha.
4. For the health of our daughter Emma.
5. A hotplate for the women's cooking circle.

Thank you for your involvement in the ministry in Goncharovsk. May the Lord bless you!

June

We greet you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

I'd like to share with you some of the blessed moments the Lord has allowed us to experience this summer. First of all, we had a blessed children's camp. We have now held a camp for the second year on the property of the local school, and we see how each year God opens to us more opportunities for evangelism of children, and how the teachers also are more inclined to listening and collaborating with us.

As always, before each camp I have a good process of visiting the mayor and the principal of the school, and with their support we can peacefully hold a camp. This year, too, I visited them and said that we would like to hold a camp. In reply, they said they are not opposed and would even help us; what did we need—an office, a gymnasium?—they would provide it, as long as we conducted the camp. This is a joy to see how God works with people and inclines them not to interfere with our plans to hold a camp. I don't know for how long such opportunities will continue, but obviously as long as the Lord is opening the door, we need to use it.

God blessed us with favorable weather and no injuries. One day before camp, children on the school track broke a hip and an arm, and this isn't a pleasant situation for the school. There will be a hearing. But we prayed for God to protect the children, and He heard our prayers and none of the kids were injured, and there were no emergency situations.

Furthermore, I fellowshiped with a teacher during the camp and witnessed to her about how we had prayed for the camp to go smoothly and how God was preserving the children and us. For her it was a good testimony that God indeed answers prayer. After the camp's conclusion, the school administration thanked us for holding such a fine camp, and they added that they will be looking forward to us again next summer.

In this camp we had 100 children who heard the Good News about Christ. At the end of camp, I suggested that they pray, and we prayed together and thanked God for giving us the chance to be in camp and enjoy this time together. That is the kind of blessing we had.

Immediately afterward, Ira came home and told me that she had met the chief sociologist, and this woman wanted us to hold a camp at the school in Smolin. I telephoned her and replied that we would be happy to do it if the principal of the school will grant permission. The next day we talked again by phone, and she said that the person responsible for the school camp was the very same history teacher who is extremely negative concerning us and considers us a cult. So, this year we will hold a camp [in Smolin] on our own property. There are a few obstacles: First, not all the kids know where our property is there. So we'll need to create good advertisements. Second, not all parents will permit their children to come. Therefore we need to pray about this.

Brothers and sisters, we have many needs. I don't write to you about all of them. I write only about the most important ones, which I will share. Please pray about the following:

1) We need an amplifier that works off an interior battery and can also work from a power outlet. This is so that we can have our own speaker system to use in Goncharovsk and Smolin without needing to borrow one from others.

2) Also, praise God, we have a car, which serves us and God. But as they say, everything has the attribute of growing old and going bad, and our car is no exception. It needs major repair

work on the body, but for our family nowadays this is very expensive. According to preliminary estimates, we need about \$1500 - \$2000 for repairing the car. I considered various options, and I even thought of selling our car and buying another. In any case we have no finances for repairs, nor for another car. But there is one option that always works – to trust in God and pray.

3) For the children who were in the camp and heard the Gospel, and also the teachers.

4) For the camp in Smolin, which will be held in August.

5) For the history teacher who interferes with the spread of the Gospel.

That's all of our news we wanted to share. Please pray for our joint ministry!

Your friends in Goncharovsk,

Sasha and Ira Petrenko and family