



The Petrenkos

3rd Quarter Report, 2018

July



Hello, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

We would like to share with you some blessed moments that the Lord has allowed us to experience during this month.

First of all, God blessed us with a good time when we were able to take the young adults to tent camp. Nature and the evening campfire always incline people toward conversation. This camp provided yet another opportunity to tell them about Christ and to share the way of salvation.

Furthermore, our family was invited to a family camp for trainers and their families, which was held by Christian leaders from Sweden and Ukraine. For us, this was a good time, which provided new acquaintances. We also had practical lessons on how to weave the Bible into floor hockey practices. And one day one of the Swiss men said, "Let's go to the park and play floor hockey. We can talk about sports and God with anyone who stops to watch us."

During the game I began to chat with one father. He asked whether there is a floor ball group in the city of Irpin. He wanted to sign up his son. And in the course of the conversation I got to share my testimony.

Another father got so caught up in the game that he handed off the baby carriage with his youngest daughter and he himself

began running with a hockey stick.

I also got to talk with a grandfather who was walking in the park with his grandson. He told a lot about his life and about how he had been a soldier, and how he had been a volunteer when the war began in Donbas, and how in his time he has been in the special forces, but how God had preserved his life. He had even been in a church a couple times. In general, we saw how floor hockey is a very good tool for evangelism.

Later, after this camp, I decided to enter our team for juniors in the Ukrainian Championship. This is a very serious step for me and for the guys, and I hope that our application will be accepted and our team will be able to participate in the Championship of Ukraine. Even the simple fact that the boys would be able to participate in such a competition is something that they would remember for many years, possibly for their entire lives.

That is what we wanted to share, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Please pray for the following needs:

1. For the camp in Smolin.
2. For the camp in Desna.
3. For the camp in Bilogorodka.
4. That God would lead concerning our participation in Ukraine's national floor ball championship.
5. For the young people who were in the tent camp.

August

We greet you, dear brothers and sister in our Lord Jesus Christ!

Allow us to share with you some of the experiences through which the Lord has led us this past month.

First of all, God blessed us and used us by allowing us to serve Him in children's camps. This month there were three of them. I will begin with the Smolin camp. I worried that there wouldn't be many children. However, God blessed this year with a good camp in which there were 37 children, plus several grandmothers who brought their grandsons, and a couple of moms. They were in the camps with us every day, and they thanked us for dedicating some time to their children. And we teach them proper things. And also they hope that next year their children and grandchildren will be in our camp. In this camp, the children heard the tidings of Christ.

Next we were in the camp in Desna, where God also used us for sharing the news about Christ among the children of soldiers. We had a wonderful time there.

God also opened an opportunity for us to be in the children's camp in Bilogorodka. This year the camp's organizers put together a very good team, and everyone performed admirably. What I particularly enjoyed was that our own kids also took part in holding this blessed camp. There were parents who came to camp with their kids and observed all that took place.

The next day was Ukraine's Independence Day holiday, and along with that we had a service for children. That day the church auditorium was brimming with people. This camp really pleased everyone, both children and adults. After that service, the parents and kids went outside, where they could enjoy hotdogs, cotton candy, and there was a fair, the money from which went for children who have health problems. In this time we had a wonderful opportunity to serve God and glorify Him. We hope that God will bring forth fruit from it in His time.

Please pray:

1. For those kids who heard about Christ in the camps.
2. For the new school year.
3. For the new year in our Sunday school.
4. For the renewed floor hockey practices.
5. For a place we could rent for Sunday school and floor hockey.

That's all we wanted to share with you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

September



Dear friends, we greet you, brothers and sister in the Lord Jesus!

Let us share with you some special moments from the past month. First of all, we went with the guys from the team for the night, and of course each of them took a fishing pole with us. So we had the opportunity to go fishing and to chat. I set goals to get closer to the guys in conversation, to read from the Bible and talk about God around the campfire. After we arrived and set up the tents, and did everything to get ready to go fishing, I invited them to read this passage from the New Testament:

“And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.” (Luke 5:4-7)

And in general I began to tie in various stories from the Bible with our leisure time. When we went fishing, I prayed. Many of us got bites, but one fellow (our goalkeeper) wasn't getting any bites at all. He uttered all kinds of fishermen sayings, but he simply couldn't catch anything. I asked him, “Alex, why is it so

important for you to catch a fish?” He replied that his stepfather told him not to come home, if he did not catch at least two fish. He has a very strict stepfather.

I said, “Alex, if you want, I will pray to God and ask Him to help you catch fish. He and I prayed, and a minute later Alex caught a fish. He was very glad for the catch! I ended up catching two, and then was able to call home calmly and say that he was not a failure.

That evening Sasha and I shared our testimonies of how we came to the Lord, and we sang together at the fire. Then I asked if any of them would like to be reconciled with God. Alex raised his hand, and we went to the Lord in prayer. That is some of the fruit from the floor hockey ministry. Praise be to God for it!

There was another interesting event that happened to me. I received a notice on Facebook, “Greetings to you! Are you my brother in Christ?”

I realized this is a believing sister in Christ. In writing back and forth, she said that when she was little, she lived in Goncharovsk with her grandparents and attended our Sunday school. God worked in her and in time Victoria became a believer. She went to children's camps and heard the songs that she sang with us in childhood. This is very good news and very encouraging that God sometimes works with a person for a long time and saves him. She came to our service, and we fellowshiped with her. She told us that now she attends the Awakening Church in Obolon. We were very glad to hear how God worked in her life and through us. Thank God!

That’s all that I wanted to share for now. Please pray with us concerning the following needs:

1. For restarting the Sunday school.
2. For the floor hockey ministry.
3. That the Lord will oversee our finances and provide so that we could pay the rent for the club where we hold the children’s ministry, plus the floor hockey and cooking ministries.
4. That God will bless the sisters and the ministry to the elderly.

That’s all of our prayer requests for now, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord!

Sasha Petrenko