



The Fomichovs

3rd Quarter Report, 2019

July

God's Special Effects



We all prepared and impatiently waited for our tent camp, and we did everything possible to make sure we had good conditions and a good program. We all had prayed, asking God to use us for preaching the Gospel.

For this camp we accepted youth from ages 10 to 16. For the most part, all the young people were unbelievers and their parents are unbelievers. It was with great apprehension that some parents allowed their children to come to camp. And that's understandable. The camp is on the bank of the River Desna, and the river has a strong current. There's a danger of drowning. So, we explained that we have a whole team, and that the team will constantly be looking after the kids.

On the first day, when we arrived with the children, it was in the morning. We sat everyone down and began to get acquainted and to divide everyone into teams. The weather was extremely hot, and everyone's mood was excellent.



That evening before the service, the mother of one girl phoned and said that there had been a huge storm in Chernigov and that maybe it would come our way. When she said that, we didn't take it seriously. The sky was clear. But before long that changed. Dark clouds blew in, and we began to worry, thinking that a strong rain might begin to pour. Everyone gathered their belongings, and we reinforced the tents with extra tarps. I gave instructions on what to do with tents during rain.

Then a strong wind hit. The frightened children huddled around the adults and hugged them out of fear. The trees began to shake and to crack. It sounded horrible, and the kids began to cry. We quickly instructed the kids to get into the van and said that we would drive them out of the camp. Well, we ended up driving to the riverside, where there were no trees. On the riverbank, where there were no trees to block it, the wind was so powerful that it was hard to close the car doors.



The children's crying became really dreadful. We prayed and suggested that all the children pray. So, we prayed and told them not to worry, because God would protect us. Our God commands the elements. The children were all obedient, and we sat in the van while the wind blew and rain fell. In the river, the wind whipped up waves as big as on the ocean. We were all really concerned. Understanding my responsibility for the children, I prayed to God.

By God's mercy, He began to lessen the storm's strength, and we thanked God with all our hearts. After the storm passed, we talked with the children and said, "Now you see that there is a God, and He can do everything."

They answered, "Of course."

God created such special effects that it was hard not to believe in God, acknowledging our own helplessness. After the storm we held a service where everyone with great desire praised God and listened to His Word. That's how our camp began, and God gave us such a time as we considered eternal life.



Throughout the course of the camp, all of us adults did everything so as to acquaint the children with our Lord and Savior. We taught them how to pray, read to them from the Word of God, we told them our testimonies, and told them about the Kingdom of God. We invited them to pray the prayer of repentance, and they agreed to pray with us. At the evening service,

when we gave the invitation to pray and I asked whether they understood the value of their soul, many of these youth did not hesitate and said, yes, they would gladly pray.

We believe that God showed His presence in the camp from the very first day. He prepared such special effects in order for these young people to accept the Gospel more easily. The camp made quite an impression on everyone, both on the youth and adults alike. Even kids from the town came out and asked to be allowed into our camp, and we happily accepted them. They participated in our program. After the storm, some parents decided to come and take away

their kids, but when they got there, they were so impressed with the atmosphere and our warm relationships with the children that they expressed thankfulness. Well, we were doing everything with only one goal—to bear witness of the Gospel. I know that all the members of the team invested themselves to share about Jesus Christ.

In the camp we had one girl named Vika. She was one of the first to attend one of our camps, back in 2004 when the ministry in Goncharovsk was just beginning. And today in camp she testified to these kids about how God had changed her life, and all of her family helps in the camp. When I heard her testimony that evening, I rejoiced with my whole heart. How God changes people's hearts. And I know that you have had a great part in this, too. With your help and with your prayers God is adding saved souls to the church in Ukraine. Praise God.

Pray with us:

1. For these teens, that God will nurture and harvest the seeds sown in this camp.
2. Pray for these youth, that they will be joined to the church.
3. Pray for the parents of these teens, that they will come to God.

We want to thank you for your support, and we pray that God will bless you for your good heart and for helping in the Great Commission of Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19-20). You all are big blessings for Ukraine.

August 2019

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:19-20



Dear brothers and sisters, I want to share with you some of the joy that we have experienced in this month. Once again, we have become witnesses of a miracle performed by God. God saves people and changes their lives. This time, we baptized 8 people, which included 5 sisters in Christ from Desna and 3 people from Chernigov. All of them have their own story of how they came to God, and some had struggles along the way.

Kseniya

She had begun to meet with a fellow who studied in a military school, not completely understanding that his life will be tied to the army. So, he ended up in Desna as an officer. He spent 10 years here, and they had 3 children. About 2 years ago, her father died, and at the funeral she was so deeply touched that she began to ponder about eternity and the meaning of



life. Through family she found our church and began attending with her husband. Together at a church service, during an invitation to accept Christ both of them came forward and repented. They were intending to be baptized, but then the husband reconsidered and said he wasn't ready for that step. She went ahead with the baptism and takes an active role in the life of our church. Their children attend our Sunday school.

Vika

God saved Vika and began to change her life in an amazing way. Her unsaved mother and girlfriends came to her baptism. They wanted to support her. When I talked with them, they said that they are glad for Vika and mentioned how evident it was that God had changed her life. They are very glad that she's coming to church. As part of the baptism, we held a service [on the shore] and preached. Amazingly, one of her girlfriends likewise said that she wants to come to church. We could see how God touches people.

How amazing it is to see how God draws people to Himself and to His church. God is alive and changes people's lives. Each one who was baptized has an interesting story. One may have sinned a lot, another one less, but God forgives all.

Pray with us:

1. For God to use these sisters in the church's ministry, to protect them and help them to be good witnesses for those around us.
2. For our church, that God will bring new people to us.
3. For the church's musical ministry. We really need musicians. We'd like the church to grow in this so that our worship time would be more beautiful.

September

My dear brothers and sisters,

How glad I am to share with you some of those blessings that God has been performing in our church. God is almighty, and for Him there is nothing impossible. He can open doors and shut them. These things that I write to you will be encouragement for you as well for us. Every week we simply exclaim Hallelujah. I'm sure that, as you read, your heart will rejoice and you will joyfully say, "Praise God."



As you know, our church is located in Desna. This is a military training base, which during Soviet times was considered among the largest military bases. After the Soviet Union fell apart, the base reduced in numbers here, but it continued its activities. It instructs soldiers in various forms of military training. We have prayed much and carried out various projects in order to reach people in the army with the Gospel and to witness to them about salvation and eternal life. Over the years there have been many encouraging testimonies. We saw soldiers repenting and attended our Sunday services. There have been many testimonies from them about how God protected them in the war. We installed an

electronic sign that soldiers see as they walk past on their way to the military showers. They can read various verses from the Bible, as well as information about the ministry of our church. But we've never seen before such things as those that have begun in recent times.

Soldiers began coming to Sunday services every Sunday. Their superiors in the past didn't view us with trust. But then they peaceably allowed them to come on Sundays. A couple of times I've bumped into their commanders and mentioned how soldiers come to us and desire to be there. They have assured me that there is no problem and say, "Let them go, as long as it doesn't interfere with their military duties."

We have prayed for God to change the situation so that soldiers could attend all services, which are held in the church each week. This includes both Sunday services and also Bible study group. And it all began when soldiers from one division began attending regularly Sunday services. Next some of them said they would like to come to the Bible study group, and I said that would be good, and I was glad for that desire. But deep down in my heart I thought that wouldn't be realistic, since these are soldiers serving in the army by government draft, not as volunteer enlistees. They no longer have any sort of rights; their desires will come to nothing. A commander never permits an active-duty soldier to be away at night to town; nobody needs those kinds of problems. I don't recall any other such situation when even one soldier was given leave to an evening service, let alone a large number of them.

So, what happened is that a group of them arrived one evening. We were all surprised, so much so that we exclaimed "Hallelujah." They proceeded to come to Bible studies. I will say honestly that I didn't believe it would happen, but nothing is impossible for God. But I recall how we had prayed that God would change this situation, and God answered. For us this is a special miracle, although I'm not sure whether you can fully understand what God did here. Well, we see how God is working and responding to prayers.

Eugene

I'd like to write further about one young guy who ended up in Desna for his army duty. He, too, wanted to visit the church's ministry, and he made an agreement with his commander. Well, since he's a soldier in the emergency services, they were afraid to let him come alone and on a regular basis. So they assigned an older soldier to accompany him to services and to take him back afterward. So, they began accompanying him to services and picking him up afterward. Well, what's interesting is that those senior soldiers who accompanied him saw that everything in the church is okay and that the church has a special room with table games [air hockey, foosball, etc.]. So now other unbeliever soldiers who also want to play the table games are coming with him. In this way, while Eugene is in the service, up to five other soldiers are playing table games in the church. After the service we have time to meet them and talk about the church and God and to share our testimonies. We rejoice and praise God for opening these doors. We're encouraged by what God is doing.

We have often prayed for this, and God is answering. We don't know how long things will be this way, but we rejoice in the fact that unbeliever soldiers can come to the church and hear the Gospel. We're glad those who believe are permitted to services and to the Bible group.

Praise God.

Pray with us for the growth of the church, that God will give wisdom to know how to use every opportunity for the Gospel.

With respect,
Igor Fomichov