



**The Levtseniuks**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report, 2019**

**April/May**

Peace be with you! I greet you, dear brothers and sisters of the BIEM mission! A huge thank you to you for your prayers for our family, which greatly needs such prayerful support, and for Salvation Baptist Church. When troubles arise in our small church, I repeat more than once that many churches in America are praying for us, and also around the world. When I say that, I see how people calm down, and they receive enthusiasm to press forward for Christ! This is very precious to us.

I'll share a little about our lives, and about the missionary activity in the city of Lvov and in the Salvation church. Right before the Easter holiday I made the acquaintance of the director of a large market, which is beside our church. After we talked about his difficult life and about the risen Savior, his heart became favorably inclined toward us. He blessed us by making a sidewalk near the church building, and a parking lot. I understood that this was the hand of God.

For us, it's a special blessing when guests visit us. We received as guests Vitaly Bilyak from Ternopil and Yury Kiyani. They brought us great joy and support in our worship service. For a week we had living with us some girls from America who had come to attend a conference in Lvov. It was very pleasant for us to fellowship with them. They invited our whole family to a restaurant, and afterwards we went with them to evangelize, which we often do. We distributed New Testaments and talked with people. We met one man who was selling glowing balloons. We bought one for our son Aaron, but right away the balloon blew away. When my wife went back to the seller, they



began to talk about God, and Violetta gave him (Ivan) a New Testament. He received his name in the past when he received Christianity as a Muslim. Pray that he will come to our church!

We were also visited by a children's choir of 50 people, and we held an evangelistic service. My wife fed them, and all of us set out for the center of Lvov to continue our evangelism. There were a lot of people there, and we sang with this big children's choir from Rovno. People walked over to us, and we spoke to them about Jesus. Among the listeners there were Muslims, and they really liked our songs.



After our time of evangelism one fellow who wasn't very sober approached me. In tears he said that when he was listening to our singing, "Something inside of me broke, and I remembered when things were very good for me with Jesus. This fellow—whose name is Alexander—had once been a leader of Christian youth, but he had become dependent on alcohol! We prayed with him right there downtown, with people all around. He wept and said that our meeting was no coincidence. He repeated that many times. Friends, pray for this Alexander, for his relationship with the Lord!

I said that we already have a group of unbelievers. Here in Lvov, it's very difficult to tell people about Jesus Christ. That's because they already consider themselves to be believers. They are Catholics, and they don't receive others. So when we meet people and invite them to the group, we have little expectation that they will come. But the Lord is mighty, and he gave us a young family consisting of Mikhail, Katerina, and their daughter Olesya. We are systematically studying the Word of God with them. And they are already visiting the church. Also pray for this family!

There is another unsaved family visiting our services. They are Volodya, Oksana, and their son Vadim. This is a complicated family because they are divorced. Volodya has repented and wants to be baptized. The wife wants to resume their relationship, but he doesn't want to! Pray that God will give me wisdom concerning how to be with such families.

Two young fellows, Jan and Andrei, want to be baptized. I really want for them to do this in faith, with their whole hearts. My desire is that these people quickly join the ranks of our team. Much work! Our church visits a children's home. We really love those children. And we already have permission to bring them to our church. We evangelize them. For our church members, these children are a special blessing. We sing with them at services, and afterward we have lunch and take them back. We do everything strictly according to the instructions of the children's home administration, since we want them to trust us. Pray that God will give us transportation to bring the children regularly to church, but not to church only. We also want to bring them to our camp, which will be held on the church property in July. We are very concerned about that and ask that you pray for us.

There is much more we could say about our blessings.

The missions conference in Kyiv that BIEM organized was very good! I'm thankful to the Lord that I could be there. I got acquainted with many missionaries. I received reinforcement for my ministry. This was a very edifying conference!

Just as we receive assistance in the ministry, even so we help others. Although that is hard to do, since we ourselves are just beginning this ministry. God has used me as a preacher at a youth conference in Dubno. And I was invited to a teen retreat that was held in cottages in the forest. We spent three days with these difficult guys. But the most precious thing was that these teens changed for the better! This was a victory. They prayed the prayer of repentance.

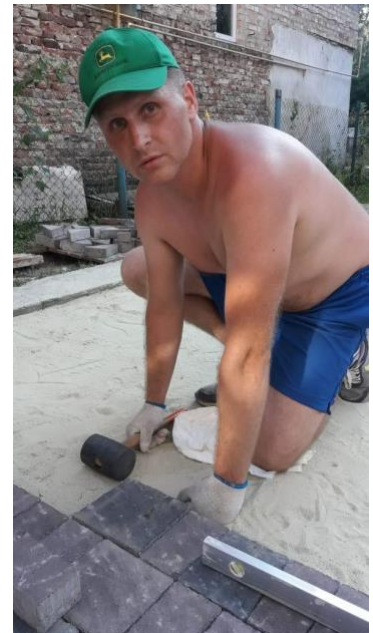
A huge thank you to you for being part of our missionary activities. Thank you for co-working with us, and for the prayerful and material support. We love you!

### June-July

Peace be to you! Hello, dear brothers and sisters connected with the BIEM ministry!

Each time when I sit down to write a letter, I feel very close to you as I understand that you do not only read about missionary lives, but also are involved with us as well, as you pray for us and support us. Great thanks be to God for you, our dear friends!

Here is a little about our missionary life. Preparations for the "Choose Life" project [the day camp] turned out to be not simple. We began by cleaning and tidying the church property. The steps leading to the second floor and the main auditorium were covered in green. No one ever washed them. We washed and cleaned everything. Higher up toward the stairs we attached a cross, since we have windows, because we didn't want people thinking we are cultists like Jehovah's Witnesses. And so, as people walk past the



church building, according to their own custom they now bow and cross themselves before continuing onward. And some have even stepped into the church yard to chat, and we invite them to Bible studies. Praise God; there is some success!

It was a great trial when the sewer line became clogged, and it took the whole day to get it cleaned out. This was a marvelous opportunity to evangelize! But then our water supply line burst, and then I did get scared because before us were very many projects waiting to be done. I understood that we would need to take up the paving tiles in the courtyard, get the water pipes repaired, and then put the tiles down again. But time does not wait. Some young fellows who want to be baptized joined me in taking up the paving stones, finding the problem and repairing it. Now we needed to put back all the stones the way they were. We have no funds to hire a professional, but with God's help, it still ended up looking better than when we started!

The month of June was merciless. We had yet another experience when my sister was rushed to the hospital in Lvov for an operation. Praise God, the doctors did everything successfully!

V. Omelchuk led a seminar called "Small Groups" in our church, and this was a great blessing. Many pastors attended. My wife Violetta prepared a buffet table, and everything there was interesting, delicious and attractive. We also had 2 families from Israel that visited us, and one from the U.S.A. This was a blessing. They participated in our church and promised to pray for our services.

Then we had our long-awaited "Choose Life" project. A team of 18 people came. They did the work; we assisted. Thank you so much, dear friends, for your help! God did a miracle, and 50 kids came. I had expected that we might get half that number!



The camp ran from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Afterward we did some community labor: we picked up the streets, painted the gates to the soccer field, and in the process we talked with people about God. In the evenings, we had evangelism. We asked people what kinds of needs they had, and we prayed with them. We sang, fellowshiped, and then a young woman named Erica

walked up to me. She said she had felt very poorly, but then she heard our singing and understood that we could help her and that it was God's will that she come to us. We talked and prayed. And I ask that you friends also pray for Erica.

Then we invited teens and young adults to join us at the church property, where waiting for them were fellowship, bright fires, kielbasa on the grill, and singing. Each person who wanted could come. So that's how it was. Curious people dropped by and asked about our church, who we are, and what we are. This was a blessed time. Thank you for your prayers.

In order not to lose youth, we immediately invited them to continue fellowshipping. On Sunday afternoons after church we hold a Christian club for them. Our small team already has four people. Pray for this ministry, including finances for holding this outreach. In the cold seasons we want to hold this club indoors, in our auditorium where we hold worship services. But we want to make this auditorium a universal room, where it will be cozy, with a warm floor, since our heating system is poor. And we want to take out the heavy old benches and buy chairs in order to make the room easy to clean and arrange for various events. We are praying for finances for this. We have prayed for a computer and a screen and for heating. God heard us, and you gave us a laptop computer and a projector. Praise the Almighty!

One other thing—I invite you to rejoice with me, because my father has reached the age of 80 years! Our family drove to be with him on his birthday. For me, my father is a very large example of a spiritual figure, who at the age of 21 was already a pastor. He blessed us to minister in Lvov. I thank God for my parents. Please pray for them too. We greatly need their prayers!

Whoa, I've really gotten carried away with my stories. This just shows that we are a spiritual family and that we desire to communicate as to our near and dear ones. We are one. And we will always be together, wherever we will be. And maybe here in Lvov! We pray for a chance to see you in person. Great appreciation goes to you, our praying friends and coworkers, for standing with us! May the Lord bless you!

Yours always,

Yury, Violetta, Aaron, Benjamin, and Elizabeth

