



## **The Levtseniuks**

**October, November, December 2019**

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters of the BIEM mission!

It's hard to express with words that which I feel, worrying as a young pastor. Yet, just one thought about how friends and many churches are praying for you and your family will bring strength to continue serving our beloved Lord Jesus Christ!

Please forgive me for not writing in such a long time. I have much of interest to share with you.

After we had celebrated our Thanksgiving Day here, we were invited to the very biggest church in the city of Lvov, where all Baptist believers joined the head of the city in praising God for His mercy toward us. This was a big gathering of believers. It was a great blessing when I was invited to a discipleship retreat at a lodge in the Carpathian Mountains. Eight days there were absolutely free. We learned how to preach only the Gospel.

Also, we love when guests come to stay with us. (By the way, we always wait for you!!!) We had as guests some youth from the city of Kyiv. Dmitry Scherbyna preached, and the young people sang. Guests also came from the city of Dubno. Children took part. For us, guests are a special blessing.

Along with our youth, we traveled to the regional youth conference in the city of Dubno. Afterward, we visited my parents. We got to wish Mom a happy birthday. And we prayed with Papa. He gave us some words of edification and encouraged us in the ministry.

We have ended up developing yet another ministry. Brothers and sisters who fly anywhere by plane can park their automobile in our yard and spend the night, since the airport is just a three-minute walk away.

Praise God for a small group with unbelievers. The family of Mikhail and Ekaterina S. and their little daughter Olesya come to it regularly. Also, our neighbor Ivanka and her son Markiyan. We worked with yet other neighbors who have 8 children. They haven't yet been over to visit us. We pray about that. And we ask you to pray that they, too, will study the Word of God with us. I knew that Papa's health had gotten worse. People from the endo prosthesis place went to see him. He received a second operation. Because he had problems with his heart and kidneys, he was getting worse and worse. I wanted to see him alive! While brothers were searching for a car for us to visit papa in the hospital in the city of Rovno, my family members went to him. They were allowed into the recovery room. They all saw him; he was alive. But I didn't manage to get there in time... My brother phoned and said that papa had gone to be with the Lord. I didn't know what to do. After all, my father – my friend, my teacher, my mentor – had died!

For me, life stopped. I was already going to his funeral. Driving there, I was wondering how things would be for me now. Papa and I had been so close! I prayed, and I felt your prayers, because the Heavenly Father sent me strength. Even while still in the car, I sensed that the Lord wants me



to be closer to Him and to hope more strongly in Him. It was a big funeral, around 1000 people! Papa was gone. But life goes on. I wondered how I could rejoice for Christmas and the New Year? But God is good! We learned some songs, and thanks to the choir director from another church, we rejoiced that we had a singing group to praise God. We celebrated the New Year with the church. Everyone appreciated it. After the service, we sang together at midnight, ate, played Bible games and then went our separate ways about 4:00 a.m. Praise God for unity in the church!



The Lord opened for us a door for yet another ministry. This is ministry to families from the war zone [in the east of Ukraine]. These are special people who have suffered from the war, children without fathers. We prepared a Christmas theater presentation for them. I had become acquainted with the man who oversees the market, and he allowed us to use a meeting room, where about 200 people gathered. Of those, 100 were children from the war zone and their parents. They really enjoyed it! On the day after our presentation, we used the funds received from you to deliver 100 gifts for these kids. Thank you so much!

Together with the children and the workers from the war zone, we prayed and extended our Christmas greetings and gave them gifts.

The community for aiding the children of the war zone asked me to work with them and to organize similar events, even if only every 6 months. We promised to do so on the day after Easter. We plan to distribute gifts once again. We're praying about it.

Please pray about our desire to buy a car for our family. Without a car, getting around in Lvov is really not possible. It takes a lot of time just getting the kids to school and back. And we need to visit church members. And pray concerning our repair work in the church building, which we will begin in spring. Thank you for the finances for that.

We are grateful to God for everything. Your prayers are like incense, rising to Heaven! Our family feels your prayers and love for us. And we always tell people about how many people pray for us.

Thank you for your involvement in our ministry. We love and esteem you very much!

Always yours,  
Yuri, Violetta, Aaron, Benjamin, and Elizabeth