



## The Buykos in Bilogorodka, Ukraine

January 2020

We celebrated Christmas on December 25, and we held a holiday worship service in honor of it. The teens had helped to pack gifts at a youth fellowship, and then they helped to distribute them during the service. They did this without any thought concerning getting gifts themselves. They simply wanted to help in doing something good.

One woman who came was here for the first time. She's a relative of one family that attends services. Generally speaking, she is Catholic, but she enjoyed it very much. How interesting it is to observe how people listen very attentively to that which to us seems very familiar. And she was absolutely in ecstasy over the singing, which really pleased her. The Sunday school children took big part of the service. They had been practicing their program for a very long time. The teens put on a short play concerning the essence of Christmas. It was unusual that they themselves volunteered to participate and memorized the words by heart. The script was written by the woman who had invited that relative who came to church for the first time that day. Typically, the teens want only to sing, not to perform in a play, so this was remarkable, and we say Praise God for it!



In addition, on that day there came a family that the church had assisted during a difficult time a year ago. We ask you to continue to pray for this family, that God will touch their heart and they will begin to come regularly place their faith in God.

There were guests at this service—representatives of a charitable fund, which our church has helped several times, including the proceeds from a Christmas concert we hosted last year with singers from a local music academy. I had already begun to plan a concert and to prepare a program and to invite people to take part in it, when we met representatives of this charitable

organization who told about themselves and about the children they help, and how they use the funds that they collect and how much it helps. The Lord then placed on my heart the desire to make our concert a charitable effort on their behalf. The women from the foundation were quite touched and promised to come. One of the women brought her daughter (about 6-7 years of age), who listened quite attentively. Afterward she came up to meet us and began to talk without any shyness at all! She carried herself as if we were longtime acquaintances. We invited her to the Sunday school. Praise God for Christmas and all that He does for us!



## February

*“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.” (Philippians 4:4)*

Recently our church building in Bilogorodka hosted our third teen fellowship, which we call a Youth Fellowship.

Several days in advance, a number of people from the church came to help beautify the auditorium and to prepare everything for this event. Praise God that people are ready to



labor on behalf of others and for the Lord.

Nearly 20 teens came for this time of fellowship. The speaker was one of the youth leaders from the Temple of Salvation church in Kyiv, and the theme was “Joy.” In connection with events that are making people panic, we clarified believers’ main sources of joy, which





we encounter in God, and we understood that we always have something for which to thank the Lord, and there is always something to rejoice about, so that in our lives we don't experience what is happening around the world: be it a difficult test, arguments with our loved ones, or something similar. We also take away other lessons for ourselves, that being that sometimes all the minuses in what is happening cause us not to notice the pluses, the joys and positive things. All the teens

attentively listened to the speaker and the theme of joy that spread through the various points. They praised God in singing with the group. During break time they ate, and during that time they rejoiced at the fellowship that we always are able to have in the church.

Two visitors at the youth fellowship were Anya Fomichov and her girlfriend from Desna. Since Anya had helped with the



summer camp in Bilogorodka, the teens were very glad to see her and have a chance to fellowship. They were also very glad to see her parents, Igor and Sasha, who were leaders of the older group in our camp (which consisted of teens), and they talked with them before the beginning of our youth meeting.

Praise be to God that we can hold such fellowship times, that people are willing to help and that parents do not forbid their children from visiting the church. We ask that you pray for these teens, that their hearts will be open and ready to hear and receive the Word of God and to know how to rejoice.

Thank you for the prayers and support!  
Praise God!

## March

### *Gift for a Widow*

My neighbor Natalia Ivanovna is 67 years old. A couple of months ago, she buried her husband, who died of cancer. Before that, for more than a year she went through one hospital after another, where she looked after her seriously ill husband.

Natalia's oldest son is a well-known and admired surgeon in Kyiv. He lives separately, but he tries to help his mother as he can.

Now she lives with her younger son, who is addicted to drugs. Since the death of his father, this son mocks his mother in every way: He smokes around the apartment, brings in various girls, steals food, and carries away everything of value from her home. He might pour ice water on her, and showers her with foul language. Worst of all, he says right to her face that he's hoping she will die soon. Then the apartment will belong only to him.

There is no one to serve justice to this drug-addicted son. Unfortunately, in our country there is no one to help in the case of domestic assault.

Natalia Ivanovna loves Christ with all her heart. She carries all of her concerns to Him and thanks Him for everything. She is greatly lacking in warm fellowship and simple human company. Therefore, she was so glad at the gift for widows.



She had wanted such a cup for a long time but couldn't afford one. And she hung the picture in her room.

Praise God for people with hearts that are full of love for those who suffer and with love for others.

For my neighbor, this gift became an answer to prayers. She saw that the Lord loves her and that she is precious in His sight.

I ask that you pray for this woman, that God will always be her support and hope! That God will touch the heart of her son and save him.