



The Buykos in Bilgorodka, Ukraine

1st Quarter Report, 2021

January

Despite the many restrictions in the recent past and already in the new year, we have managed to bring many plans to reality. For the third year in a row, we have hosted an annual charitable concert. A Christmas concert performed with friends from Glier College has already



become a tradition. It's a cause for rejoicing that, although most of us are already studying in different institutions, we still want to do good works together and to sing at public concerts.

It's also pleasant that at the concert we had representatives of the charity for which we collect donations. They thanked us from the bottom of their hearts for our desire to help and said that what we are doing means a lot for disabled children in our town of Bilgorodka.

There were changes this year due to the quarantine, but we are glad that we were able to host this concert. Many people came. The auditorium was full. But everyone there sat with a mask on, since we had stipulated in

advance that was a requirement. According to tradition, we serve hot tea after the concert, and we pondered how to maintain that tradition without violating the quarantine restrictions. We prepared hot tea outside in the church courtyard, so that people could enjoy fellowship there without masks. It was good that it was not super cold outside. God oversaw that need.

The result of the concert was that we were able to gather 9700 Ukrainian griven [\$347] for the charity called "A Place under the Sun—You Are Not Alone."

Praise God that He, despite all conditions, gives us opportunities to carry out such projects, which not only give people a good way to spend time and listen to music, but also to help the needy! Praise God!

Angelica Buyko



February

In recent days our family visited Pastor Anatoly Eremenko of the River of Life church in the city of Fastov. The mission has supported this 74-year-old widower more than once: during the difficult time of Covid's spread and now, when he himself is rearing three minor grandchildren.



You can't know his story and remain apathetic. At the end of last year, Pastor Anatoly got infected with Covid. For several days in a row his temperature never dropped lower than 104°. His lungs were affected up to 75%. Considering these factors and his advanced age, local hospitals refused to admit him. Only after a petition by his eldest daughter's husband did they admit him into a hospital in the capital. By God's mercy, a place opened up in one ward, since at that time they were putting patients in the corridor, and it was considered lucky if you got one of those places. During this time of great sickness, he kept the Word of God in his hands. It comforted and pointed his gaze toward Heaven. The pastor was preparing himself for moving on, and he was ready to meet the Lord at any moment.

In the hospital, he met a man who was lying nearby with the same diagnosis. Anatoly Alexandrovich witnessed to him much and read verses from the Bible. When Pastor Anatoly's period of treatment was ended, he wanted to leave his neighbor in the next bed a New Testament, but that man replied, "I have a Bible at home. I will dust it off and read it." Sometime later, that man telephoned

the pastor several times and asked many questions about the Bible. The pastor asks for prayer concerning this man. But it's written in the Bible that the ways of the Lord are inscrutable. And despite the negative prognoses of the doctors, this pastor conquered the illness and returned home. It's evident that God has His plans for the years of this brother's life.

Currently, 74-year-old Anatoly is rearing three grandchildren. He provides for them, helps them with their lessons, and cares for their physical and spiritual health, since their parents have fallen into a condition of dependency on alcohol. So, the nurturing of the children is now on the shoulders of the pastor.

His daughter's present life is a source of great pain for Pastor Anatoly. But he can't drop his hands. Now there is a problem that demands attention—the grandchildren's teeth. Other children call the granddaughter names in school, and they don't want to be friends with her because of her advanced dental diseases. Treatment is very expensive and beyond the pastor's financial means as he lives on his small pension.

While we were there to deliver aid from the mission, tears welled in his eyes because God always sends help in time. He praises the Creator for His care.

He also sends his sincere, heartfelt thankfulness to you, dear brothers and sisters!

March

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters!

Thank you very much for praying for us! Praise God, that He preserves us during this complicated quarantine time and that people thirst for His Word.



In our church, the youth already assist in presenting lessons in the younger Sunday school group. Also, moms sometimes lead in craft projects after the lesson. In addition, the kids really like it when friends wish them on happy birthday in Sunday school. In their wishes for the birthday children of the week, teachers always include the verse written in Ephesians 6:1. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.”

In addition, our children love to walk and play outside after the Sunday school hour. During this same time, the adults have a chance to fellowship and to enjoy drinking coffee together.



This month we also had a ladies' meeting. We generally pick out a topic in advance, so that when all the women arrive, they have already read through the passage to see what the Bible says. When these sisters in Christ read and meditate on the text at home, then the fellowship goes very smoothly, spiritually, and we can find answers to questions in the Holy Scriptures. But the most important thing is that at the end of the fellowship we divide into groups and pray for each other until the next ladies' fellowship.



This time the book of the Bible was Ruth. Many shared their thoughts, and several women saw this book in a new way. After the spiritual portion of our time, we typically have some sort of master class. This time we did decoupage decorations, with each person decorating whatever they wanted—a jar, a bottle, or a wooden box... For many of these women, such fellowship is very precious! This is because they don't have such fellowship and support at home because their families are unbelievers.

We ask that you pray for our church, our children, and the families of our brothers and sisters who have unbelieving husbands, wives, and children.

Also pray for all those who are sick, that God will uphold and heal them!

The Buykos