



The Fomichovs in Desna, Ukraine

2nd Quarter Report, 2021

April



My dear brothers and sisters, I want to thank you for your prayers. And it is with great joy that I want to share how God works. This month, we organized an evangelistic outreach to the villages around Desna. We collected things for children, and we visited families with many children that are experiencing material difficulties. We took them clothes, talked with them, gave them children's Bibles, and told them about how God loves them. People were amazed by such goodness, and more than once we saw tears in people's eyes, because in this world where sin rules and there are so many tears and pain, believers bear testimony of God's love.

Alina (a family with many children)

In the village, they call this woman the cutter, because when she was in an argument with her drunk husband, she cut him several times with a knife, and he remained alive only by a miracle. She took the kids she'd had with him and left. She lives alone, bearing the upbringing of four children on her own shoulders. When we took her helpful things and groceries, she wept and couldn't believe that anyone had taken interest in her family.

We stepped into her home. It doesn't have any running water, no bathroom, and the conditions were not good for living in. At first the children were very cautious of us. But when they saw that we posed no

threat, they responded well to us, and we were able to give them gifts of children's Bibles and to chat with them.

What particularly struck me was that I was familiar with such a situation, that is, when parents drink and the children spend a lot of time on the street. I understand that, if God doesn't intervene, that a certain future waits for these kids—they will begin to drink, and next they will end up in prison. It was so painful for me to see how sin ruins the lives of people, and especially children's lives. And I'm so glad that God gave me the opportunity to witness about God's love.



There were other families, too. Families that we were able to visit and show God's love to. We pray that the seed that we planted will grow and bring forth fruit.

Pray with us:

1. That God will use us further in such evangelism.
2. Pray for Alina's family, that God will save her family and free them from sin.

Respectfully,
Igor Fomichov

May

Dear friends!

I'm glad to share with you some news from our ministry. God is opening doors for us in the ministry to widows and elderly people. Not far from Desna there is a home for elderly people. Right now, they have 18 residents, and of those a large percentage are bedridden. We try to minister to them. More than once this year we have visited them with various gifts. Before

Easter we prepared sweets for them and brought them books, although not all of them can still read. We hope that when the quarantine is lifted, we will be able to speak with them about God. Now we are ministering to them, and each time we go we hope to shine a ray of sunshine into their lives. We see that the Word of God teaches us to care about people in such a category and we, as a church, are growing in this way.



The second project that we did this month was to organize the men from the rehabilitation center to perform some social work. We were able to do a variety of jobs to spruce up the town. Many locals were surprised that former drug addicts and alcoholics are now serving others. Thanks to this project, we had many opportunities to speak with people and to bear witness of the fact that God changes people's lives.

We're also continuing to give out children's Bibles and to tell people about God. The church is growing, and we are preaching the Gospel.

Please pray with us:

1. For the rehabilitation ministry, that God will saving perishing souls.
2. For the church to grow.
3. For preaching the Gospel in the home for senior citizens, that God will open doors for that.



With respect, Igor Fomichov

June

Dear brothers and sisters,

Once again, I want to joyfully write you a letter, because I understand that this is an encouragement for you. You rejoice together with us as you see God working in the ministry that we are doing for Him.

In the rehabilitation ministry that we are continuing, we constantly see God's hand at work. Over and over, we see that God is alive. This ministry is not easy, and we regularly run into complications and various types of problems. But each time, God encourages us with a new story:



Vitya



Vitya himself came here from Chernigiv for rehabilitation, and from his first day, God began touching his heart, and his life started to change. He cast off all his harmful habits and began to immerse himself in Bible reading and prayer. He began to correct his relationships with his family, and it is obvious how God has worked in him for this. Because, due to sin, he totally ruined his life and the lives of his loved ones.

In using drugs and alcohol, he reduced himself to such a condition that he fell and was in a coma for 5 days. The doctors had already begun to believe he would die and didn't have a great desire to care for him. But God gave him one more chance.

In the course of giving him injections, the nurses [accidentally] gave him an infection. When he regained consciousness, a doctor asked him whether he had 30,000 Ukrainian hryvyas [\$1,125 U.S. dollars] for an operation. Vitya replied no. The surgeon informed him that if they did not perform an operation on one leg, they would need to amputate it.

Here, he reached a turning point in his life. He thought, "Nobody needs me now because of my lifestyle, and with only one leg it's certain nobody will need me."

In that moment, God was preparing him for the realization that he needs God. The first miracle that God performed was in allowing him to get the operation on credit, and that saved his leg. Thus, God began moving in his heart, moving him toward receiving Jesus as His Savior. We see how God is establishing him and his relationships with his family. He has a daughter who recently told him, "Papa, I love you." Vitya says, "She had not said that for years, but God has begun to remake my ruined life."

Yarik

I have known him for a very long time. He is one of the old drug users who were in Desna, and God had knocked on his heart's door many times, but each time something interfered. One time he had started coming to church services, but then Yarik's father died. His father had drunk a lot, and his mom was looking for help and showed up at church and took her son, who was already heavily into drugs. So, no sooner had he taken steps to draw closer to God when his father died, and they decided to bury him at the Orthodox church.



The Orthodox priest somehow learned that they had visited a Baptist church several times, and he declared, "If you want me to participate in the funeral, then you must stop going to the Baptists for services and give me promises that you will not go there. They promised, and the priest took advantage of their grief. For a long time, they tried to keep their promises.

But God continued to knock at his heart, and he struggled a lot. He was put in prison several times and even married and had a daughter. But sin ruined his life. He couldn't get away from drugs. He understood that his daughter was ashamed to go outside because everyone pointed at her with their fingers, because her father was a drug addict, and this began to gnaw at him. Well, he couldn't do anything about it himself, so here he came to pray to God, and God is changing his life.

Pray with us for the ministry of the rehabilitation center:

1. Pray for Vitya, that God will restore his health. The drugs burned out cells in his brain that are used for coordination, and now he often totters. People think he's drunk.
2. For Yarik, that God will establish his family and give sincere repentance to his wife.

With respect,
Igor Fomichov