



The Fomichovs in Ukraine

3rd Quarter Report, 2021

July

“Tent Camp”



Dear brothers and sisters,

I want to thank all of you for your prayers. It's evident how God is blessing us and enlarging our borders. This year we gathered 100 unbelieving teens for a tent camp, and over the course of a week were able to witness to them of God. In all, we had 130 people in the camp. And each day, the parents of many of these teens would come and observe how the camp was going. For all of us, it was a huge encouragement when we received good ratings from the parents. The parents were ecstatic at the organization of the camp, at how well it related to

their children, and at the atmosphere we had in camp.

Each day, during the morning discussions we considered various topics that are important for youth. We considered various topics to show how sin destroys people's lives and where a person can find an escape. We boldly witnessed of our Lord and invited them to pray and repent. On the last night, nearly all of them stood to pray. We understand that the Holy Spirit was knocking at their hearts, and they heard His knock and responded. We pray that God will change their lives.

This year, many interesting people came to the camp—parents who brought their children, and also local authorities. This year, for the first time, the mayor of Desna visited the camp with his wife. He brought ice cream for the children, and we arranged an opportunity for the children to ask the mayor whatever questions they might have on their minds. He saw with his own eyes how the camp is run.



Before he left, the kids had a chance to be photographed with the mayor of Desna. Later, he posted photos from our camp on the city website and wrote how he'd had this opportunity and that he was glad he'd visited the camp that our church had organized. The local priest came running to him and jealously asked why he's supporting "cultists" and why he'd posted photos with us. The priest expressed his displeasure that we associate with each other and take photos together. When I visited the mayor, he told me this story. I smiled and said that I don't have anything to share; we are simply doing our work.

Dasha, age 16

Dasha had gone to kindergarten with our daughter. What's surprising is that her parents always regarded us as some sort of threat because we are believers. They avoided conversations with us, and I don't exactly know why. Perhaps it's because evil people had frightened them with bad rumors about us being cult members, etc. What's amazing is that last year God began to change this situation. Dasha became friends with our daughter, and her parents began to thaw in relation to our family. To our



surprise, they permitted Dasha to come to our camp. There, she heard the Gospel in sermons, and in the evening services she began to sing Christian hymns. Our daughter turned and saw how she and another girl were singing songs of worship. Dasha got better acquainted with the Lord thanks to this tent camp.

Many of those teens were in a camp for the first time. For the whole week they heard the Gospel, and many prayed. We know that God is doing this through our and your prayers.

Pray with us, that the seed that was sown will grow and bear fruit.

With respect,
Igor Fomichov

August

Long-awaited Guests



For us, it's always a great blessing and a source of huge support when brothers and sisters from America come to visit. This year, in the last month of summer, God gifted us with an amazing opportunity and led to us a group of eleven Americans who took an active part in our evangelistic children's camp. They helped us to attract to camp around 80 children who were involved in our camp for four days.

The children heard Bible lessons, learned Christian songs, memorized verses from the Bible, and played and fellowshiped with our American brothers and sisters. What's amazing is that in Ukraine people relate very favorably to Americans, and children really love to talk with them and joyfully wait for them to come so they can see them and get acquainted. This camp included many very special moments that I'd like to tell about:

Mornings in camp

The advertisement for our camp was the brothers and sisters from America. This worked well, because this drew the attention of a lot of people and provided a positive lure to our camp. The children were happy to talk with Americans, and our brothers and sisters gave two hundred percent and still managed to speak with the parents who brought the children to the camp.

The children were overwhelmed with such a flurry of positive emotions that when they got home, they did not even give their parents a quiet dinner but instead told and retold their impressions. Many parents called and wrote to me, thanking me and saying how glad they were that their children were so happy.



Youth meetings

During these four days, we held two youth meetings, one in the church in Desna, and for the second we went to the village of Smolin, which is located near yet another military base, where the Petrenko family ministers. In Desna, we held the youth meeting near the church, where we had a service for the youth, shared the Gospel, and also sang Christian songs. We tried to befriend these young ones so that we could invite them to church in the future. We played volleyball and cooked hotdogs over a fire. Everyone expressed good emotions from that time.



Basketball tournament

I wanted to utilize our brothers and sisters to the maximum in ministry, and the most important thing was to make a lot of noise, so that people in Desna would hear that we're holding a camp at the church and that we have guests from America. Therefore, I went to one of the basketball



coaches and suggested we hold a friendly match between Desna and America. He agreed, and then they picked up on this idea and came to me and suggested that, rather than a basketball game, we could hold a basketball tournament, to which we invited teams from different neighboring towns. We also invited young people from the church in Bilgorodka. Then, when we had

agreed on a tournament, I began to get nervous, wondering whether there are any basketball players in the American group. Well, I based my hope on the fact that in America everyone plays various games.

When we arrived for the tournament, we were amazed because there were a lot of people there, and there were some serious teams. The American brothers and sisters began to say, “Igor, are you joking? This is a serious tournament. We thought we would be playing against the kids from the camp.” At that everyone laughed, understanding the importance of the event, and we had a very fun time. At the awards, our friends from America received awards for participation, and one girl, Anya, received a cup for being the best player of the tournament.

We were all ecstatic at such an outcome. The most important development was that this event served as a good testimony for everyone in attendance.

The Bible

While the American brothers and sisters were playing in the tournament, BIEM’s director in Ukraine, Eugene Buyko, distributed New Testaments in Ukrainian language to the local civil authorities and spectators. And people were very glad to receive a New Testament in Ukrainian. In addition, brother Eugene witnessed much to people about God, and the people with whom he spoke joyfully listened and received it. Even later, when I visited the mayor’s office, he told me that Zhenya had spoken with him and that he had taken an interest in reading the Bible.



Considering all these events, we rejoiced and praised God. Understanding how great God is and how marvelously He arranged everything.

With respect,
Igor Fomichov

P.S. We are thankful to the brothers and sisters who came to participate in ministry for the Lord. We're also thankful for everyone who prays for Desna. May God bless you abundantly.

September 2021

How It Was



Today I want to tell you the story of a man named Vlad. His parents were in the military, and because of this they ended up serving in Desna. There, Vlad passed his life, similarly to the lives of every teen in our city. There, we met and began our friendship. We saw him off to the army, after which he returned, and our paths came together when I used drugs. Vlad delved into this sin without understanding how much evil it would bring to his life.

I put my trust in Christ and decided to follow Him. I applied to seminary and studied in a Bible institute, but Vlad chose a different path, the way of sin. When I was studying in seminary, he was sitting in prison, and our paths diverged from each other for a very long time. When he was released from prison, I was already serving as pastor Desna. I went to visit him to talk. I testified much about life with God, and he supposedly agreed with everything, but his heart was closed to God.

For more than two months I met and talked with him. I tried to lead him to God. But unfortunately, he didn't want to allow Jesus Christ into his heart. Here, he met a girl who led him in a different direction. With great speed, he began to roll down into the abyss. A life of drugs, thievery, and homelessness once again led him to prison. He has spent 18 years and 7 months in prison. Many times, he was on the threshold of death. His parents turned away from him, and his father broke off all relations with him, saying that he had no son. He came to Desna with a buddy to steal something that they could trade for drugs. They stole a bicycle and began to ride away, but the bike's chain broke.



Right then, brother Sasha from our rehabilitation center came walking along. Only with difficulty did he recognize Sasha, because he was very thin and looked so bad. Sasha suggested that he come to the rehabilitation center, but Vlad refused. A couple hours later, Vlad showed up on his own. The brothers there received him warmly and showed care. He decided to stay, and within a short time he repented, and God began working in his heart. He began repairing the broken relationships with his family. He got a job, constantly attended church, and participated in the life of the rehab center. This month, Sam Slobodian and I advised that he be baptized. He agreed, and there he testified of his faith in Jesus Christ.

I rejoice in how God changes people's lives. Here was a fellow on the edge of the abyss, but God in His mercy saved him.

Pray with us:

1. For Vlad, that he will grow in God and will witness to others about his changed life.
2. For the ministry of the rehabilitation center.

With respect,

Igor Fomichov