



## The Yurchenkos in Chervona Sloboda, Ukraine

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report, 2021

#### October



In the past few weeks, my wife Alyona and I have visited several churches that were established with the assistance of BIEM and its coworkers. The purpose of these visits was to tell about our seminary and invite believers to enroll.

We visited a conference for children's workers in the city of Rovno. This was a motivational conference, intended to prompt young people to dedicate their lives to ministry to God. I introduced our seminary and invited workers to study there. We also visited a church in the city of Dubno, the pastor of which is Igor Levtseniuk. For many years, he taught in the musical department of our seminary. We visited a youth meeting of the church and invited the youth to apply to the seminary.

Next, we visited the city of Ternopil, where BIEM coworkers Vitaly and Katya Bilyak minister. They had a baptism in their church. Vitaly and I served the Lord's Supper. I preached on faith and grace, which are given us in Christ Jesus. I met a couple of students who, for various reasons, had halted their studies [at the seminary]. I encouraged them to finish, and they promised to come to the winter session.

In addition, we were in the city of Borschiv, where Sergei and Vika Skripnik serve. We attended a service, where Alyona and I sang a song and I preached.

We met two men, a father and son. They had recently been baptized. The son studies in Kyiv, and the father is a schoolteacher. It turned out that they know us from afar. For some years, their family has watched the broadcasts of our church's worship services. These are the two men standing on the left in this photo. They are very sincere Christians. Both already preach, and they assist Sergei and Vika



in everything. We invited them to study in the seminary. Please pray for all these students as well as for those who desire to study but are facing various obstacles. Pray for the seminary.

I'm very thankful to you, dear friends, for your prayers and financial aid and for your love and faithfulness. Thanks to your prayers and assistance, we can serve the Lord here in Ukraine. May the Lord bless you!

Sincerely yours,  
Vitaly Yurchenko  
Rector of the Seminary

## November

*“And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee....” Deuteronomy 8:2*



On October 17, the church in Kyiv called “Temple of Salvation” at 4 General Pukhova Street celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The celebration took place inside the church building, which had burned down 20 years ago but then was rebuilt using the financial donations of brothers and sisters from all over the world. In addition, the BIEM mission provided much assistance in rebuilding the church.

At the celebration there gathered pastors, ministers, and guests from various churches and countries. The service had three parts and was conducted in the format of a conference that lasted all day.

The first part of the celebration consisted of memories shared by those who were founding members of this church, those who went through trials and persecutions, through prisons and labor camps for the Word of God. A film about the life of the church during the times of persecution was shown. There were remembrances of worship services in the forests in the summertime and of others held in apartments during wintertime. And remembrances of those who risked their freedom to hide Christian literature or to labor underground to print copies of it. The names of those who had been prisoners or suffered for their Evangelical [non-Russian Orthodox] faith were mentioned. There were many testimonies from people who have labored in God’s harvest fields and dedicated their lives to the Lord in those distant and difficult times.

In the second part of the celebration, there were recollections of these past 30 years of freedom that the Lord has given the church for ministry. How many evangelistic services the church has held, how the church participated in mass evangelism in stadiums with famous evangelists and preachers. How many daughter churches have been planted in various cities and villages. How many blessed projects the church was able to bring to fruition during these years. There were also repentances for lost time, for activities left undone in the cause of God. Written congratulations from ministers who couldn’t attend the jubilee were read aloud. And a video congratulations from Sam Slobodian, the president of BIEM, was shown. For many years the church has worked alongside the mission and accomplished many combined projects. With the mission’s help, many church buildings have been built. For the past 27 years, the church has operated the seminary that Peter Slobodian began. And for all these years, the mission has remained unchanged as the sponsor and partner of the seminary.

The third part of the celebration was dedicated to the youth. It was noted that the church includes all generations, and all generations of believers have combined services together. The church has continuity of generations, which means that if the Lord prolongs our lives on earth, the church has a future.

In the last portion, a youth choir sang and impressed with the number of its members; it brought joy through its choir numbers. In this anniversary celebration, three choirs and an orchestra performed. A lot of effort went into preparing for this celebration, and it was heartening that in everything there were both young people and those with more years. Thus, considering this day spent in celebrating the church's 60 years, we can say to God with thankfulness, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us"! 1 Samuel 7:12.

Sincerely yours,  
Vitaly Yurchenko

## December

*"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you...." 2 Thessalonians 3:1*



God has blessed us. In December we were able to minister to children in various cities and to visit children's homes and orphanages 5 times. These were Christmas presentations with gifts for the children.

In the city of Vasilkov we were invited to stage a performance for children from the special school. These were difficult children, but they attentively watched the show, and when gifts were being handed out to the children, one boy refused to accept his gift. He said that he is very much a sinner and so is unworthy of getting a gift. When we sat and talked with him, he prayed and repented of his sins. We all persuaded him to accept a gift. This was a good moment for illustrating the Gospel: none of us is worthy of the gift of eternal life, but we receive it, not based on our earning it, but by the Lord's mercy.



In a different children's home in Chernigiv there were children of different ages. At first the older children acted defiant. They didn't want to listen. But during the presentation, they got quiet and watched the show attentively. The puppets sent to us from friends in the USA came in handy. Now we can prepare puppet shows on various topics. Thank you very much, dear friends, for the puppets, for your prayers, and for your material support.

Thank you, friends, for your love toward us. May the Lord bless you! God has blessed these ministries to children. Many kids and adults heard the Gospel. Many expressed gratitude and asked us to come again. Please pray for the ministry of the puppet theater.

Sincerely yours,  
Vitaly Yurchenko

