



The Petrenkos in Goncharivske & Smolin, Ukraine

3rd Quarter Report, 2022

July

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

I want to say that God has been just as good to us as He ever was before. We're still alive and thanking God! During wartime, you start to treasure many things, and what you had valued before might depreciate.

This month, Goncharovsk was again shelled from Belarus. It was early in the morning at 5:27 when a first shot rang out, waking Ira and me. Ira asked me, "What was that?" I said it was missiles arriving. In the blink of an eye, we rushed to the children's room, as we had to get the children up and pray for God's mercy. This morning, about 21 rockets flew towards us. There were no civilian casualties, but unfortunately men in the military perished. Many people began to relax, thinking that the danger had passed. But as it turned out, they were relaxing too soon.

We continue to feel God's mercy and care for us, and we also understand that we as a church can and must serve people in various ways. The church still functions, and services and Bible readings are still held. But we also try to help those segments of the population that need it.

There is also an interesting testimony that I want to share with you. Our mayor, Vitaly Nikolayevich, and Vanya, the mayor of Smolin, invited me to go fishing. The three of us went, and after we arrived at the spot, I prayed that God would bless this time and give us a catch. We started fishing, and when Vitaly Nikolaevich caught a fish, he uttered this phrase: "Sasha, I realize that the main thing in fishing is prayer and good tackle." And now, when we see each other, Vitaly Nikolaevich constantly remembers this principle. We can't help but be pleased, because when you witness over time it yields results. And when people begin to believe that God exists and He answers prayers, it causes admiration!

That's how this month was for us. Pray with us for the following needs:

1. For peace.
2. That God would continue to work through us.
3. For churches; that God would add new people to salvation.

August

I greet you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ! I would like to share with you some events from our life this month.

In this month we faced the fact that Ira had to go to the hospital. She was prescribed hormonal treatment, and we are watching to see whether it is necessary to further examine and monitor her, whether this treatment is effective for Ira. If so, we will continue to solve her health problems. We ask you to pray that God blesses Ira and that the treatment is beneficial.

Also, this month, a family from a neighboring village will come to our church. They live with their grandson, whose name is Artyom. His father was unfortunately killed in battle on the first day. They come to the service almost every Easter. And Artyom and his family like to be in church and find comfort and peace in God. Thank God for working, just as before, in the hearts of people through the Holy Spirit. We see a lot of citizens of our country who have lost loved ones, and many have become disabled. For us, as for the church, there is now a lot of work among these people.

We pray and ask you to pray for the following needs:

- 1) For Ira's health.
- 2) That God would use us to comfort and tell people about Christ.
- 3) For the children to be able to attend school.
- 4) For an issue to be resolved concerning Sashenaya (a soldier from our church) studying at the Academy in Kyiv.

September

Hello to you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ! Allow me to share news and answers to our joint prayers.

First, thanks be to God and to you for your prayers for my wife Ira. We passed tests for oncology and sent the results of the tests. There are problems and they need to be resolved, but at this stage there is no oncology, all neoplasms are benign. She is currently undergoing treatment and is being monitored by a doctor. We need your continued prayers.

Also, I need to have an operation on my leg, I have problems with my veins. I wanted to go ahead with this operation, but while Ira is undergoing treatment, we are financially unable to afford both her treatment and mine. At this stage, we have decided to deal with Ira's treatment. Later we'll take care of mine. But in any case, please pray for my health as well.

We as a church continue to have hope in these difficult days for our country. Many people need help now, and thanks to the BIEM mission, we can provide some help. Some need medicine, some need diapers, and others need food. With the advent of the war, prices for everything have risen dramatically, and many are on the brink of poverty.

Also, in our church building, the electricity is turned off very often and it can be off for a couple of hours to a couple of days. We prayed for a generator, and this month BIEM helped us buy a generator for the church. Now we do not depend on the power; we have an emergency option. Thank you for your participation in this need. Our country is facing an extremely difficult winter, and we do not know whether it will be cold or not, but we want to do everything possible to make sure the church is warm and lit in case we must receive people into the church.

We continue to live in the church until we can make repairs after the Russian bombs. It is quieter in the church than in the town, especially when the air-raid siren is blaring.

That is probably all the news to share with you. Please pray with us about these needs:

- 1) For Ira's health and mine.
- 2) For God to bless and work through us in the people around us.
- 3) For the church to grow both numerically and spiritually.
- 4) For peace to come sooner.