



The Fomichovs in Desna, Ukraine

1st Quarter Report, 2023

January



Dear brothers and sisters! You and I are living witnesses of how God is growing the church in Desna. Your faithfulness to God in the development of ministry is bearing good fruit, and it brings great joy and encouragement. When you see how God changes people's lives and saves them from eternal destruction, it encourages and gives strength to continue praying and supporting the ministry. For me personally, it

serves as a great motivation when I see people who had lost their way in sin. Sin destroyed their lives. They were walking a hair's breadth away from death, but God heard their prayers and saved them. God brought them into your life as a small infant [spiritually] and allowed you take care of their growth. No one else knows how much labor and time is spent on helping that child grow into a handsome, faithful man of God who would devote his life to the Lord. Well, you and I know how much we have prayed and asked God to save and change the lives of these people. And here we have fruit that can serve as great encouragement. And it shows the power of the Gospel and how the Word of God changes people's lives.

In January 2023, we ordained three brothers to the deacon ministry. They will strengthen the ministry of our church and will develop the ministry for our Lord. And this cannot help but cheer and encourage because I remember how each one began. It's just a miracle of God, and only God could change people's lives like that:

Pavel

Pavel was born into a military family. Throughout his childhood, his parents prepared him to become a soldier. He studied at various military schools and institutes so that he could become a soldier. On the way to a military career, he tried drugs and could no longer give them up. He was forced to resign from the army because no one wanted to tolerate his addiction. After that, he tried to fix his life, but nothing helped. He was looking for a way out, but he didn't have enough strength. Instead, he got even more into drugs, which continued to destroy his life and health. He traveled a very long way to reach freedom. He tried hard to achieve freedom from sin. Only when he met God did he gain his freedom. God brought him to our church as a small baby [spiritually], and now he is an adult who has agreed to serve as a deacon in the church.



Denis

He tried drugs as a teenager, and that led him to the point where he destroyed his life. Drugs and alcohol completely ruined his health, and he ended up in the hospital, dying because he had destroyed his body so much. But God had a wonderful plan for his life. He saved him by healing him from illnesses. Spiritually, and then physically. God changed his life. He constantly shows by his behavior that he is a Christian.

Sasha

He spent fifteen years in addiction. It had destroyed his life, and his wife left him. He experienced a lot while living in sin. But when he met the Lord, he realized this was a chance to change everything. Because he'd already had his fill of mud, he grabbed hold of the Lord real hard. He prayed a lot, and God restored his relationship with his wife. A daughter was born, and his mother started coming to church half a year ago, and she's been baptized. The older sister recently started coming to church, and his younger sister has already attended many services. You can see how God changes his life, which serves as a vivid testimony to his relatives. Also, Sasha carries out the services of the rehab center, and there are never less than ten people in the rehab center.

God is alive and continues to be glorified in our lives.

Pray with us for these deacon brethren, that God would raise them up and change their lives.

Sincerely,

Pastor Igor Fomichov

February

Matthew 5:16 ... So let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.



After nearly a year of full-scale war in Ukraine, we have seen and heard a lot of different experiences and fears. We've been bombarded with all kinds of missile attacks and endured a lot of difficulties. Beginning with fuel shortages, other problems have included food shortages, medicine shortages, and massive missile strikes. Almost the entire winter we sat without light, but every time we found a way to adapt and survive.

I am deeply grateful to all of you for your support and prayers. You have shown us brotherly love and care in helping us buy

generators, for which we are sincerely grateful. Because of the war, many have lost their jobs. Many factories and plants have become damaged, and many businesses have closed. The war has destroyed the logistics of food, and prices have jumped many times. This has made it even more difficult for people to survive. I thank you that right from the start, that you have not forsaken us in these difficulties. You have tried to help us, and there are not enough words to thank you.

We as a church have been able to serve others and witness of the love of our Lord, which would have been difficult without your help. The church has taken on the challenge of ministering to people in a difficult time, and you have taken on that challenge with us. I am sure we will be rewarded in Heaven. Well, we are here to glorify our Heavenly Father so that people will see our good works and glorify our Lord and Savior. One morning I received a call from the mayor's office of our town. I was asked to gather everyone from our church who helps with humanitarian aid and involved in supporting people during this difficult time. We got together, although not everyone could come. The mayor thanked us for our service to the people and gave us letters of thanks for our participation in ministry and support of our people. We understand that we are doing this primarily for God, and we know that in this we glorify our heavenly Father. The church can serve as a good witness to those around us, and I know that this is our calling. After this event, the mayor invited me into his office, where he gave me a certificate for the president of BIEM, Samuel Slobodian. He thanked me again for everything and presented me with a Ukrainian flag for the mission. It is a good reward and an encouragement that people see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven.



Pray with us:

1. That this terrible war would end.
2. For our ministry, that many more people would hear the Gospel. Now is a time when we cannot stop. We need to serve people.
3. For our church. Everyone is tired of war. Even now as I write, I hear explosions in the distance. People want peace.

PS: You are a great blessing to us, and may God bless you abundantly.

Igor Fomichov

March

God adds saved ones to the church



The last year our life has passed like a nightmare, and we are not sure about tomorrow. We often hear different news—someone’s relatives have died; someone’s house has been destroyed. And someone else is forced to flee the destruction the war brings. Some fight at the front; others do their best to help. We all want peace, to not hear explosions and to take shelter from missiles and drones when the sirens go off. We all want to close our eyes and open them and no longer see or hear all the horrors. This doesn’t work. You open your eyes and understand that this is not a dream, but the

reality of this world. We understand that now we need to work even more and preach the gospel and tell people about our Lord and Savior. I see how God knocks on the hearts of people and adds those who are being saved. During this time, people have been added to our church. When we visited the home of someone to drop off food and to testify about God, that person gladly accepted an invitation to church. Another person had problems and was searching for a way out and thus found a way out in God...

Ivan

He has a difficult situation. His close family members have died long ago. His brother died in the war in Chechnya; his wife died of an illness. He served in the army all his life, has fought in many wars, and has been fighting since 2014 in Ukraine. He was injured and severely shell-shocked. After that, he was sent home and ended up in such an emotionally crushed condition that he began to drink alcohol heavily. He no longer knew how to cope and was looking for a way out. We took him to the rehabilitation center, and there he met God. He has stopped drinking, found peace of mind, and has begun attending church.

Luda

She considered herself an atheist all her life and was never interested in God. When the war began, her children and grandchildren left for Poland, and she remained to look after the household herself. When she found herself in all these difficulties, she began to understand how very difficult it is for a person to be alone, especially during a war. She began to observe how our church serves, helps, and supports people. She developed an interest in attending church, and in church she began to reconsider her relationship to God. Now she says she understands that there is a God, and He helps and supports. She has begun to pray and seek God.



Oleg

This man was addicted to drugs. His relatives did not know what to do with him, or how to help him. He heard from friends that there is a rehabilitation center in Desna. He was afraid to go, but his sister persuaded him. He was worried because he did not know what to expect. Well, at the rehabilitation center he met God. Then he began to pray and read the Bible. Now he burns to serve God.

Uncle Misha

He comes from Desna. For a long time, he lived in the Zaporozhe region. His wife and children are there. He came to Desna after the death of his parents to sell his parents' house. As soon as it sold, the war began, and he could not return to his family because Russian soldiers captured his house, drove his son out of the house, and plundered all his property. He has been living in Desna for a year of the war, so we met him, and he began attending church. He has started reading the Bible and attending church services. After each service he says, I am so glad that I found your church and can learn to live right.

Pray with us:

1. Pray for peace in Ukraine.
2. Pray for our church, that we can testify about God.
3. Pray for the new converts to grow in God.

With respect,
Pastor Igor Fomichov

PS: We see how God uses us and many people come to know God.