



The Koops in Ternopil, Ukraine

1st Quarter Report, 2023

January

Hello, dear friends!

The year 2023 started with a visit from our friends and partners in ministry at BIEM. That was a special time as we talked about relationships with God a lot. After the short Christmas holidays, we restarted our Kids and Youth Clubs.

The Kids Club started very interestingly as we had a huge chocolate bar, a present from [BIEM Board member] Kevin Gaugler. Our kids had never seen such a huge chocolate bar before, so our first meeting was full of emotion and loud laughter.

When we were to restart our Youth Club, we were concerned about the young people who had attended our club before, about whether they would rejoin us. We organized our first meeting and, thank God, all of them were present!

We want to involve a few girls who always come to our meetings to help us with the Kids Club. We believe working together will help us to become closer, so please pray for this idea.

This month we also had an interesting meeting with refugees. In the beginning of the war, we got to know one woman who is a refugee from Eastern Ukraine. We worked with other refugees together with her. She told us about a group of refugees who gather every week in a cafe in our micro district to make dumplings for the soldiers. We wanted to visit them and arranged a meeting. When we got there, we found more than 25 of them. We



brought good food packages as a gift for all of them. During this meeting I had a chance to preach briefly, and then we all said a prayer for Ukraine.

What's more, we told them that we plan to arrange a service for refugees and invited them all. The woman who helped to introduce us to this group told us that after we left, they talked about us for a long time. So, please, pray for this meeting for the refugees, for wisdom from God to build relationships with them and share the Gospel in such a way that they will open their hearts for Jesus.

We also praise God that 3 new young people have joined our Math Club. Seeing this inspired us, and now we want to work more, so more people will join us and hear the Gospel.

Please pray for:

- All our events that we have and are planning to have. We want to meet new people, build relationships with them, share the Gospel with them, and lead them to Jesus Christ.
- Our team. For us to be on fire for Jesus and for Him to inspire us to share the Gospel with people.
- An apartment for our family. We have been looking for a new apartment in our micro district for half a year now. We want to rent a two-bedroom apartment since we host many people and this will provide an opportunity to invite unbelievers. We believe this is a great time to grow closer to them and to build relationships with them.
- For a car. We had most of the needed amount of money to buy a car. We've decided on a good kind of a car that will be nice for our family and for the ministry, so we just keep saving money and praying for the car from God.
- Our pregnancy. For God to lead us in this time, for Karina's health, and for a healthy baby to be born.
- The question of agendas to the military enlistment office. Today many men are draft for the war in Ukraine and especially in our city. Our government wants to mobilize 250,000 men altogether from all the territory of Ukraine and 5,000 particularly from Ternopil by March 5. So, I understand that the guys from my team and I could be taken to war at any moment. In this case I'm concerned about two things: about my pregnant wife as I don't want her to give birth alone, and about our new church-planting project. I understand that if we get sent to war, the project will probably stop. I'm particularly concerned about this, but I pray and believe God is in control of everything.



Thank you for your support. May God bless you!
Sergiy Koop

February

Greetings friends and partners in ministry!

Thank God, together with our team we keep serving people in our microdistrict. We have our clubs and have some good news. The last few months not many people attended our Math Club, usually only 2-3 young people every week. But starting from February, God blessed us and there are 8 new young people constantly attending our Math Club. The fact that God sends us new people we can build relationships with inspires us a lot!

We also had an opportunity to have one interesting meeting with refugees this month. We cooked lunch for them, made a present for each of them and had nice conversations that included many stories from their lives. I was preaching, we sang some songs and of course, had a prayer together. They told us that they liked this meeting a lot and promised that they would come to visit us one more time. We pray about this and maybe God will give us an opportunity to build relationships with them.



I'm happy that we have our Bible Study Group with older women, who are refugees. What is interesting is that every time we give them a task to read a chapter from John, they return with so many questions concerning what they've read. That shows me that they are really seeking God, and I hope that these people are our people of harvest.

One more important event of this month is the Sushi meeting for teenage girls. This was a

time for girls not only to learn how to make sushi, but also to hear some important biblical truths. There were about 15 girls from 10 to 14 and they enjoyed this meeting a lot.

One more thing that I'm happy about is that my wife Karina is building relationships with two girls. She tries to have personal conversations and they are very open to becoming friends. We hope that soon these girls will accept Christ in their hearts.



It is very interesting that God gives us opportunities to make some events through which we can meet

new people and build relationships with them. I hope that God works in the hearts of all these people through all the groups and clubs and one day they will become real Christians.

Please, pray for us:

- For God to open hearts of people and to send each of our team members people they can work with and lead to Christ (Personally, I ask you to pray for me, as I still don't have such people to work with)
- We pray and plan to have two camps this summer- one for children and one for the youth. We pray for God's will concerning this question.
- For wisdom in our clubs and groups and for Gospel to be in each of our meetings.
- For apartment for our family (this question isn't solved yet)
- For car for our family
- And we ask you to pray for the birth of our daughter (If God will bless us, she will be born on June)

Blessings!
Sergiy Koop

March

Greetings, friends and partners in ministry!

This month was very special for us. In our previous letters, we told you about our work with two women refugees from Eastern Ukraine. We told you that we saw how God worked with them, changed their hearts and how they wanted to know God more. This month one of these women started asking questions about repentance, new birth, and baptism during the Bible study group, when we were exploring the story about Nicodemus from John 3. We had an interesting conversation at the end of this meeting. I told her that she needed to repent and to testify in front of the church. She answered that she was ready to repent, but she was afraid of a big audience. I told her that we are the church, and she can do this in front of us. That was a special moment: she prayed, asked God to forgive all her sins, and invited Him into her life. Then I prayed for her. Right after the prayer she told us that she wants to be baptized and that was also a shocking moment for us. What's interesting is that the other woman, who saw and



heard everything, teared up during the prayer and told us that she wants to repent, too, but was not ready yet, although she believes that God will lead her to this. Now we will have meetings preparing them for baptism. These two women, plus one more woman who invited Christ into her life during the Sunday service after I made a call for repentance, will attend these meetings.

All these events inspired me and my team a lot. It shows us that everything we've done is worth it, and because of the ministry that God is doing through us in this micro district there will be one more person together with us in Heaven.

What I like is that my wife Karina manages to build relationships with two young girls. We prayed a lot for God to open the hearts of girls that we've met in our micro district, and He endeared these girls to Karina. They are very open and ready to be friends, so they had already had a few meetings. Now these girls are ready to go to extreme camp with us.



Besides this, we continue having our youth and math clubs and kids club, where children can hear personal stories of leaders, about how they met Jesus.

This summer we plan to hold an extreme camp, because we believe and know that it helps to have better relationships with young people.

Last week I had a conversation with Sasha, a guy who went to extreme camp with us two years ago. During our conversation he told me that he heard the Gospel and learned many things about God thanks to that camp. At the end of that camp, he repented, and we gave him a Bible for youth. We hadn't seen each other for two years, but one morning during the war, he had a desire to read the Bible and recalled that he had the Bible we had given him. He started reading it and had so many questions about the things he'd read, so he started attending our youth club to find the answers. That was where I saw him and offered to meet up. At our meeting he told me, "I'm sure that if I hadn't gone to extreme camp two years ago, I wouldn't have started seeking God now." This is a testimony that we must keep holding such camps.

We are very grateful to God for such an active month and for such a long-awaited result – Olga's repentance.

Please pray for us:

- We thank God for Olga's repentance, and we pray for new people of harvest to work with
- We pray and plan to have two camps this summer—one for children and one for youth. We've already started preparations.
- For wisdom in what to do in our clubs and groups and for the Gospel to be in each meeting.
- For an apartment for our family (this matter isn't solved yet).

- For a car for our family.
- And we ask you to pray concerning the birth of our daughter. (If God so blesses us, she will be born on June.)

Blessings!
Sergiy Koop