

The Koops in Druzhba, Ternopil, Ukraine

2nd Quarter Report, 2023

April

Greetings friends!

Thank God, we were able to keep holding our meetings in April. What is interesting is that we can see how God gives us an opportunity to build personal relationships with different people from our meetings. As you will recall, we have a goal to build personal relationships with non-believers through the meetings we have, and it's working! Besides our planned meetings, we also spent time with people personally this month, and I'm sure that this works even better than an official planned meeting. We also had an opportunity to have our kids and youth clubs outside, because it's getting warmer and warmer, and it gives us opportunities to share the Gospel with people more and to be closer to non-believers.



We are holding our meetings at the stadium of School 12, where we started our movement half a year ago. I called the school's director, and she officially allowed us to have meetings with children there. I can see God's hand in this!

We're also planning to have one more tent camp for children, because they are asking us to take them somewhere, so we realized that it's important. I'm pretty concerned about how to do this with such a small team and, what is more, we'll be on our way to having a baby during that period.

By the way, I have some more great news. I prayed a lot and probably every day asked God to send me a person to harvest. One day I was in town with a guy I met about 5 years ago when I first moved to Ternopil. He was very immoral and is a Christian now and in the army! We were walking to the park when I coincidentally (I believe it was not a coincidence, but God's



plan) saw a familiar face. He was a guy who went to Extreme Camp with us 2 years ago, and we hadn't seen each other since then. We had a friendly conversation and arranged a meeting. I'm waiting for this meeting with him and praying for God to work in him and for him to be ready to hear the Gospel and to build relationships with me.

He also told me about his friend who spent a year in the war zone but was removed because he was seriously injured. He lives in Ternopil now and is on a bender, suffering from severe alcohol dependence. He is just 25,

so I pray to have a meeting with him as well and to try to build a relationship with him and share the Gospel through that.

Please pray for us:

- For my meetings with these two guys (Vanya from extreme camp and his young friend)
- For three camps we are planning to have this summer: two kids' camps and one youth extreme camp. We've already started our preparations.
- For the issue of an apartment for our family. God opened the hearts of some people, so we almost have all the money to buy an apartment, but we pray for God's option for us in the right place.
- And we personally ask you to pray for the birth of our daughter. We're waiting for her to be born in June.

Thank you and blessings!
Sergiy Koop

May

Hello, friends and partners in our ministry!

May was the last month of our clubs in this season because we start holding camps in June.

When this month started, the weather became warmer, and we decided that it would be better to hold our meetings outside. I had a meeting with the school director. She allowed us to use the school stadium, so we started our outside events.

That was a nice decision, as there were twice as many children attending our kids club outside as inside our location. It was much more interesting for them to be outside, as



they could run and play in a huge stadium. Of course, we had Bible lessons every time, and we had opportunities to have some conversations with their parents.



We had our youth meetings right after the kids' club. What is interesting is that many children stayed with us for the whole youth meeting. It was hard for our team, but we thank God that we have such kids who want to spend time with us.

We have halted all our clubs for the [summer] break, and now we are working to organize our camps. If God allows us, there will be three camps: kids camp in June, extreme youth camp in July, and in August we plan to have a 5-day kids' day-camp with a program for youths every evening.

What I love about this month is that God gave me an opportunity to have a meeting with two guys. I had some meetings with them before the war. One of them even went to an extreme camp with us a few years ago. We had a nice conversation, and the Holy Spirit led me to share the Gospel with them a few times in different ways and invited them to go to an extreme camp with us. I hope they will go with us. I pray for these guys. Who knows, maybe they will be part of our church in future.

In May we also started our Baptism class. There are 7 people in it—two women from our microdistrict, one guy I'd mentioned about in previous letters (Sasha, who was prohibited to go to church), and 4 people from New Life Church. What is interesting, is that Sasha, with whom I had a meeting, told me then that he won't be able to go to church, as he had a conflict with his relatives, but within two weeks he was with us for Sunday service. I invited him to Baptism class, and he was with us the next week. I want to tell you, he is the most active student in this class; he learns all the verses by heart and has so many different questions.

It's very interesting to observe how God is working in his life, and I believe that God will work with Sasha's whole family through him. He tells me how he talks about Christ with everyone at home and asks them many questions.

This is how May was for us.

Please, pray for us:

- For our summer camps
- For the birth of our first child, we are waiting for her to be born in a few days.
- For an apartment to purchase. I'm pursuing this matter every day, searching for the right option for us and praying for God to bless us with it.
- For wisdom to get ready for the next season, starting in September.
- For God to bless us with people of harvest through all our summer projects, people who will repent, so we'll be able to build our future church together with them.

Blessings,
Sergiy Koop

June

Hello friends!

June was a very special month for my wife and I, as God blessed us with a daughter. By God's mercy, everything went very well. Thank God, Karina is at home now recovering, and our little daughter Karolina is trying to adapt to life in this world.

While Karina was at the hospital, I had a very interesting conversation with one of the hospital workers. As always, I try to share the Gospel with people and that was a very powerful conversation with the woman working there. We prayed together, and then we talked about the Gospel a lot. It's a very long story, so perhaps I'll tell you the whole version one day. I have a lot of similar stories to tell, so I praise God that He uses me to share the Gospel.

We are very grateful for all your prayers, and we praise God for His leading through all the pregnancy. Now we pray and ask God to give us wisdom to raise our daughter and the first thing we ask for is for her to be a real Christian.

Beside the fact that this month we tried to dedicate more time to our family, each week God gave us opportunities to have Baptism classes. Each class is very interesting, as people visiting these classes have so many questions, and that inspires me!

In June we were able to organize a kids' tent camp not far from Ternopil, together with the New Life Church. It was a blessed time and here is what Roma, one of our team members, said about this camp:

June 15-17, we had a three-day camp for 28 kids, ages 10-14. The children and team (10 people) lived in tents on private property, so we had the freedom to use all the resources like showers, toilets, kitchen, hall, sports zone, and so on.

The kids loved the time we spent there, and we had a lot of feedback from them. The camp was organized so that every day there were blocks of time for morning exercises, meals, Bible time in groups, and bonfire for everyone. There was a time when they were able to choose what they wanted to do—play board games, do quizzes, sports, or crafting. What is more, every day they had about 3 hours of free time when they could jump on the trampoline, eat cotton candy, spend time with each other and with leaders, and enjoy themselves and nature.





Besides building and developing personal relationships with children, the main goal was to share the Good News about our Savior. Every morning and evening we had a time of mentoring, when we tried to help children realize their need of the Savior, without Whom we are not able to overcome our sins. We talked about social media, internet, and computer-games addictions. We are so happy that some kids dedicated their lives to Christ, and we have feedback from parents who told us that their children changed a lot after this camp.”

Please, pray for us:

- For our Extreme Youth camp, which will be in two weeks.
- For my ordination next week.
- For our first baptism, for those who attend Baptism classes (we plan to have a baptism on September 6).
- For the repentance of Ludmyla, who attends all our meetings, but can't venture to do this. I want to have a personal conversation with her this Sunday.
- For Karina and our daughter Karolina. They'll stay at home while and I'll be in Extreme Camp.
- For our apartment. Please, pray that we can buy our own apartment in our microdistrict. We are looking for God's option for us and pray for that.

Thank you for your support!
Blessings!
Sergiy Koop