



## The Koops in Druzhba, Ternopil, Ukraine

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report, 2023

#### October

Hello friends and partners in ministry!

October was full of various events and kind of stable for us as we consistently hold all our meetings. These are kids clubs, teen club, and our Bible study group. Besides all that, God blessed us with some exciting things.

For example, I asked you to pray for God to teach me how to be the pastor He wants me to be, and He answered that need. Like never before, many people asked me to help them in different spheres of their lives during October. I had many personal meetings, where I had to advise something and to listen to their problems, and that was very interesting. But at the same time, it wasn't always easy, as during all those 3 weeks we had to host people every day. It wasn't very easy for my wife, as we had to prepare not only spiritually for those meetings, but physically as well. But she is a wife from God for me, so she tried to do everything as unto the Lord. I'm very grateful to God for my wife and that we can conduct our ministry together, host many people, and serve them. I believe that Jesus appreciates that, as He said that whoever welcomes one of His disciples, welcomes Him, so I believe that we hosted our Lord in our house many times this month.

God also answers our prayers about people of harvest. We always pray about that and see the results of our prayers. There's one woman from the invaded region of Kherson attending the Bible Study group. I started talking about repentance with her. We had an hour-long conversation about Christ, His resurrection, and about the consequences of our sins. I gave her a printout of one of the lessons from the Baptism classes about repentance. She said she would



read it once again and then we would meet and discuss it. The fact that she is very open to talk about all that, I believe, is God's work in her heart. Please pray for her, for God to prepare her heart for repentance.

Also, in the building where we bought our apartment, there is the office of that construction company. I always go to see their workers and to talk a little bit, and I see how they have become open to me in the 2 months I have known them. When I come to say Hello and ask how they are doing, the answer is "With your prayers," which means that they recognize me as a person who prays for them, and I like that!

And now I pray about their offer to become the head of condominium, which means I would be kind of an administrator of that building. I'm thinking and praying about that, as it would be time-consuming, and I would probably have to organize many things. But at the same time, it is an amazing opportunity to talk with many people. That means I'll have access to around 100 new unbelievers! Maybe that's an answer from God, and they are His people. He is working there, so this is one more prayer request.

One more event that took place just 2 days ago is one more bright example of God's answers to our prayers. It was a student meeting. We've been praying for the students' ministry and for God to open the doors to that ministry for about a year now, and He did that. Personally, I'm so amused by how He did that.

Another guy and I wrote up a plan for the students' meeting and offered to the university administration that we hold a meeting right in one of their auditoriums. We've decided to dedicate that meeting to Halloween and to tell students about the origins of this holiday. Surprisingly, the administration agreed. They gave us an auditorium and what is more, they advertised our meeting themselves! More than 60 students came and 3 professors as well.

We discussed Halloween, and we gave different treats to those who were active. We told them about the dark side of that holiday and its paganistic origin. It seems the students liked that event. Their professors told us it was a great time even for them and they'd learned many new things about this holiday. We hope that was the start of a new branch of our ministry. We plan to hold such meetings about different hot topics to shift students to the Gospel as we understand that students need it more than anything.

So, October was full of events and God's answers to our prayers. We know for sure that "the harvest is plenteous, but the workers are few." It is a privilege to be His workers and to see how He leads us and gives us people we can work with.

Please pray for:

- For Liena, a woman from the invaded part of Kherson, for God to open her heart to the Gospel and for her to truly repent and dedicate her whole life to Jesus.
- For the offer to become the head of the condominium
- For our new branch of ministry—a Students' ministry
- For the repair of our apartment (for the wisdom, right people, and finances)
- For becoming a separate church and the start of our own Sunday Services
- For people of harvest for each of our team members
- For holidays for our family.

Blessings!  
Sergiy & Karina Koop

## November

Greetings friends!

November was an unusual month for me, as I had to pay a lot more attention to the team and to team members individually.

The climate in the team was difficult after the summer, as everyone was concerned with their own problems and thoughts. That's why September and October were not the most "atmospheric" inside the team. I talked with God and with everyone in the team about it, and finally everything has changed in November!



I had personal meetings with each team member several times this month. We talked about everything—about our relationships with God, about calling, relationships with the team, and thoughts about the future of our Choose Life Baptist Church. Those were times for me to learn about being a pastor, for which I had asked God.



There was an interesting conversation with a guy on our team (I cannot tell you about it), after which we hosted him for a week in our house this month. After that conversation, he decided to remain in the ministry with us for as long as God wants him to be here, although he was planning to move to another city only a week before. I didn't want to lose

him from our team and asked God to do something. He did, and now this guy is with us for a long time. This is a genuine answer from God.

This month, we had some interesting leader meetings concerning our ministries, our clubs, about the future of our church. I can see how our team becomes a family step-by-step, and the picture of the future of our church is appearing in our minds.

We also held a Bible Day this month. Thirty people attended; half of them were teen unbelievers. On one hand, I liked this event: there were people, there was a great presentation about the Bible, we had gifts for everyone. On the other hand, I'm sad that no new people came to our event even though we gave many invitations, hung a huge banner outside our building, and posted invitations in social media. Personally, I gave 10 invitations to people from our micro district, and none of them came. That makes me feel sad. But I believe we have to keep doing what we can, and God will give us His people. Sometimes it's hard to accept this fact.

We plan to have 1 Advent meeting every Friday in December [4 total]. We also invite everyone we know and hope that'll be a great time to talk about the birth of Jesus Christ in detail, about what Christmas is, and what the Gospel is. It is very sad to see that people in Ternopil, who are very religious, celebrate Christmas, go to chapels, and fast, but they don't even think about Jesus during all that. I just want to shout out that the main character of this Holiday is Jesus; just look at Him and see what He did for each of us!

Please pray:

- For our Christmas Advent meetings. For God to send us His people He is working with.
- For wisdom concerning how to become a separate church in 2024
- For our family vacation
- For my personal spiritual state (I want to be on fire and adore Jesus, but not adore ministry)
- For expanding of our team

Blessings!  
Sergiy Koop

## December



Greetings to all of you, our friends and partners in ministry!

We were able to hold all our Christmas-themed events that we'd planned to have this month. We had Christmas Advent meetings with about 15-20 people every time. We've talked about the real meaning of Christmas and about the value of Jesus Christ. It was fascinating when 2 soldiers were at one of the meetings sharing their thoughts about the situation in our country

and that we need Jesus and His peace for Ukrainian people more than ever before. Christmas Advent meetings are always very exciting, cozy and highly anticipated.

We held the students meeting this month as well, but this time it was at our place. There were 10 of us, 2 of them were girls, students we'd invited for this meeting. I was very troubled, as there had been 50 students at our first meeting at the university but this time it was only 2 of them. But then I reminded myself that we do everything we can and leave the rest to God. What inspired me is that these girls were very open to us, played all the games with us, and were curious about the topic of personal calling in this world. Hopefully, we'll be able to build relationships with them and they'll accept the Gospel.

We were so happy when a refugee woman from Kherson began to attend our meetings again. She used to attend every one of our meetings, but after I had a conversation with her about repentance, she stopped coming to any of our meetings and events. It was quite upsetting for me, and I thought she won't come to us anymore. She appeared again a week ago, and I hope it's a sign that she's understood something, and that God has been working with her.



One more testimony is our Teens club and how God guides us in this ministry this semester. There are more than 15 teenagers from our micro district attending every club meeting; more than half of them are boys. They became attached to us, and they are always hanging out with us. I hope that these teens are the future youth group and church ministers of the Choose Life church.

In general, these 6 months were full of events and witnessing, and God gave us opportunities to host many events that will contribute to the salvation of many people and the growth of our new Choose Life church.

Please, pray for:

- Our separation from the New Life Church. We want it to happen naturally and the right way.
- All our movement to be focused on saving people and for God to send us His people for the harvest.
- Wisdom for what to do during the next semester of our ministry.
- The situation in our country. It is getting more intense every day. We (I mean the men-side of our team) could be taken to war any moment. I believe that God controls everything, but I'm concerned about our ministry in this scenario.
- For me. For God to give me the strength to be an example of a person with a deep relationship with God for our team.
- For our apartment repairs. We want to finish all the work in half a year. So, we can fully serve with our apartment next season, hosting unbelievers at our home.
- For our family, for wisdom in raising our daughter, and the right balance of time for family and for ministry.

May God bless you!  
Sergiy Koop