



## **The Levtseniuks in Lviv, Ukraine**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report, 2023**

#### **December 2022 – January 2023**

Greetings, brothers and sisters of the BIEM mission. Grace to you and peace, from our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support. Thank God for your presence in our lives in this time of war. Nowadays, nobody has it easy. However, you are with us; your prayers are with us; all your help is with us. May you be blessed, brothers and sisters, our prayer partners.

My heart's desire is to tell about our life and the life of our church. Praise be to God for guests whom God gave us for the glory of the Lord. There were young people from Kyiv (the Obukhovs).

God has blessed us with some farewells. We have sent to the USA the wife and children of the brother who leads the worship ministry in our church. I think he will leave too... It's sad when things leave an empty spot in ministry. We'll need to find a replacement so that the music ministry does not suffer. Please pray for a new minister of music to take over this role.

Thank God for the Christmas, which we have already celebrated on the new date [December 25 instead of January 7]. Although it is difficult for Lviv to switch to a new style of celebration, a lot of neighbors visited our church, and we celebrated Christmas together.



It was wonderful! The Bible study groups are multiplying, and we are working with teenagers who are not yet believers. We really want to organize a family camp trip to the Carpathians, but for that we need a lot of funds. Our church has never traveled anywhere as a group to be in an informal setting, so we pray about it. It would be nice to hold at least a family camp and to take along some unbelieving families. For now, this is a dream and a prayer request.

There was also trouble with the car of a pastor, the director of the Donetsk Christian University, who managed to bring his car from liberated territory in Donetsk. The Russians took over the university as their military base. And this pastor drove the car to us, to the church parking lot in Lviv, so that it would stay parked here for several months until he flies to America. But it so happened that much snow slid from the roof of the church building and put a big depression in the roof of the car. Pray that this pastor can get it repaired.

Another trial has appeared, or a blessing; I don't know. But a mosque is being built near our church. Of course, we did not want this, but let the will of the Lord be done.

The Lord also gave me a meeting with the Polish Consul in Lviv, who asked us for help. He trusts us and asked whether we can distribute the humanitarian cargo that the Poles brought for the shelters of Lviv, where there are refugee children. And this was to our advantage, since we are already working with them, holding meetings with them, and were bringing these kids to the Christmas production that we staged with the Dubenskaya team. It has been a huge blessing for our church. Many neighbors came, as well as others we invited by handing out calendars.

There were a lot of interesting things in January too. We met a family from the city of Zaporozhe, whom we are already recruiting to serve in the church. We have already accepted two families into the church from the paid-off territory. Good families, and already in ministry. God blesses! Families in need are already appearing. We are helping another family that has 10 children, two of them have a genetic disease, we pray for them and help them in any way we can.

I also want to share about the needs of our family. Our little daughter Marta has lactose intolerance, protein intolerance, gluten intolerance... in general, this is a problem for us, since every time we need to buy, prepare other food for her separately... and it is expensive for us.



Pray that God will take away this allergy from our daughter soon. Many times, she suffocates due to allergies, something gets on her mucous membrane ... and her throat swells up. Recently we ended up in a children's hospital since the hormonal injections that I give her when it's critical did not help. Doctors saved our Marta. Thank God everything worked out. I met the head physician of this hospital, and she told me that they received a lot of small children with their mothers, refugees who are hungry, cold, and sick. Then we used BIEM war relief funds to purchase some of the most-needed medicines for those refugee children. We are now in a trusting relationship with the head physician. We brought children's books and gospels. I believe that it is the Lord who sends us these acquaintances.

Thank you so much for praying for the order of an apartment for our unbelieving friends of refugees from Kharkov. God answered our joint prayers. They now live in an apartment not far from the church. I believe that they will soon repent and together we will serve our Lord.

Thank you so much for everything you do for us and our church. God bless you, for your huge hearts that place us as those who are worthless, but we love the Lord very much, and we believe that this is all from Him. And we accept everything from our God. You are doing a very great job and I believe that God blesses you for it! We love you, bless you, always yours:

Yura, Violet, Aaron, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Martha

### **February – March**

Greetings, brothers and sisters of the BIEM mission!

Thank you very much for the huge number of prayers for us, for our "Salvation" church, and for our Ukraine! Thank you very much for your financial support.

I will share with you the life of our church with great joy. It is a great blessing for us when guests visit our church. And, on the property of our church, CORAM DEO training in biblical pastoral care is conducted. I also have the honor to study there, together with the deacon of the church, and with some of the members of our church, because we understand that during the war, a lot of serious help is needed for people who have moved to our city of Lviv, or those who have spiritual problems due to the war. For our church, it is difficult to maintain such training, but we understand the importance of discipleship to help people with mental disorders, addictions, and who are spiritually ill. The next training is in May, and we are praying for finances.

At the hospital, we continue to visit Andrii, near whom a bomb exploded. He only survived thanks to those people who came to get water from volunteers. Miraculously, he ended up in the Lviv hospital. Andriy was all full of holes. But our church prayed, and you prayed, and today he is walking. This is a miracle. As a family, we regularly visit him in the hospital, take

care of him, pray with him, and read the Bible. We believe that he will be saved. He has been there for a year in the hospital.

The Lord is constantly giving me people to whom I can witness. For instance, a woman walked up to me in the market and simply asked me about Jesus Christ. She said she lost her son in the war, and we talked for a long time about life with God. And we met a Muslim family; they have become our friends. They invited us to a birthday party, and I had the opportunity to evangelize Muslims. God grant that they, too, accept Jesus Christ into their hearts.



Thank you very much, friends, for continuing to pray for us and our Ukraine. Our Lviv churches had a time of joint fasting and prayer for Ukraine in the city center. I and our church also took part in this. We believe victory will be ours.

God gives good communication with unbelievers. Now, I have a wonderful group of unbelievers whom the Lord is leading to repentance. A family from Kharkiv moved to our city for the sake of the church. They are not yet believers, but they are very close. They happily explore the New Testament. Pray for this young family, Katya, Sergey, Amina. Also, for Nelya and her family, who are from Kramatorsk, where everything they had disappeared, and the Russians destroyed her daughter. They are also close. And for Roman, who is also close to God. Pray for the family of Maxim and Victoria. They are Greek Catholics, officially married, but they came to me so that I could pray for their marriage. Therefore, we are studying, reading the Bible together, and on May 20 there will be a marriage-evangelism. Their whole family is unbelievers. There should be about 50 people, so pray, please, that the Lord will give wisdom in the sermon for non-believers who will be at the wedding.

Our church helps refugees. Some still live in the church, and others received assistance to rent a house. I had the honor of being invited to bring a speech at a meeting with ministers working in the “Choose Life” camps.

We are also visited by local churches with a sermon. This is a blessing for us!

A meeting with Lviv girls from the age of 13 took place at our church. It was through cooperation with the Baptist churches of Lviv. Churches enjoy our cozy house of prayer, and we thank the Lord that we can offer it. I never cease to be grateful to God for the opportunity to refurbish our church building. God used you to bless us financially. A low bow to you and thanks. May He repay you a hundredfold.

Our church has various training sessions. All members of the church are covered. A prime example is the “Fundamentals of the Christian Life” course. The first group had a blessed exam. Thank God for success in teaching our church.

The Lord has opened a door in ministry for teenagers, and we have a great desire to go with them to a 5-day camp in the Carpathians. We have never gone anywhere with the team and teenagers. We are preparing a spiritual program, and we believe the Lord will provide funds for a teen camp, because we will not be doing a camp for children this year.



We are targeting teens. We still have teenagers—refugees—whom we want to take to camp. Therefore, pray also for funds, because we want to rent a location, and pray that there will be no problems when transporting teenagers to this camp, to make certain documents, because there will still be teens from the refugee shelter. Therefore, a big request is to pray because this is new for us. Together, we are a great force.

Also, keep praying for my family. Our little Marta has intolerance to lactose, gluten, and protein. We have great concerns about special food and expensive diapers that do not cause allergies, so we thank God that you always pray for us and take care of us. Thank you very much. Nothing should stop or hinder God’s work. Thank you once again, our dear prayer warriors, for your support.

May the Lord bless you abundantly.

I don't know many of you, but I hope that if God wills it and the war ends, you will come to us in Lviv, and you will see how God uses you in His harvest field. You will see the fruits of your labor!

Always yours,

Yura, Violettochka, Aaron, Veniamin, Elizaveta, Marta