



## The Fomichovs in Desna, Ukraine

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report, 2024

#### January



In Ukraine, the war continues. People are fighting to survive, constantly feeling that death is hovering nearby. And seeing how death is taking more and more people every minute, people are under stress, and many are depressed. People do not see a future, and they are no longer looking for a way out. They are in frustration, not comprehending how such evil was let loose. Only the church, adorned in good deeds, tells people of hope and that God offers salvation through His son Jesus Christ. And you and I, as the church, fulfill the Great Commission, as we tell people about salvation.

There is an enemy in war, the one who is against you with weapons. And there are other enemies that also come. Next is hunger and now frost has come. In Ukraine there are very cold winters, and it is hard for civilians to survive when they destroy power plants. And it's bad for the military, who are on the front line in trenches and do not have the opportunity to

even light a fire, because they will immediately be shelled. And now another enemy to fight is frost, and we have many people in Desna who go to church, whose relatives are at war without warm clothes. Thanks to all the friends of the BIEM mission, we were able to buy various things that can save the lives of our relatives and friends. Most importantly, such gifts create an opportunity to testify about God. In the church we distributed various warmers for feet, hands, and food, as well as tourniquets. This is what saves lives. We also included New Testaments and Bibles. In this way, people from the church could testify of God to their loved ones and relatives. This brought a very good result; we saw that people were moved to tears, because this was so important in such a difficult period.

### **Roma (a soldier)**

We sent him a parcel that included various warm things and put in a New Testament. He recorded us a video where he thanked us and said, “Thank you for taking care of me and most importantly I am grateful that you sent this book and thought that my soul would be saved.” After some time, he recorded a voice message and said he was reading the New Testament and promised to come to church when he gets leave.

### **“Uncle” Vasya, my neighbor**

His son is at the front, in a demining unit, where he is in fields and different cold buildings. He needs warm clothes. And when I took him warm things for him to send to his son, he even wept. I said, “Here is a Bible. Let him read it, and you read it and pray too. His answer struck me so much. He said, “I’ve been thinking about coming to your church for a long time.” I replied, “We will be waiting and praying for you.”



Pray with us:

1) For our ministry, that God would use us and protect our church.

With respect  
Igor Fomichov

P.S. We are very grateful that you support us in this difficult period of our lives.

## **February**

### *Testimony*



People always want to change something about their lives—get new clothes, change their work, change their car... But God likes to change people’s *lives*. And when we see how God changes people’s lives, we want to give glory to God.

I want to testify to you about brother Peter. He came to the rehabilitation center as a broken man. Alcohol had ruined his life. He had destroyed his family. His children did not want to talk with him; they simply despised him. He was such a broken man, and he was looking for a way out. He began to seek God, hoping that things

would change. As he tried to connect with his children, all he got from them in response was disbelief and hurtful words. They did not believe he could change, and this grieved him very much. He did not see how this hurdle could be overcome. It seemed to him that there was no fixing what was already so badly broken.

However, in building a relationship with God—and inspired by the example of his brothers and sisters in the church—Peter worked hard on his life. He found a job, lived at the Rehabilitation Center, and helped with ministry and mentoring newcomers to the Rehab Center. More than once, he came to us with questions about what to do next. He was constantly tempted to go home and look for a different job, because he had large debts. There were problems with light and gas in the apartment. The electricity and gas got cut off. We encouraged him and told him to seek God and to be in church, that God will help, that he needed to learn to trust God. Although it was not always easy for him to accept our advice, he listened to us. And before our eyes we saw how God was changing his life. In time, he began to get along with his children. More than that, he began to visit them and testify with his life about God. When his granddaughter was born, he was invited to visit.



Peter got drafted into the army and serves in Desna, where he is well regarded by the commanders. Peter is a good example of careful work on himself. God led him through all the difficulties and helped him to restore that which sin had destroyed. He paid all his debts and made repairs to his apartment. His children are very happy to meet with him and phone him. It is a huge encouragement in our church to see God change people's lives. One of Peter's sons is at war, and we are all praying intensely for his salvation. This is how God has been changing Brother Peter's life one step at a time.

Pray with us:

- 1) For the ministry of the Rehabilitation Center, that God would change people's lives.
- 2) For Peter's son, that he would repent and for God to keep him safe in the war.

Respectfully,  
Igor Fomichov

## **March**

During the month of March, new people came to our church. The ministry of the church is bearing fruit. During the war, we have constantly supported people—both spiritually and physically. We have aided people with food, thus testifying to the love and care of God. God blesses, and our church is growing. By helping people, we accomplish some good in this difficult

time, and it shows everyone that the church is alive; not only in words but also in deeds it testifies about our Savior.

Newcomer women of advanced age regularly come to church and say that they live from meeting to meeting. They are so glad that they finally came to church. They are our missionaries as they go about talking about the church and Jesus Christ. Sister Luba, already at the age of 70, came to church during the war. Now every day she sits on the bench near her house with all her neighbors, and she talks about God, boldly testifying about Jesus Christ as she invites people to church.

We are thankful for your support and your prayers. We see how God is using us and helping others serves as a tool as we witness. This allows our church to expand its outreach to help those in need of humanitarian aid and spiritual support. Also, military men who are temporarily stationed in our city now come to the services in this difficult time. The church is a great support for them. Igor and Roma are soldiers who have recently started coming to our church, and they say that they are very happy that they can attend church and receive encouragement. Our church is open to everyone and is ready to serve in these trying times, supporting, and encouraging everyone who comes to it.

In addition, we are continuing our ministry at the rehabilitation center. God is touching people's hearts, and their lives are being changed.

Pray for us:

1. That our church would grow.
2. Many people are tired of living under stress and need encouragement. (Pray that God will use us).
3. Pray that God will protect us from evil and give us the courage to preach.

Respectfully,  
Igor Fomichov