



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

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

**January-February 2024**

I sincerely greet you, brothers, and sisters of the BIEM mission! Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!

We sincerely thank you for your prayerful and financial support! I thank God that I can count on further co-laboring with you, because you have been praying for us, supporting us for so long. This is a great blessing for my family and church. Currently, when many people have lost hope in the future, we must do serious work with people. Work as if nothing is happening. It is not easy to minister to the military and care for Christ's church at such a time, so please continue to pray for us and support us.

Praise God, I have 7 people preparing for baptism. Of course, I want these people to be able to approach this serious issue in a balanced way, so please pray for these young people (Sergey, Katerina, Amina, Seraphima, Solomia, Emanuel, Svetlana). Pray for Natalia, who was also supposed to be baptized last year, but changed her mind, so that she can make an informed decision. Praise God for the repentances that continue in our church! Thank you for praying for us; we really appreciate it.



We continue discipleship in our church for every member. We have small groups for non-believers. The teenage ministry is going well, and 5 of them are already willing to be baptized. Praise God! Solomiya, who wants to be baptized, has parents who are Catholics. She is under persecution from her family. Therefore, please pray for her because she loves the Lord very much.

In our church building, we held the 6th module of biblical counseling. Currently, I work a lot with people who have spiritual problems. This training has helped me very much for when I'm

communicating with the military and with believing families who were separated during the full-scale invasion.

We also had a service for the sisters of our church as a unifying factor. They had training, fellowship, and did crafts together. It was an effective, blessed time.



We also continue to repair the church's main hall on the second floor on our own. Since Lviv is a religious city, the people around us do not want to go to the basement, where we are currently meeting, but want to climb the stairs to the church. So, with God's help, we are trying to make these repairs. Of course, this is difficult to do during this period of war, but we believe that we cannot stop, that we must move forward, and we must continue to expand the Kingdom of God. Therefore, we are asking you to join us in our repairs and to help us financially if God so inclines your hearts. This year, in September, our church will be 5 years old. We have a dream to finish the renovation by September, if it is God's will. Please pray!

An interesting moment in our life was when we met with widows who had lost their husbands at the front. We invited them to the Lviv chocolate workshop, treated them to coffee and Lviv chocolate. The most important thing is that we talked to them about our Lord Jesus Christ! They received great impressions of us, and we want to meet again!

I thank the Lord that I can just sincerely tell you, about our praying people, about our life and the life of our church!

God bless you!

Always yours,  
Yura, Violetta, Aaron, Benjamin, Elizabeth, and Marta

### **March**

I sincerely greet you, brothers, and sisters of the BIEM mission!

I thank the Lord that I can continue to be blessed by your prayerful and financial support. Here's some news from my family's life:

Thank you for praying for us. We are seeing improvements in our Marta's health. Praise God. I can only imagine what we would be doing and how my family would be living if we didn't have your support in these times of terrible war. As I write this letter, the air-raid siren is sounding again! But thanks be to God, with the support of your prayers we continue our spiritual and physical labor in the church.

There are some difficulties with our younger son Benjamin, as he cannot socialize at school, has no friends... Pray, because we may have to find a special school where he can attend, but such schools cost money. And we cannot afford such a school financially.



I had some serious back problems. It is better now, praise God. We continue to make repairs in the church on our own. Therefore, there is a great need for funds to hire specialists to repair the church building. We have a great desire to celebrate 5 years of the church in the main hall. If the Lord will open your heart to donate money for the renovation of the church building, we will be very grateful to the Lord God for you, that the Lord will give you His

blessings...

It was a great blessing for us when we had a joint Lviv youth conference with our fellow Baptist churches. It was the first time for our church. We celebrated Easter in a beautiful and solemn way. We are very happy to be able to host guests.

Now I have also joined the teen ministry because teens from the occupied territories come to us, and I meet with them. Pray for sister Nelya, from occupied Berdyansk, who recently lost her son, who was unable to leave the occupied area. And her sister, who helped her bedridden mother, has died. They stayed in Berdyansk. Nelya can't do anything to help, and she is very concerned about that. She asks not to disclose this information, but I ask you to pray. She is worried about the lives of her relatives who are in the area occupied [by Russians], because someone posted on the Internet all the details about Nelya's daughter, who was a Ukrainian soldier, who was raped, killed, cut into pieces, and thrown into a ditch by the Russians. So, this sister, Nelya, pulled her out piece by piece... She was in a terrible state when she came to us in Lviv, and I met her as if by chance and offered to help her and read the Bible. Thank God, she is a member of the church. We are constantly helping this family. Recently we bought a gas stove. Thank God for helping us find the money.



We also have refugees who continue to live with us and help us in the church. One is from occupied Donetsk, and the girl is from Zaporizhzhia region. We constantly help them as if they were our children. Thank God, our church is learning during the war. Now, 8 people are preparing for baptism.

I ask you to pray for a girl named Solomiya, whose parents are categorically against her—not only being baptized, which they do not know about yet—but they persecute her for attending worship services and various Bible studies. So, please pray for Solomiya...she is very worried that her parents will beat her if she tells them she wants to be baptized.

God has blessed our church with 3 weddings. Hallelujah. The church is alive. We are already visiting our brother churches a little bit. Recently, we visited the church “Reconciliation” in Rivne. It was a blessed second trip for our church team. We were honored to encourage them and were encouraged ourselves.

Let me tell you another story of something that happened on Easter. In our church there is a man who used to be a good preacher, but he fell away from God... But thank God, he always attended the services. He became addicted to alcohol. But the time came when he asked me for help as a pastor, because until recently he did not perceive me as a pastor. After I told him that the Lord will find a way to stop him in his addiction, on Easter evening, he got drunk and fell down the stairs at home and smashed his skull and fell into a coma. Miraculously, someone saw him lying unconscious, and he was taken to the intensive care unit. His son, who had almost started to follow his father’s example, called me, and told me that the doctors had informed him that his father was not going to live. “Go say goodbye to him,” he said, adding that he will not regain consciousness. I went with another minister, at the request of the son, to pray with the anointing for healing. And today we are rejoicing together—the father is fully conscious and walking a little. I believe the Lord has extended his life so he can be reconciled to God. Pray for Oleksandr’s repentance. I sincerely thank Jesus Christ for the opportunity to share our blessings with you.

Always yours,

Yura, Violetta, Aaron, Benjamin, Elizabeth, and Marta