

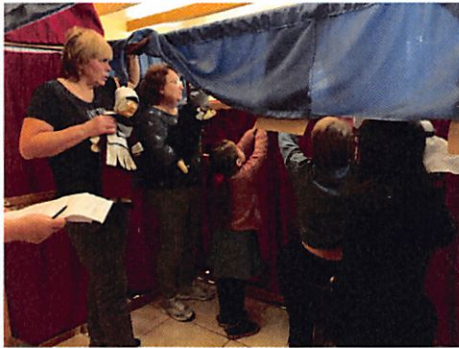


The Yurchenkos in Ukraine

1st Quarter Report, 2024

January

December 2023 and January 2024 turned out to be very busy months for ministries. Despite the war in our country and the constant and air-raid sirens, we were able to conduct several children's ministries in various places. These are certainly not the days before the pandemic and the war, when we could do up to 20 ministries in two such months. But we are grateful to God for these opportunities. We held a service in a children's boarding school in Boyarka. There was



a very warm and bright atmosphere. The children were very active and attentive. They took an active part in all the competitions and games. Both children and the educators liked our performance very much. We were invited to visit them again. But the most important thing is that we were able to bring the Gospel to all those present through this ministry.

In the village of Sitniki, we were invited by the village administration to minister to the children and their parents.

It was held right in the administrative building. The Lord blessed us in this ministry as well.

In the town of Makarov, we held a ministry for children whose parents have died or who were left complete orphans because of the war. These children need special care, and attention, because their spiritual wounds are still very fresh. It is hard for them to accept the fact that one of their parents is no longer with them. We ask you, dear friends, to prayerfully support orphans in Ukraine. Every day there are more and more of them.

The village of Lipovka was under occupation; battles took place there not so long ago. Many houses were destroyed. Many people have not yet returned to their normal lives. Many are in other countries and in western Ukraine as refugees. People have not yet recovered from the shock of the war that came to their homes. Our puppet theater, at least a little bit, has brought them joy and a sense of familiar life. The church continues to minister there. Our brother



Anatoly Glushkov has been ministering in this village for many years. Pray for the people who were under occupation and who lost not only their homes, but also their family and friends.

In the village of Potievka, we visited a boarding school-orphanage for disabled children. We saw many kids who were in bed because of their disability. Children who were in wheelchairs. Some



of the team was confused, not understanding how to talk with these children, how to minister to them. After all, many of these children don't even know how to talk. We hugged each child, showed love and attention. We tried to talk and spend time with all of them. The Lord gave such love and compassion to these children that we stayed with them for a long time after the theater performance. All the staff of the boarding school enjoyed it very much. They thanked us for showing such care and love. Please pray for the children with disabilities. There are more than 220,000 children with severe disabilities in Ukraine. Mostly these children are in orphanages without parental affection and love. Please pray for them.

We held our last performance for children in Chervona Sloboda. It so happened that on that day there were a lot of air raids, so the performance was held in a bomb shelter. We had planned to hold this service for the children of the junior high school, but during our performance an air raid was announced, and the bomb shelter quickly filled with older children, plus all the staff of the school and employees of the distillery and city administration. There were so many people that it was hard to breathe in the bomb shelter. But we then realized that the Lord had given us an opportunity to share the Gospel with more people than we had planned, and not only to children, but also to adults.

Dear friends, we are immensely grateful for your prayers, for your material help, for your love and care for us. Thank you very much! Thanks to you, we can do ministry here in Ukraine. May God bless you! Pray for us.

Sincerely yours,

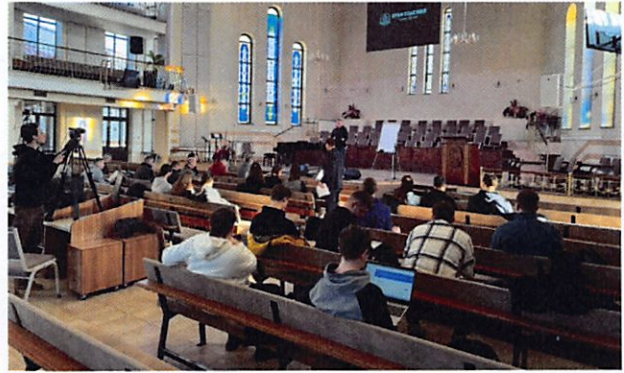
Vitaly Yurchenko and the team of the theater ministry

February

Winter session

Every time a Seminary session approaches, we worry about how it will go. Ever since the Covid epidemic started and then the war in Ukraine, we have had no stability for four years now. We never know what to expect. Each time, it is a test for us. Of course, for our part, we do our best to keep the educational process going, but not everything depends on our efforts and capabilities. There are some things that are only in God's control. This is how we learn to trust God, and this is how our faith grows.

Throughout these years of trials, we have experienced tremendous blessings from God. Sometimes it seemed that nothing would work out because of Covid or because of the war. But every time, God has performed a miracle for us. We saw that God could do that which we could not do. This winter session was no exception. Things were going so badly that we were considering canceling the session. But something told us to take a chance and trust God. And God blessed us.



We did not expect 34 students to come to the session. We especially did not expect to see so many brothers. We have a war going on, and many men are being drafted into the army. But we are praying to prepare the army of God, which is much more important. And the Lord blessed us in this matter as well. There were more males than females at the session. This time we studied three subjects: “The Epistle of James,” “Ethics of the Christian Life,” and “Leadership in the Church.” The last subject was in the form of a seminar to which everyone was invited. The students were very pleased with this session and left good feedback. Here is one of them:

“The week of training flew by like a moment, but it left a lot of positive memories and impressions—most importantly, knowledge about general ethics, the principles of studying the letter of the Apostle James, and Leadership through relationships. In our time, the development of church ministers is extremely relevant and urgent. And it grows significantly through training and the sharing of experience at Seminary sessions. It was very interesting to learn about the concept of ethics in the modern world from instructor Sergei Skripnik. We considered many manifestations of ethics in society, recalled the emergence of this science, and the prominent people who popularized it. It was clear that “Ethics” is a certain system with norms and rules that is an integral aspect of human life. It is worth noting here that with the coming of Jesus Christ and His teachings on human relations, Christian ethics emerged as a promising alternative to secular ethics. We should study it, implement it in churches, and improve it in our own lives.

“The study of individual epistles of the New Testament is always appropriate and interesting, especially when the instructor has prepared an interesting and informative synopsis in clear language, which greatly sparks interest in a deeper study of the entire Scripture. This time, the teacher Mykola Rozhnyatovsky shared his own experience of studying and researching the Bible through a review of the epistle of the Apostle James. There was a very pleasant and favorable atmosphere that contributed to a better assimilation of the material. Interesting questions from the teacher did not allow us to lose interest in the topic. It was thought-provoking to explore comparisons with other texts and Gospels, as well as applications in ministry. This topic inspired us to grow closer in our relationship with God, with a special call for each of us students to consider spiritual maturity. Considering this epistle, the various stages of spiritual maturity, as it increases, and the factor that prevent it from developing were considered. The teacher made it very clear and was not pushy to dive into the Scriptures but to enjoy it, and the students can share their feelings from it with others for a long time. Pastor Mykola also taught another extremely important subject, Leadership. Here, too, a carefully written outline that will be useful for a long

time helped in learning the material. The warm welcome we received, and the delicious meals, also had a significant impact on the effectiveness of the training.”

Dear friends, I am sincerely grateful for your prayers and financial support. Thanks to you, the seminary continues its work. Please continue to pray for us. Pray for the upcoming session, which is scheduled for the end of April. May the Lord bless you!

Sincerely,

Vitaly Yurchenko

March

There was the usual meeting, praise, prayers, sermons. We had already finished the service and were having tea together. During the tea, [a man named] Vitaly said he wanted to pray and receive Jesus Christ. Vitaly had recently started attending our church. We prayed together and rejoiced over this event. When Nadia decided to accept Jesus into her heart, we had already started to go home. Nadia, too, had recently begun attending our church. We prayed together



with Nadia and rejoiced at her repentance. Every Sunday, Nadia comes to me after the meeting and tells me that her soul finds peace at our services, that she is very calm and joyful in her soul. Now we pray for Vitaly and Nadia, that they will grow spiritually and prepare for baptism.

The children also make us very happy; they prepared a small skit on the New Testament for each service. They learn their roles by heart according to the biblical text, and it is very good. In this way the children learn more about the Word of

God. Pray for our children that they will all be saved.

We are very grateful to you, dear friends, for your prayers and material support! May God bless you!

Sincerely yours,

Vitaly Yurchenko

