



CHURCH PLANTING IN UKRAINE

1st Quarter 2010 Report

Bilogorodka **January 2010**

God sent many festive and joyful Christmas church services this month [In Ukraine many people still celebrate Christmas according to the old calendar, on January 6.] We had a very interesting Christmas program at church for the children. Children from the Sunday school prayed and were busy with preparation for the holiday; they also made invitation cards and invited children themselves. By the grace of God, there were more than 80 children at the Christmas church service. Little kids came with their grandmas and moms, who also listened and watched the Christmas program. It was a wonderful church service, where the name of our Lord was praised by these children.

At this Christmas program a little girl named Anya, who is eight years old, was present. She attends Sunday school with her brother. She listened very attentively to the program and especially the testimonies of the older children who had repented and planted these words into her heart. She was thinking about this for two weeks. She became calm, quite the opposite to the source of chaos she used to be. At a Sunday church service she went to the front and asked if she is allowed to repent. And after the invitational song was sung, she kneeled and prayed with a passionate prayer for repentance, and it was not in a child-like manner. The church stood still; many people cried. It was a good lesson for those who have attended church for many years but haven't taken this step yet.

Praise the Lord for His mercy and love to us! We are very thankful to you for your prayers, your brother support, and care towards us.

February **Bilogorodka**

Thank God that He does not forsake us and the children's ministry in the church. A very interesting event took place among the children enrolled in our Sunday school. God showed the power of prayer and faith, even among children. In our Sunday school we have two sisters. Their mother died; the father is alive, but does not live with the children. Therefore, their education fell to their aunt (the deceased mother's sister) who is a "zealous" Orthodox believer. And when she heard that these children attend our church and are taught in Sunday school, she was in horror. She was doing everything possible to ensure that these children would not become Baptists. She started to take them home early. Then she drove them to the Orthodox Church. She encouraged them to pray, to burn candles and to get closer to the priest. More than two months passed that way. But the Sunday school teachers and children prayed for this difficult situation. These girls were very good students. Diligent, active in ministry. So merciful was Lord, they were allowed to returned to our Sunday school. It was a great joy for the teachers and children. God's name was glorified.

There was another important event for the other half of the town of Bilogorodka. We waited for the local town council session to address the once and for all the matter of granting land for building a church. This matter was not high on the priority list. Therefore, the present decision was not settled before this session, but when meeting with the mayor of the village, he recounted a very interesting incident that happed at the meeting. At first all the members of the second half of the village where the church building should be built were against granting plots of land, and then the mayor, who had studied the Baptist movement in the area since imperial

times, explained that Baptists are believers. With lowered heads, but with upraised hands the deputies voted in favor. And this is a great mercy. Now we are putting the framework in which to pass all of the stages of bureaucracy and barriers on this issue. But if the will of God is in favor, He does everything.

We sincerely thank you for your prayer support. Continue to pray for this need. It is so important.

Borivka and Komarivka March 2010

We pray that the Lord will send funds for transportation costs. A lot of people – elderly grandparents – wait for us to visit them with the Word of God on weekdays.

The head of the village council gave permission for a March evangelistic event in the village club building. The school permitted us to use the gym for the youth of the village to play games in the evening. A true spiritual awakening has begun among the members of the local church. Please pray for an Easter program in March-April, with children from the schools in both villages.

Five souls repented of their sins and asked Jesus Christ into their lives. An interesting story was a former director of the factory. Previously he was a zealous persecutor of God's children, an enemy of the church and God. When my sister Mary and I visited their house, talked about the Bible. After hearing Christ's words, her husband got down on his knees alongside us and in earnest prayer asked God to save him. Great is our God and faithful to His promises. The seeds sown for 10 years finally sprouted.

Some addicts began to visit services. One of them is 49-year-old Anatoly. He is ready to be sent for treatment to a rehabilitation center. It was nice to watch as Zavada, chief of the village, the local "authority," came in for one of our Bible studies. With head bowed, Grigory asked for permission to stay. He said he wants to change his sinful life. And at the end of the conversation asked for a hymnal and sang spiritual songs along with the women who were there.

Praised be Jesus Christ, whose hand is not shortened that He cannot save and have mercy on his fallen creation.



By grace of the Lord God, we were able to conduct a number of ministries at the church. For one of them, we want especially to highlight and thank our mission for its participation in this ministry. This is a service for widows, for the logistical support in its implementation.

There was held at the Temple of Salvation Baptist Church in Kiev. It was attended by the widows of the Bilogorodka church. One Sunday morning after the service we drove the widows from Bilogorodka there on busses. Thank God, it was a wonderful service. It was an unforgettable meeting for the widows of two churches. They felt that they were not so alone as others are in such circumstances. God as a father is taking care of them

through the ministers, through brothers and sisters even from other countries. Care and concern was manifested through the gifts that were purchased with funds from the BIEM mission. This ministry served as a spiritual reinforcement and inspiration for these widows and widowers.