



The Petrenkos in Goncharovsk, Ukraine 2nd Quarter Report, 2020

April

Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

We'd like to share some of the blessings we have received from the Lord this month. To start with, thanks to the quarantine, we have changed the location of our services. This year, we celebrated Easter in Smolin, in the building we have, thanks to the BIEM mission. Currently, the building is undergoing reconstruction, but we are already meeting and worshiping God there. People really like this location. After the morning service, we don't drive home. We stay in the village and enjoy a group lunch and fellowship.

At this location in the village, we didn't have good drinking water. Each time we went, we had to bring water with us. But God has answered our prayers and now, thanks to BIEM, we have water on site. God also gave us the opportunity to talk to the workmen about Him, for which



we are thankful to Him. After all, this was a good opportunity to speak about God to people and to hope that God will touch their hearts.

Also, the church in Bilogorodka has sacrificed some building materials, and other brothers assisted in transporting them to Smolin. Now we have something valuable to use as we improve the prayer house in Smolin. We pray that God will bless us in the continuing renovation work of the church in Smolin, that He will guide us in the process and give wisdom in everything.



In addition, I met the neighbor in Smolin. His name is Yura and, like many other residents of the village, he knows that we are believers. There is a big advantage in similar areas with small populations: all information spreads very quickly. He asked me whether this was going to be a church here, or just a house. I informed him that there will be a church here. He also



asked me if I would recommend him if there was any sort of work that required hiring someone, since he needed work to feed his family. The place where he has been working has shortened their hours and pays very little.

So that is a little about our blessings from this past month. Please pray for our needs:

1. For renovation work on the prayer house.
2. For the ministry.
3. For our health, which is essential.
4. That God will use us as testimonies for Him, and that He will replenish us for the sake of the church.

May

Hello, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

So, another month is now behind us. This has been a fruitful month for the Lord. Thanks be to God and to the BIEM mission that you continue to sacrifice for the construction of the prayer house in Smolin. This month we gave serious thought to what to do about a septic system near the building. Our neighbor Yura and his wife dug a pit for the septic. They were thankful for the work. In the course of the work I had an opportunity to talk with them, and I said that we are holding worship services and that we would be happy to see them there. Yura replied that they are thinking about coming to observe and to see how we conduct services. In addition, I told them about the youth camp in tents on the bank of the Desna River, and Yura wanted for his daughters to come.

Yura and his family need prayer, that God will work in him and in his family. Another prayer need involves the quarantine, because many Christian camps have been planned for the summer, and they can't be held during a time of quarantine. We are praying and hoping that later in the summer we will be able to hold them. Children and their parents and also the director of the gymnasium have all been asking whether we will hold a camp in the school this year, so this requires prayer.

Another blessing for us is each Sunday service, since we spend the whole day in the prayer house. First is the service, and after the service we fellowship and enjoy the chance we have to meet all together.



So, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ, that is how our month has been. Once more we thank you for actively participating in the ministry in Goncharovsk and Smolin.

Please pray for the following needs:

1. For the reconstruction work of the church building.
2. That we could hold the summer camps.
3. That God will continue to keep us in good health.
4. For the neighbors, Yura and Ira, that God would touch their hearts and help us in talking to them about Christ.
5. That we will be able to recommence floor hockey with the youth.

June

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

God has been good to us, and in this month we were granted permission to hold floor hockey training. True, we were limited in the number of people we could have practicing, and children younger than a certain age were prohibited from coming. But the boys were very glad for the gathering and also glad that we once again could train and discuss spiritual topics.

Before long it will be time for these boys to apply to various institutes and colleges, so we prayed that God would help them in their applications.

Also, I understand that these boys will not return to Goncharovsk, that they will try to remain in Chernihiv and work there. But praise God, they have heard the Gospel. And even if they will be in Chernihiv, there's a good place for them to go to church. There's the church where Lyosha Savchuk labors. In the autumn I plan to select a new floor hockey team with which to work and with whom to share the Gospel and to study the Bible together.

I also had a conversation with the mayor of Goncharovsk concerning holding a children's camp. Vitaly Nikolaevich told me that he realizes we do a lot of good in the town and for the residents, but his recommendation is to wait until the end of summer and then to hold a children's camp in autumn. I also spoke with the mayor of Smolin and asked his thoughts on holding a children's camp there. Mikhail answered that he isn't opposed since we would be doing it on our own property. Praise God that we can gather and hold a camp on the church property in Smolin.

As we had done before, we held a worship service in the prayer house in Smolin. Others and I were thankful to God and to you for the fact that we have a place where we can worship God!

Pray with us, please, concerning the following needs:

1. For summer projects.
2. That God will use us to help spread the Gospel.
3. For construction work and divine wisdom in this matter.
4. For our health.

That's how this month was for us!

Sasha Petrenko