



## The Levtseniuks in Lviv, Ukraine

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report, 2021

#### December 2020 & January 2021

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

I sincerely thank you for your prayers, and material support. God's mercy is upon us. I have especially sensed your prayers, dear friends, during these past two months.

The main problem has been finishing the reconstruction and repair work in the church building and to manage to finish at least one bathroom. God is good to us, and in a surprising way we managed to accomplish that by the New Year. We celebrated together with the whole church in the newly completed part of the building, where it was warm and comfortable. We also had unbelievers with us. They really enjoyed the worship service, and after the service we prepared a meal for everyone and played interesting games. At midnight, we prayed for Ukraine, and for the city of Lvov, we thanked God for the past year and for the warmth we have in the church building. It was a very warm atmosphere.



The Lord is blessing us with visitors. There were brothers and sisters from the city of Rovno. Some came from local cities in order to praise our Lord Jesus Christ together. Others came from my hometown of Dubno to support us in the worship service since many of our people have fallen ill of Covid-19. God did not forsake us. There were always those who helped us to conduct a full church service.

We had an interesting time of evangelism when we as a church went out to sing Christmas carols for the neighbors and saw who opened their doors to us. We sang, gave out calendars, and invited people to church services. And some neighbors came to our church for the first time. They are Bogdan and Nadezhda. Please pray that they will continue coming to church services!

Now we have organized another group of unbelievers. These are alcoholics and people in very poor social situations.

We've already been meeting together for two months. They tend to smell bad. I dress them and feed them. I feel sorry for these people with immortal souls. And some have already suggested that I drop them. But I understand that Jesus never cast people away. We are working to install showers for such people. And we are continuing this work without fainting. We believe that this will be done toward springtime. There isn't enough money, but we halted only for the holidays. Now we're continuing that work. We thank you for having supported us so much financially. I no longer dare to ask you for money; yet there is a need!

We are continuing work in the children's room since there is no place to put the little children. We often have guests who come with little children. When the kids cry, there is nowhere to take them. It's a pity, but we have a neighbor who won't come for that very reason. But we are trying. We're already plastering the children's room. From there we'll continue on to the kitchen since they are beside each



other, and then the corridors and the showers and a disabled restroom, and then the brothers' room. We received a gift of high-quality windows, praise God! God gave, and we covered the storage building where I keep tools and valuable things. When I took the cement mixer, snow was falling. Then I prayed, and the snow melted, and over the winter we covered the storage building. Praise God.

Please pray for our small groups with unbelievers and with people who are straddling the decision of whether to follow the Lord or not. These are Mikhail, Ekaterina, Ivanka, Ivan, Yuri, Nadezhda, Vladimir, and Stepan. These are people who could receive baptism but who need to sincerely repent. Please pray!

Continue to pray for my family and for me, because I'm responsible for all the reconstruction work, the acquisition of materials, and the search for money. And I need strength for dealing with the people who come every day asking for help. These are people whom nobody needs except for God and His church. Now we'll need to buy adult diapers for Ivan, who is attending worship services. He is 41. He is still just coming toward God, but he asked me to be his pastor and I agreed in order to lead him to God.

More news: we have great joy in our family—Violetta is pregnant. Praise God! This is a great miracle. All of my family was sick with Covid-19, and when Violetta went to the doctor for examination, he said that we won't have more children, that the virus had done its work and that my wife couldn't get pregnant anymore. God once again showed His power, and we are waiting for our fourth child. We live in the church building, in a one-room apartment, and above us there is also an attic room, where I want to make a children's room. We will be crowded with a sixth family member. Pray about this, that there will be finances. I rejoice that the Lord has given my family the confidence that the place where we are is the place where we are supposed to be! And we labor for the glory of God with joy.

Thank you for supporting us! We await you to come for a visit. Be blessed!

## **February**

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

We sincerely thank you for your prayerful and material support. It's very pleasant to know and sense the huge quantity of prayers that you, our friends, lift up to God. We would like to see you, our dear prayer supporters. We dream of having you come to visit and to see the fruits of your prayers!

Let me share a little about what happened here during the month of February. I traveled with the new, young brethren to a men's retreat, where we fellowshiped, rested, and listened to terrific themes. After that retreat, we went by invitation to a youth meeting, where I was the speaker. There were a lot of unbelieving young people. I was impressed by how attentively they listened. Praise God, He used me for the youth in the city of Dubno.

It was a great joy when our friends, the Bilyak family, came up from the city of Ternopil. They took part in the church's worship service. God gave the opportunity to attend the brotherly conference in the city of Rovno, and we took along the new, young brothers from our church. This was a new stage of Christian life for them, and it was a good lesson for future ministry in the church and outside the church. Each Tuesday we meet with them for developing Christlike character and to establish them as future ministers. And I greatly rejoice at the result! I pray for them. I pray that you pray for them, too, since I need a team of faithful ministers.

In addition, the Lord is sending a sister in Christ from America to minister in our church. Praise God! We are praying for her arrival. We want to begin a new ministry of studying English with unbelievers that we would invite. Through this ministry, we will have access to unbelievers. We are praying for this.

My biological brothers from Dubno came to us, and together we glorified the Lord in His church. We had visitors from Germany, and these were those friends whom God gave us through the mortal illness of their son Milan. I have written you about that earlier. I had gone with another pastor to see this boy in the hospital since the doctors had already told the parents to say their farewells to him because he would soon die. But God is Almighty, and His will was that Milan live! And that is what happened. The parents testified of this miracle in our church. God also blessed our church with repentance. Ivan, for whom you and I prayed—the one who was wearing diapers through his sickness—repented and accepted the Lord into his heart and has expressed a desire to be baptized. Praise God! God is giving our church an awakening. Pray that the Lord will prompt yet other people to repentance. We have unbelievers who still fear taking this step toward God. They are in my group (Mikhail, Ekaterina, Nadezhda, Stepan, Yuri, Ivanka, and Pavel).

Pray for the continuing reconstruction work in the church building. We need to finish the children's room, the kitchen, the showers, the restrooms, and the brothers' room. We don't have sufficient funds. God blessed us through my friend, and he brought more floor tiles and adhesive. This is a blessing for us. Pray for me, that I will be able to finish the work on the attic apartment that is over us on the fourth floor. We're going to have another child, and even now we don't fit in the one-room apartment that we made in the church. Please pray about this.

I thank you once again for your participation in our ministry!

## **March & April**

Greetings to you, brothers and sisters and the BIEM mission! Grace to you, and peace, from our Lord Jesus Christ!

We sincerely thank you for your prayerful and material support. And these words aren't simply a formality; they are sincere gratitude to you for your diligence on our behalf as you uphold our church in prayer. The Lord, by His mercy, is blessing our church. The repair work is nearly completed. I'm searching for additional funding to fully settle our debt with the construction specialist. Please pray about that. Because we are planning to hold a children's camp in July, we need to hurry with the reconstruction. Pray!

And in this month our baby daughter will be born. Please pray that it will not be a difficult delivery. I believe that God will oversee everything.



The Lord has blessed us with guests who came to us from Dubno, from Kyiv, and from Rovno. We received great spiritual support from these brothers and sisters. Praise God! We love having guests. For the first time, our church has hosted a regional conference of pastors from our brotherhood. We enjoyed receiving them as visitors. It's nice to see how the Lord is forming our church team, from young brothers as well as old. Praise God. We drove to a conference in Dubno. It was very educational!

God helped us to organize a church musical ministry made up of those whom we have here. These are our teens! Each one has purchased for themselves an instrument on which they can play and glorify the Lord. They often practice. This is a joy.

We had a wonderful Easter service. Many unbelievers came for it. Praise God, He is prompting people's hearts. People are repenting! Five people have said that they want to be baptized. Praise the Lord, He is good. Ivan, for whom you are praying, has a repeat case of Covid. He, too, will be baptized. Sister Inna has repented and wants to be baptized. She has Covid-19. It's difficult for us to help with her treatment, but we should since the treatment is very expensive. Pray for their recovery. Another young couple has repented. They want to be baptized. Their names are Volodya and Ira. He has his own trials as he works in the police, and she gave birth a week ago. Pray. I need to prepare these five people for baptism through discipleship. Praise God, in our church discipleship is developing. The groups with unbelievers are functioning. Among some other groups there are unbelievers who are not ready for baptism. Pray! God is multiplying the church.



The group that meets at 7 a.m. on Tuesdays is still going. We are learning about the character of Jesus Christ.

We have some significant changes. Praise God! There is a young missionary sister, Marina, who is coming to us from America. We want to teach English to children of unbelieving parents and in this way to teach them about Christ. And to have contact with them. We also want to work with children age 4-6 every day to prepare them for school. We also want to hold several holidays for the parents of these children and thus be able to witness. We have many plans, but only God's will can fulfill them.

God especially loves our church!

Children are being born. I have now had my first experience of praying over a baby dedication.

Another blessing was that we and our teens drove to a teen conference in the city of Rovno. Although it's far, this trip was worth it. The fellowship, Bible knowledge games... Praise God, He is awakening our church! Please pray for those who are in my group with unbelievers where we study the New Testament. These are Mikhail, Ekaterina, Ivanka, Ruslan, Sergei, and Roman.

Something else special for me was that I had a chance to visit my mother and the church where I was born spiritually. The Lord gave me a chance to preach there. We went with my mom to my father's grave site in the cemetery. We recalled this big, godly minister who blessed me to the pastoral ministry in Lvov. We enjoyed a wonderful time together.

Dear friends, our prayer warriors, thank you tremendously for standing with us and for supporting us. There is much more to be done for the Lord's glory, and we can't do it without you! Please pray for us. Or rather, continue to pray. Pray for my wife, who is expecting. Right now, it's not easy for her, and I know I need to support her, but right now I'm not doing it well enough since I'm leading the reconstruction work and many groups in discipleship, and the church members have various problems. Please pray! You are very near to our hearts, and we sense your support every day. Be blessed!

Always yours,

Yuri, Violetta, Aaron, Benjamin, and Elizabeth

