



## **The Petrenkos in Goncharovsk, Ukraine**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report, 2021**

#### **July**

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

I'd like to share with you some events and prayer requests that we have experienced during this past month.

First, let me say that in this month we had an opportunity to hold our annual youth tent camp, which increases in popularity with every year. Both children and their parents try to get the kids signed up for the following year.

This year, when we opened the registration period, we ended up having to close registration again because we had already run out of spaces. For the youth, this is a good time when they can be out in nature, meet new people, and join in various games. But most importantly, they hear the saving news about Christ. During the week, each of us tried to make friends with the youth in order to invite them to youth meetings and church services. Most of the young people are from broken homes, and during camp we became like both parents and friends for some of them. The mayor of Goncharovsk and the mayor of Desna came to visit us to give the teens some attention and to bring them some treats. For parents, this was an important sign that the local authorities trust us. We had about 100 kids in the camp.

In addition, we continue working on the church building in Smolin. During this time, the floor heating was installed on the first floor, the screed was poured for the floors, insulation was installed, electrical work was completed on the first floor, the first-floor walls were plastered, the exterior doors were mounted, plus two bathrooms installed. We continue to work on the church and want to complete the construction as soon as possible so it can serve the people and so that newcomers can receive salvation of their souls through the sacrifice of Christ and can join us in glorifying our Savior Jesus Christ.

That's all the news we wanted to share with you. Please pray with us for the following needs:

1. For the continuing work in Smolin.
2. For the family of Tolik, for his common-law wife Valya, that she will believe.
3. For those who have heard the Gospel to be reconciled with the Lord.

Thanks be to you for your role in our joint ministry for the Lord

Sasha Petrenko

## August

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ! Allow me to share with you some of the blessings that God has allowed us to experience this month.

Let me begin by saying that we had a wonderful opportunity to labor alongside a group of brothers and sisters from the USA in the children's camp in Desna. This was a marvelous time, when God brought together two cultures and united them for the common goal of sharing the Gospel. The children greatly enjoyed talking with foreigners, and for us, too, it was interesting to take part in such a project and glorify our Lord together with our brothers and sisters. We also had a chance to organize a get-together with youth in the church building in Smolin. This was an evangelistic meeting, and the young people who came returned home with tidings of Christ.

During this month, there was also a holiday in the Desna church and ours—4 people decided to be baptized. Such occasions are always holidays for the whole church, but for our family this was a special day since our oldest daughter Rimma was among those who were baptized. We pray for those baptized ones, asking that God blesses them in their paths.

Another great blessing for us was holding a children's camp in Smolin. There were 30 children who came and heard the Gospel, and two of them accepted it. This camp is the start for a Sunday school. We want people in Smolin to know that we are not closed but, on the contrary, are open and want to be a blessing to the residents of Smolin.

An interesting incident occurred recently at our Friday Bible study. We were in the church building in Smolin and were drinking tea and discussing when suddenly a man walked in. He's the neighbor from across the road. He constantly drinks alcohol. I don't remember ever seeing him sober. He and his wife make vodka and sell it. With their assistance, many families have become unhappy. So, this man stepped inside and asked if he could sit and watch what we were doing and how our ministry was going. He listened very attentively and asked questions. Right then, we were studying chapter 3 of the Gospel of John, about Nicodemus. This passage provided a good opportunity to share the Gospel and raise the issue of salvation. That man stayed until the end. When he was leaving, he said that what he had observed didn't line up with information he'd heard about us in Smolin. He declared he had enjoyed being with us and will try to come more often. After he went home, the children told us that they had been walking in the street and heard his wife shouting at him, begging him not to come to us. She said that if he did, we would kill him. ☺

That's how our month has been. Thank you for being with us through all stages of our ministry in Goncharovsk and Smolin.

Please pray for these needs:

1. That everyone who heard the Gospel will believe in the Lord.
2. That God will bless the Sunday school and other services.
3. For the next stages of construction of the prayer house.

Petrenko Sasha

## September

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

I would like to share with you how God has blessed us this month.

First, let me share that, thanks be to God, the quarantine has not tightened yet, so we can hold Sunday school in the community club building in Goncharovsk. We share with children about Christ's love for them. This is a very important ministry, because if we do not fill children with Bible truths, the world will fill them with untruth. And the world's teaching will not bring them anything good in life. Also, Ira, Vika, and Rimma continue to bring girls together into a group, where they study the Bible and learn to cook delicious meals together.

Also, in our church there is a man, Sasha, who is a brother in Christ. He's an older brother of Vika. He's in the military and is now at war in eastern Ukraine. From him, we receive constant news and requests to pray that God would use him in conversations about Christ to other military men in the war zone. Recently Sasha phoned and said that he'd had a conversation with the political officer (deputy commander for work with personnel). He shared his faith in Christ and after a long conversation invited that political officer to accept Christ, to which the officer replied that he would like to do it. In the days of the Soviet army, this would have been impossible. Thank God for such a report and for the fact that God can use us in different places for His glory, even in war.

Praise God, work continues in the Smolin church building. The floor tiles are laid, and the building is becoming more and more attractive with each stage. For each of us, the church is the place we don't want to leave.

That's how this month was for us. Please pray for these needs:

1. For all the services that are performed in Goncharovsk and Smolin.
2. For the upcoming phases of construction on the church building in Smolin.
3. For God to bring people and help us to be ready to accept different people.

Thank you for your participation in our joint ministry for the glory of God!

Sasha Petrenko



