



The Petrenkos in Goncharovsk, Ukraine

2nd Quarter Report, 2022

April

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

I will remind you that Ira and I decided to dedicate our time to transporting humanitarian aid and sharing it with people along with tidings about Christ! Starting back in March when I drove to Zdolbuniv, we began to transport people and to deliver aid to Goncharovsk, Smolin, Zheved, and to the military. They permitted us to go right into the military area where they are performing urgent service. There I shared the Gospel with them, and we prayed with them. Many of them walked up and expressed words of gratitude and said they felt as though God was caring for them and protecting them. All of them had been under heavy shelling for over a month. One man said that he used to go to church before the war.

Also, Sasha from our church (Vika's husband) fought in the defense of Chernigiv and was presented another award for courage in battle and received the rank of lieutenant colonel. We are praying that Sasha will be able to get some other vehicle for doing such transportation work, since his old car that he uses for ministry is constantly breaking down. Because of that, he is constantly wasting money fixing up his car, which was never intended for such purposes. Now the military has sent Sasha to the shooting range in Goncharovsk, where he will teach soldiers and share his experience with them.

Sasha organized a trip for us to come and visit his military unit, and he gathered the men so that we could give out New Testaments, share the Gospel, pray with them, and bring them aid, including medications. We also delivered help to Smolin and gave aid to 230 families. During every such distribution I had the goal, not only of supporting them physically, but also of telling them about Christ and praying with them. Thanks be to God and to you, that together we were able this month to minister to people in various population points and to help refugees but also did what's most important—we shared the Gospel.

Many people who previously didn't want to hear anything about God are now praying and do listen to us talk about God. There are people who have lost their loved ones and are in despair. Some do not know how to go on living. The war in our country is not over, and people need help. For us believers, there is a wonderful opportunity to share Christ with them.

Pray that we will soon be able to return to Smolin and continue ministry for the Lord! We will be living in the church building since there is no running water and repairs are needed. That is how our month has been. Pray with us:

1. For peace.
2. For our return home.
3. For the ministry to people.
4. For a vehicle for Sasha.
5. For all those refugees who have left our church.

We thank God and you for your ministry and sacrifice! All that we are doing brings praise to God, thanks to your involvement!

May

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

I would like to share with you the events that we experienced this month.

My family and I returned to Smolin and now live in the church. We had worries about how the children would feel there and how to live in the new reality. But thank God, we are here and hold church services. There are new people in the church who sought shelter during the shelling, and now they have become those who attend the church and praise God with us.

I would also like to tell you an interesting testimony about one guy named Anton. He is a believer, and he was called to serve in the military. He ended up serving in the Goncharovsk House of Officers. This is a building where we rent a room for Sunday school and floorball. So, when Anton's superior found out that he is a believer, he said, "I'm taking you to serve with me. I know Sasha, the pastor of the church [that's me!], and these are people with whom you can work and trust with anything. ☺ This is evidence for us that we always need to walk correctly before God and people, and then He will be glorified. Anton had already been at our church and after the meeting he said that he would like to attend our church.

We also visited various people in Smolin, spoke about Christ, and distributed humanitarian aid. One grandmother said that when there was shelling, she walked past our church and heard Christian songs. For her, it was a great encouragement in difficult moments to hear singing that inspires hope in God. She came this Sunday and sat with her grandchildren in the service.

I would also like to tell you about another guy who was with us in the church in Smolin. His name is Vadim. He used to play floorball with us and heard about Christ many times. But only through these circumstances did he reconcile with God. Now he goes to church and helps us minister to people in need. Pray for Vadim, that God will nurture him and be glorified through him.

We continue to help people and travel to different localities, distributing food packages and New Testaments. The most important thing is that, wherever we distribute aid, we tell people the Good News.

Many people are now ready to hear about God, and we are trying to use this opportunity to lead people to salvation.

This is how this month has been for us. God has showed His mercy, fidelity, care and love.

Please pray with us:

1. For peace to come soon.
2. For God to preserve us and people in our country.
3. That we continue to have the opportunity to talk about Christ and distribute help.
4. For God to help us to hold children's camps, as it is dangerous in these times.

Thank you, dear friends, for the fact that in this difficult time you are more than ever near and continue to pray and help us financially!

Sasha Petrenko

June

Greetings dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

We are still alive, which means that God is still using us in His plan of salvation. I would like to tell you about how God worked this month. God gave us the opportunity to hold children's camps in these difficult and life-threatening days. This year, we had the opportunity to hold camps in nine locations around our community. We assembled a team for the camps, and this time Vanya (the mayor of Smolin) and his wife (from the youth and sports department) wanted to participate in the team with us. In each of the camps, the most important goal for us was to share the Gospel, since this is the most important thing that we can share with people. The war taught many to live one day at a time, and many have become open to learning about God. We use this opportunity to tell people more about God.

In these camps there were not only children, but also adults who were interested in hearing the Gospel and watching the activities of the camp. These were wonderful camps, and we have plans to hold more in August if God allows and we will all be alive.

We continue to serve people by helping with humanitarian aid. In each of the camps, we distributed humanitarian aid, for which we thank God!

We also continue to hold worship services where people come and can hear a word of consolation and peace.

That's all the news that I wanted to tell you about this time.

Please pray for these needs:

1. For peace in our country.

2. About those children and adults who have heard the Gospel.
3. For God to draw people salvation and nurture them spiritually.
4. For people to seek help from God.

Sasha Petrenko in Goncharovsk and Smolin