



## The Kosyanchuks in Bilogorodka, Ukraine

### 4th Quarter Report, 2019

#### September

In His mercy, God gave us the opportunity to celebrate a holiday in the church building—the Harvest holiday.

The whole church prepared for this holiday, Sunday school children and adults alike. We also prayed for the Lord to prompt unbelievers to come and attend this church service.

This year, we decided to urge each church member to invite to the holiday all their relatives, loved ones, and neighbors who live near us. And not that they simply invite them, but that they pray for the Lord to touch their hearts so that they would accept the invitation.

And praise God, people came, even though there were many who declined, saying that they already had plans and couldn't change them. We had decided to turn our main attention to our relatives, loved ones, and neighbors, counting that, if everyone invited were to come, there would be about 10 times the number of people as our church had members, about 700 souls.

Therefore, this was a small field, and we will pray that the Lord will extend the years of life and that next year we will begin even earlier to invite and pray and to prepare for this holiday, because this is one of the best-received holidays by unbelievers.

We praise God for sending us everything essential for holding this holiday. We even had people from other churches who came and participated. It was very pleasant to hear the favorable comments from unbelievers who attended.

It's sad that people come and leave joyful and happy, promising to come to church, but in the end they don't come back.

We sincerely thank you for your brotherly support, for prayers and concern for us. May the Lord bless you.

Amen.

#### October

Great thanks and praise be to our Lord, that He has so marvelously blessed with His abundant blessings through you and us.

For our church, the matter of replacing the bus for transporting people to the church was practically impossible. But praise be to God that you, hearing about our need even from a great



distance, took the need of our church close to your heart, responded, and supplied great aid to us in this difficult period.

Hearing of this, many people—especially among the elderly members of the church—wept at the news, rejoicing at such immeasurable brotherly love, which you have shed on us. And we all recalled how the Communists in our country once taught the people that America is evil, that imperialism is the enemy of communism.

But praise be to God for bringing us together: near ones and far ones, around Himself. We have become relatives and close ones of Jesus Christ. Through His grace, we are His children.

By the Lord's mercy, we have already begun to search for a replacement van that could be purchased for the church. In addition, the church is continuing to collect offerings for this need, and even a few unbelievers have given donations, for which we are thankful to God, that He impressed our problem on others as well.

With our whole hearts we thank you for the love and mercy that you have shed—and continue to shed—upon us.

May the Lord bless you with His heavenly blessings and reward you one hundred times over.

Amen.

## November

The Lord sheds His mercy on every step and cares very much for His children. And our congregation confirms this.

Our church has a bus, which we use to transport people here for services as well as to bring various materials and loads of things as the church has need. In addition, we used it during construction of the second Baptist church on the opposite side of Bilogrodka.

The bus is already almost 20 years old. It's of Russian manufacture, and it has reached the point where some things on it cannot be repaired. And (due to the political situation with Russia), there are practically no spare parts available. Even when there are parts, they are extremely expensive. Yet, this bus is simply essential for our congregation, because we bring people from areas where there is no public transportation available, because those vehicles travel only along the central road. The distance from Koritish to the church is nearly 4 kilometers, and it's a similar distance from Plodenov to the town center. Many of our members are elderly, and they no longer have the energy to peddle to church on bicycles as the younger people do. Therefore, a bus is the only solution for this situation.

We prayed and decided to put this matter to the church for a future decision to be made. And the church decided to begin a special collection of offerings [for a vehicle] so that church members would not be left with no means of coming to services.

Praise God, even families that are in difficult material straits contributed and sacrificed. Guests who sometimes visit us from other churches contributed, too. And even a number of unbelievers who live in the village contributed.

But we especially sincerely appreciate your very great help, which the BIEM mission gave. For us, this is a huge amount. May God reward you a hundred times over, that you didn't turn away from our needs but rather showed brotherly love.

May God bless you. We pray that offerings will still come in, and we ask you to pray about this too, so that we might have a dependable bus that can serve the church.

Amen.

## December

After the end of the summer camp held at the church, children from it started coming to the Sunday school. Not so many as to the camp, but some came. When secular school resumes classes, the number of kids coming to Sunday school regularly drops.

When we ask the children why they stopped coming, one and all give the same answer: they don't have anyone who will bring them, and they are not allowed to come all on their own. On Sundays, parents rest from their work week, and grandmothers and grandfathers are busy with their own matters. Some of them spend the week taking the grandkids to school and back. Such conditions are not favorable for encouraging children to come and learn in Sunday school, even if they want to come. When they get older, then parents begin to give permission, but by that time the youth no longer want to come.

But, praise God, there are other situations. The parents of one girl didn't want to drive her to Sunday school. They told her, "When you get older, you can go on your own if you want." Then she persuaded her grandmother to accompany her. The girl takes in the lessons very well. She listens and sings, and she really enjoys fellowshiping with the other children. Meanwhile, the grandmother sat in the service and gave no thought to whatever the children were doing.

In the second half of a service, we were going to have a members meeting, and we asked this grandmother if she would step into the Sunday school and wait for her granddaughter there. And she was so delighted at everything she heard and saw in the children's classroom. She sincerely thanked us and said that she would try to bring her granddaughter all the time.

If only all parents and grandmothers and grandfathers understood how important this is. Therefore, we are praying that the Lord will help us to make this truth known to children's parents and will prompt their hearts to bring their kids to Sunday school.

We sincerely thank you for your prayers, support, and help in our ministry. May the Lord bless you.

Amen.

Anatoly Kosyanchuk