



**The Petrenkos
3rd Quarter Report**

July

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ, we send you greetings!

I want to share with you some blessed moments that God has permitted us to enjoy in this month.

Summer is the time for camps, and we had an opportunity to hold a remarkable tent camp for youth from Goncharovsk, Desna, and Chernigov. In advance of the camp, we invited various youth from Goncharovsk and Smolin. I also met with the parents who wanted their children to go to our camp. Many said they had heard that we hold camps and were glad that we conduct such summer camps. One man whose grandson wanted to go to the camp approached me and inquired who there would be responsible. So I replied that I would be there and began to name all



the other leaders, but he stopped me and said, “Sanyok [an affectionate variant of the name Sasha], the fact that you will be there is enough to tell me that my grandson will be in responsible hands.”

Also, for the first time ever in our tent camp we had a girl from Smolin. Her father drove her to the camp site, then looked around to see everything in camp, as if unsure whether to leave her. But throughout the whole time in camp she was calling home to him and telling how cool it was in camp. And when he came to pick her up, he thanked us for all that we do for children.



This year in that place where we hold the tent camp there was a fierce storm that frightened everyone. We were preparing for the evening service when, literally within one minute, the weather abruptly changed and a strong wind began to blow. We workers quickly gathered all the kids into the vehicles, and they were driven over to the riverside, where there are no trees. Ira and I and two other couples stayed in the camp since we had the bonfire burning and there was a danger of the camp catching on fire

and ruining the kitchen we'd set up. So we felt like we were in the epicenter of a hurricane. Never in my life had I seen such a mighty storm. Especially when the wind was so strong that trees simply fell down. Our camp was situated in the woods, so we were concerned that a falling tree might kill or hurt someone. We recalled passages in the New Testament, such as when Jesus calmed the storm when His disciples were panicking. We prayed and sang various songs, and the storm ended. After these events, there was no electricity in the village for a couple of days, and there was much damage. When we talked later to some of the local people, they declared they had never seen anything like it in their lives, and when we told them we had been camping among the poplars, they were shocked. Praise God that we all stayed alive and healthy and that the children all prayed and asked God for help during the storm. But everything went well, praise God, and those young people who were in the camp learned of Christ, which was our goal.

Please pray with us for those who heard about Christ, that God will continue working with them.

August

Hello, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ! Let us share with you some of the blessings God bestowed on us during this month.

First, God blessed us with a chance to participate in two children's camps. The first one was in Desna. I was the leader for one group, and I taught the Bible lesson for them. This was an excellent opportunity to share the Gospel with these children. What amazed me was that, in my

group, when I was talking about the sinlessness of Christ, several kids stated that they had thought that Jesus was just as much a sinner as they were. After we examined several Scripture passages about the sinless nature of Jesus, the children changed their minds and thought of Jesus in a new way. In



that camp, each one of us [leaders] sowed the Word of God in the hearts of young children.

For the second camp [in Goncharovsk], we didn't get to be in camp the last day because brother Aleksei (in whose home we've been holding services) went to be with the Lord. This was the first funeral in Goncharovsk that I led along with brother Igor from Desna. I was very concerned that the funeral serve to the praise of God. We have a tradition that, before going to the cemetery, we hold a service in front of the house where the deceased person lived. I conducted this service. A funeral presents a wonderful chance to share the Gospel with those who come to the funeral. I thank God for these funerals. After all, God gave this way of speaking about Him. There was also a second service at the funeral; brother Igor shared the Word at that one. After all of this, we talked with the family and relatives. God enabled me to talk with Peter, who is Aleksei's younger brother. I shared with him how his older brother had been very concerned for his precious soul and wanted

him, too, to have salvation through Christ. He listened attentively and asked me to pray for his family and for him.

We also had the chance to help with the camp in Bilogorodka. This was a very blessed time when we could come with our families and serve to the glory of God. In my group there were 37 children who had the opportunity to hear about Christ every day for five days. On the fifth day I suggested to the children that they pray with me the prayer of repentance, and nearly all of the children prayed. This was a remarkable and unforgettable time, when we all could be together and serve God together.

That is probably all that I wanted to share with you. But I ask that you participate further in our ministry and pray for us. Please pray for these needs:

1. That God will bless in the matter of the prayer house in Smolin and that we will be able to hold services there.
2. For those in whom we sowed the Word of God, that it will grow and bear fruit.
3. For the new academic year.
4. That in this year there will be no problem with renting a place for Sunday school and a gym for floor hockey.

September

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

We would like to share with you some of what has happened in the past month.

I'll start by saying that, praise God, the gas line has now been installed for the property in Smolin. This process was drawn out, and the gas service performed their obligation very slowly.



When I drove to Chernigiv to ask why they hadn't begun the work of installing the gas line, they said I had to wait, and then they sent me to the head man, who likewise gave no explanation for why they hadn't yet begun this work. So I went to the service where they investigate such matters and I wrote out a request that they look into this complicated situation. After doing that, I called back to that senior man as the gas service and informed him I had lodged a complaint against his organization. Hearing that, his tone of voice immediately changed, and within two minutes I received a call from the people who perform such work. They apologized for not being there in the period of time when they were supposed to come. They said that they were prepared to come that day and take all the measurements and photos.

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On that same day they showed up and did all the essential work. In this month [September], they put in the gas line. Praise God, this phase of the work is completed. Now the Smolin property has natural gas.

We also have electric service there, and we can continue with the construction work. Thank you to each of you for your prayers in this project.

As you know, we are holding our services in the apartment of brother Aleksei. Recently Aleksei passed into eternity and the apartment went as inheritance to his children, who also attend the church. Right now, repairs are being made to the apartment, since his children want to move there to live. Therefore, we are praying concerning the completion of the construction work in the Smolin church building, so that we can hold services in that.

Those are the main things we wanted to share, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ! Please pray with us for these needs:

1. For the building of the prayer house in Smolin.
2. For the Sunday school.
3. For the cooking outreach to girls.
4. For the floor hockey team.
5. For growth of the church.

Sasha Petrenko