



The Buykos in Bilogorodka, Ukraine

3rd Quarter Report, 2020

July

Without a doubt, this summer has been full of a multitude of events in the life of the church. But the most joyful thing during the time of quarantine was probably a baptism. It is historically significant. After all, this was the first baptism for our church in Bilogorodka.

Brother Vladimir and his family have visited the church for quite a long time. Recently he announced his desire to take a serious step and to become an official member of the church. He's a deputy and works in the village council. All of his coworkers and colleagues know about his faith. Therefore, the decision to be baptized became all the more a matter of responsibility.

The morning was sunny, and the weather was simply ideal. We arrived at the lake early, where a few people were already sitting and fishing. We took a space farther down, in order not to bother anyone, and later we learned that a family that normally fishes in that same spot where we held the baptism arrived after we did. At first, they were perturbed that we had taken over "their" spot. But then they observed what was happening from behind some bushes. After brother Vladimir had been baptized, we told the family that usually fishes in that spot that they could now have the location. They greatly cheered up at that.

After the lake, we drove back to the church and enjoyed a joyful time breakfasting together. Immediately afterward, we celebrated the Lord's Supper for the new member of the church. Several people who come to the church still have not managed to see a baptism, and they ask a lot of questions about it and how everything is done.

Praise God for this important event in the life of brother Vladimir!



August A Thank You!

Dear brothers and sisters in America! Thank you very much for the wonderful gift for our church—a flannelgraph!

When we saw the box, our joy had no bounds. But we couldn't imagine how much we could tell and SHOW to children about our Lord. It's good that we had begun preparations for camp early. We had already decided to add something fresh to our Bible lessons in this very camp in order to make them especially memorable.

For nearly a week we cut out the pieces and sorted each one into its place. (We'd thought we could do it all in a couple days!)



The children really enjoyed having a turn to place the Bible heroes on the flannelgraph. This large size is very suitable and practical for camp. None of the children had to strain to see. Everything was easy for them to see.

For many children, this was their first time to see a flannelgraph! But not just the children. Our older Christian sisters were likewise simply in ecstasy. Never before had they seen such a teaching tool. They all wanted a chance to stick the figures onto the flannel backing. ☺ In two of

the groups for younger children, the Bible lessons were explained with the aid of the flannel graph. Once again, thank you for such a remarkable gift! Now we will continue to use it in our Sunday school classes. God's blessings to you!



September Camp

Praise God, that despite all circumstances, we were able to hold a children's camp this year. Of course, the conditions this year were a bit restricted. Nobody was allowed to come to camp without a mask, and at the gate everyone got their temperature taken and had to wash their hands with antiseptic. In addition, the length of the camp was somewhat shortened.

Nevertheless, parents calmly allowed their kids to attend. This year, lunch was also in an untypical format. In order to carry out all the requirements of the quarantine, the food was served in lunch bags: sandwiches in separate packets, juices, water only from separate bottles, cookies in packets, and many other tasty treats. Apparently, eating lunch in this way didn't bother the kids.

In all, we had more than 100 children, including the preschool group. All of the lessons were held outside, except for music. And at the music lessons, the kids sat in every other chair in order to uphold the quarantine expectations here, too.

On the day after we gave each child a copy of "The Bible in Childhood" (the New Testament with illustrations), the following conversation took place. A 12-year-old boy said, "These kinds of Bibles are cool. Thank you very much! In one night I read 100 pages." (In all, it has 230 pages.) Then he turned to a slightly younger boy and asked, "What page are you on?" After pausing to think, the other boy answered, "I'm only on page 35." Then that boy, as if to justify himself, added, "But that's only



because I wasn't able to sit down and read until late in the evening.

Both the children and the teens were very interested in this book. They commented that it's very easy to read and to understand. We explained that this isn't simply a gift that appeared out of nowhere, but that these were paid for by people who want children to read them and appreciate them. Children expressed their thanks many times.

We also had a water day as "something new" this year. We decided to use washable colored powders, which the kids (and the leaders) really enjoyed. In addition to the good cheer they sparked, they also resulted in fun, bright photographs, which many kids posted on their social media, saying these were photos "from camp," which was very cool.





On the final day of camp, the campers and leaders said goodbye to one another with great sadness, saying, "It will be too hard to wait a whole year." Nobody wanted to leave. After all, camp is a blessed time.

Thank you very much for your support, both financially and prayerfully! Praise God that, even during the quarantine conditions, we managed to hold a camp, which we hope will yield much fruit. May God bless you!

The Buyko family

