



The Fomichovs in Ukraine

4th Quarter Report, 2020

October

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

Matt. 5:16

Dear and faithful coworkers in the Lord, I want to encourage you with how God has opened a door for evangelism during this complicated time. The whole world teaches us to live in a different way, but God prompts us to continue sharing the news of salvation. We got up our courage and decided to hold an evening for widows. There were many concerns and prayers before the Lord about this. The fear was connected to the quarantine, and how this could cause big problems for the church. We were in constant prayer. I went to the mayor of Desna, where I received verbal permission along with a list of instructions for the gathering.

We were forbidden from holding it inside the church building, so the only other option open was to hold it outdoors. The weather forecast predicted rain, and I knew this would be a big problem. I prayed, but as had been forecasted, there was still rain. I woke up during the night and couldn't fall back asleep. I was concerned about what to do. I prayed and said, “Lord, give us good weather, or send me an



answer for where to hold it.” God sent me the idea that we could hold the gathering under the canopy where cars are parked, and this was a marvelous answer. I rejoiced and thanked the Lord for His reply as I recalled the words of James 1:5. “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God...”

Thus began the active preparation for the widows' evening. Everyone asked why we wanted to hold such a charitable evening, and I replied that we have two goals: First, to tell people about salvation; second, because this is what God teaches us, to care for widows and orphans. In Ukraine, widows are doomed to loneliness and poverty. With the support of BIEM, we decided to hold such an evening where we could fulfill the great commission and also do what the Lord says, which is to care for widows.



Before that evening, we calculated that there would be about 70 widows in attendance, plus unbelieving guests who did not know the Lord. Thanks to the financial assistance of BIEM, we purchased gifts of groceries for the widows. These included sugar, buckwheat, various sweets and preserves, butter, and other foods. We also had gifts of New Testaments in the Ukrainian language so that these widows could read from the Bible.

At the evening program, the family of Pastor Eugene Buyko put on a musical program with a saxophone and other musical instruments. They sang marvelous songs that touched the heart and told of the love of our Savior. We told how there is one way of salvation, and that this is through Jesus Christ the Savior. After the evening's conclusion, we fellowshipped a lot with these widows, and they were so grateful for such a special evening where they could enjoy peace of mind. This also provided a chance to invite them to the church.

I know that in many of them there was planted a desire to visit the church. I understand that the vanities and cares of this world swallow up good seeds. In our personal conversations that evening we saw tears, because these women were so touched by the attention and care, that they opened their hearts and revealed their pain and loneliness. We related that, in this way, and through us, God wants to show them what He thinks of them. When I began to chat with the women, out of the corner of my eye, I saw that another woman was waiting for me. That evening was the first time I had seen her. After I'd finished the first conversation, she stepped up to me and requested a Bible for her daughter in the hospital.



I asked what was wrong with the daughter, and she replied, "Do you remember a month ago, how there was an explosion in the military barracks, where one guy blew up a grenade?"

I said, "I remember."

"My daughter was there, and it was a miracle she wasn't killed."

It put out one eye, blew off her hands, and damaged a thigh. This mother began to cry and said, "I want to read her the Bible in the hospital. I realize it's a miracle she's alive, but now she can't read, so I want to read to her." I didn't know what to say except that we would pray for her and for her daughter. That evening, I personally heard many heartbreaking stories. And I understood even more firmly that people need God, and need Him to heal their wounds and to save them from eternal judgment.

Pray with us for the following:

1. That the seeds that have been sown will sprout and bring forth fruit.
2. That God will nurture in these hearts a desire to search for Him.
3. That these ones will come to church.
4. Pray for the health and salvation of this young woman, and for her family.

I especially want to express thankfulness to the BIEM mission for its role in the Desna ministry, and I thank everyone who prays and supports our ministry. May the Lord abundantly bless you for your sacrificial hearts.



November

Hello, dear friends!

I'm very thankful to you for your prayerful support. We can see how God answers our prayers. This prayerful partnership accomplishes a special work. There have been a number of blessings that are answers to prayer.

There have been times when it was difficult for us to imagine that soldiers would be able to freely visit the services of the church. It happened from time to time, but only as unique incidents.

In the past few years, it has become a regular occurrence. And now it happens so often that we accept these occasions as something natural. We no longer see them as something special, although it wasn't always that way. In that, we see how God is answering your and our prayers. I remember how many times I wrote to you and requested prayer for a leader for the musical ministry of our church. And more than once, God has brought us musicians. We see in this the hand of God...

Roma

Roma served in the urgent services here in Desna, and throughout his time here, he has been a huge blessing for our church. He took an active role in the musical ministry. He also organized services among the soldiers during the quarantine, when soldiers could not attend the church's Sunday services. For this time, Roma was an answer to prayer for our church, because he helped in developing a musical group in our church.

Time passed, and Roma was due to leave the military and to go back home. I was concerned and wondered how our musical ministry would fare after he left. God is good, and once again soldiers who have musical abilities came to us. Roma is now gone, but the music ministry remains and is growing. When I look at all of this, I see God's hand in all of it.

Pray with us:

1. For the growth of the church, that people will get saved.
2. For God to use us in personal evangelism.
3. That God will provide us with more opportunities for soldiers to come to our services.



December



My dear brothers and sisters, I'm thankful to you for your support in the ministry for our Lord Jesus Christ. We are tools in God's hands. Our Lord moves through us who have it in our hearts that all people be saved. God, "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ" (Ephesians 2:5).

Thanks to our Lord, we are participants in the work of the Gospel, and we continue to use every possible way to get the Gospel to people. We thank

you for the prayers and the material support, which the Lord has inclined your hearts to provide for people who have been left in difficult physical and spiritual conditions in the wake of the Covid sickness. Thanks to your aid, we were able to assemble packages of healthy, vitamin-filled foods, and New Testaments, and to distribute those to people as we bore testimony of the Lord. Volunteers from our church were able to distribute these to people who had been sick with Covid, or have undergone surgery, or who live in very poor circumstances and cannot afford fruits. Not with words alone but also through deeds, we were able to bear witness to people of the love of our Lord. After all, when people are living in such difficult straits and barely making ends meet, it's hard for them to see the love of God. Well, we were messengers who witnessed of the love of God and gave people healthful food packages and New Testaments. We told them that God loves them, and invited them to church.

Nina

I realize that sometimes it's hard for people to believe in the love of God because sin has ruined practically their whole life. It's hard for people to believe, but God witnesses to us through His Son Jesus Christ of the love of God. Sin has destroyed everything in Nina's life. Her husband died from alcoholism, her son is addicted to drugs and has sold everything in the home. She's already a sick, elderly woman, who is enveloped in darkness, and bit by bit she lives out her life without hope for improvement. When our Christian sisters visited her, she couldn't believe that anybody still needed her. And when they told her that God loves her, that was tough for her to believe. We left her a copy of the Word of God to read and we told her that, if she has questions, she can come to our church. I believe that package of food warmed her lonely heart, and she will remember that moment when God sent us to her gloomy home, and we were able to shine a beam of light into it.

Anya (after being sick with Covid)

We met her on the street. She had been seriously ill and is recuperating after the sickness. Brother Pasha and I began witnessing to her of the love of our Lord and to tell her that God loves her. She broke into tears right there and leaned into me, unable to express her gratitude. We explained that it's not that we are so good, but that God wants to show her His love in this way. We invited her to church.



“Aunt” Vera



I’m well acquainted with Vera. We visited her and brought her a gift. While there, we talked about how God loves her. She received us very warmly and was glad. We chatted a little bit as we waited for her daughter, as she wished that we could talk with her. She made tea for us, but we were in a bit of a hurry since we had planned to make other visits as well. Well, we agreed to come back and visit again and said that we will always be glad to see her if she could find the time to come to church. Yesterday I received a phone call and was informed that she had died. I attended the funeral as a show of support for her family. I know that there will be an opportunity to witness to her family.

An encouraging story (a grandmother)

Our Christian sisters went to visit her at home. Everything in her home was very clean. They gave her the gift of the food package and began to talk about how God loves her. She replied, “I know.” The women from our church wanted to give her a New Testament, but she said that some men had come to her and already given her one. This was brother Pasha and me, perhaps a month and a half before, when we held the special evening for widows. After the service for widows, we had visited other widows who weren’t able to attend and gave them food and New Testaments. She declared that she had already read half of the book, which was a big encouragement for us. The seed was sown and there is already fruit, thanks to that New Testament, which we had given along with a parcel of food. Because we had given away New Testaments, this grandmother has a chance to read the Word of God.



By the way, many people were so pleasantly surprised. More than once we saw tears. People were so touched at such care shown for them that they couldn’t hold back tears. They declared that nobody else had shown them such care. After the sickness, people were left in fear and depression. We were able to serve as an encouragement to them, and to witness of the love of the Lord. One woman couldn’t hold back words of gratitude, and she wrote a post on Facebook where she expressed thankfulness for the care our church had shown her. You and we together have provided a good testimony for our Lord. After all this, several women phoned and asked what time our church services are since they would like to come.

Everyone expresses their appreciation to you for your role. May God abundantly bless you for your sacrificial hearts.

Pray with us that the seeds that have been sown will bear fruit.

With respect and great gratitude for your participation in our ministry.

Igor Fomichov