



## **The Kosyanchuks in Bilogorodka, Ukraine**

### **1st Quarter Report, 2020**

#### **January**

Dear friends, brothers and sisters! Once again, we've begun a new year, a year of life and of ministry for the Lord. In our church, the beginning of this year provided plenty of worthwhile labor. By tradition, Ukraine celebrates Christmas two times, on December 25 of the departing year and on January 7 of the new year. Due to various circumstances, we were not able to hold a children's holiday on December 25, as we've done previously, so we moved that to January 7. Unfortunately, despite the abundance of days for celebrating Christmas, for many people the purpose of this holiday remains unknown, and people observe it simply as a ritual and continue to hope to please God and to have salvation based on their own abilities. For this reason, the basic theme of this children's holiday was the essence and relationship of God's holiness, revealed in His Law, and grace, expressed to us in Jesus Christ. With God's help, we tried to bring these truths home to each one who attended.

We prepared songs and games, but at the center of it all was a Christmas play, which was titled "The Law and Grace." And the gifts that we gave at the conclusion to everyone who came are also not unimportant. This year they were Christian Christmas cards and calendars, which were made available to us by the Christian organization "Poklik," and also candy gifts that were purchased thanks to your help. Through these gifts we wanted once more to reflect a tiny bit of God's love and mercy, as expressed to us in Jesus Christ. We also wanted to solidify in people's minds those truths that they had heard during the holiday service.

Unfortunately, the number of children at the service wasn't as large as we had hoped. There were about 50 people. However, many of their parents came. How pleasant it was to hear all their words of gratitude after it was over. Some walked up immediately afterward and thanked various participants for their roles; others did so later. One family of unbelievers who had been invited by one of our Christian families shared their unbridled joy at the atmosphere that was there. It appears, that God's working touched these people. Certainly, just as is true in the physical realm, you don't always see the fruit of your labor immediately. However, we believe that the good seed that was sown will, in its time, bring forth an abundant harvest of saved souls for the glory of God!

Once again I'd like to glorify the Lord for having inclined your hearts to get involved in this event and to thank you for sacrificing of your means, thanks to which we were able to get

gifts of candy for the children. May the Lord reward you one hundredfold and fulfill your every need!

Amen.

## February

Praise God, that He loves us, teaches us, and is long-suffering toward us. This month the Lord showed the church a very important lesson, especially for the younger members of the congregation.

A brother from our church visited the church in the village of Komarivka, and there he met a fellow who visits that congregation. From that man our brother learned that this fellow had a problem finding work and his family had a need. And right at that time our church was putting down a new floor and we needed workers. Therefore, after discussing it with men of the church, we agreed to hire him, which would help him to get out of debt and support his family. He lived in the church building and came to all the services and repented here in the church, accepting Christ as his Savior.

He wasn't baptized here. He said that he would do this in the village of Komarivka, together with his wife when she had repented.

After completing the work here in our church, he worked with our brother on a different project, but slept here and continued attending services. After a time, he was offered a regular job with a construction company in Kyiv, but he will attend services in Komarivka and in one of the Kyiv churches. God blessed him and his family. A buddy of his who left the country gave him a minivan. He worked well in construction, but he began to lose touch with believers and stopped attending services. Even though he lived in Komarivka, he didn't come to church. He drove past believers and looked away, as if he were better than them. He organized his own crew of repairmen and became a "big" man.

But God does not scold. The owner of the place where the crew was working did not pay them and ran them off. There was no contract. He ended up having to pay his crew out of his own pocket. He was driving his van when an SUV hit it in the side, knocking the van over. The man wound up in the hospital with broken bones. No sooner did he get out of the hospital after spending all his savings on treatment, than his drunken neighbor, mistaking him for an enemy of his, inflicted a knife wound on his hand. The court is drawing it out, because the man who caused the accident has a big defense, lawyers. And this man had no more work, no vehicle, and the gas to his home was turned off. His family was suffering, and in this catastrophic condition he came to the church weeping. Thus, returned the prodigal son.

To the degree we could, we rendered a little bit of assistance, but we believe that the Lord will show both him and us what to do next.

We pray for this soul, for his family, and for the resolving of all his problems in life with God's help.

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

Amen.

## March

Earlier in this year, we in our church had planned to buy a van for the church this year. We thought we would search in the Ukrainian auto markets, but especially in the European markets so that we would have a new vehicle before Easter time.

However, the Lord made adjustments, and in connection with the coronavirus, these plans changed. By Internet we've been searching the markets, but a suitable vehicle hasn't yet been located. We are praying that the Lord will help us in this so that we can soon resolve this matter. In connection with the measures taken in our country, they have ceased passenger services between cities, as well as within cities and villages. All academic establishments are also shut down due to quarantine.

The authorities, both local and national, have appealed to all religious organizations with a request to cease holding services, so that not more than 10 people gather together in one place. And now that number has been lowered to 4 people. Therefore, on March 22 we did not hold a church service. Instead, we suggested that everyone stay home and read the Bible and pray there. Praise God, there were no people who rejected this decision. The entire church prayed in their separate homes. Also, we have 3 prayer groups in various places in the town, and each day they pray, not only for the church, but also for each member of the church, for the town, for our country, and for all the people of the world, that everyone would bow their hearts before the Lord, repenting, and that the Lord will lead people out of this difficult circumstance.

May the Lord bless, protect, help, and reward you a hundred times over for your brotherly care and support.

Amen.