



The Fomichovs in Desna, Ukraine

1st Quarter Report, 2021

January

“Gifts”



Dear friends!

Everyone likes gifts, especially children. They wait for holidays, knowing that they will receive gifts. Well, this year we managed to organize something for children, not only from our church, but also the children of the school.

Also, we did our utmost to gather various gifts for the nursing home that is 20 km from Desna in the village of Morovsk. We were able to make 2 trips. On the first one, we

took along children from the school so that they could sing Christmas carols. Thanks to the support of BIEM, we were able to give gifts of food to people. In the nursing home there are 18 people, of which a great many are unable to walk.

Because of the quarantine we were not allowed into the nursing home building, but those who could walk stepped outside. Our girls sang Christmas songs, and we gave them packages of food as gifts. They were so touched; they had tears in their eyes. Some declared that no one had ever shown them such care. For us, it was a big blessing to minister to these people. We asked them what



their needs were, and it turned out that they had no wheelchairs but had a need for them. After a fire that happened in Kharkov region, the government started doing inspections to see how facilities would vacate disabled people during a time of fire. So, this place needed wheelchairs. But God took care of this need a long while in advance through you, brothers and sisters. In the last container that BIEM sent to Ukraine there were wheelchairs, and we joyfully delivered them to this nursing home.

Another request was that these grandmothers who had grown up in the Soviet Union really love homemade jam, and they asked us to bring them some if it were at all possible.



Several teachers in the school in Desna assisted with this. They announced the need to the children in class, and the kids happily brought jam from home for these residents of the nursing home. The kids responded so wholeheartedly that they brought enough jars of jam to fill four boxes with them. The children even drew pictures in order to shine a bit of light into the lives of lonely ill people. In this way, we managed both to serve people and to teach children to care about and respect elderly ones.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

February

“Repent and believe in the Gospel”



Dear friends!

This Sunday, something happened during our worship service that made us happy and brought great joy to our hearts. The place was filled with people. The service was continuing, and like always we prayed and praised God. At the conclusion, I gave an invitation for anyone who wanted to repent and put their faith in Christ. Then something amazing began to happen. First, one man who had come to the service for the first time

stood and walked forward. Then behind him came another man. So it continued until 4 people had come to repent.

This filled me with such joy but also a bit of confusion because I had not expected such an effect. This was a testimony that the Holy Spirit had touched the hearts of these men. The Holy Spirit had prompted them to step out and come forward to repent of their sins and to receive forgiveness. I understand that they had grown weary of living in slavery to sin, and when they heard the invitation to come to God, they may not have fully understood everything. We will need to explain and teach them how to grow in God. The very fact that God prompted them to repent shows that not everything was in order in their hearts. I said that we don't have any sort of merit before God, and that we have no chance of saving ourselves, but that God gives us merit in His Son Jesus Christ.

One of them, Gena, has had a struggle going on in his heart. God knocked, and I hope that with this prayer of reconciliation a real change will begin in his life. In a personal conversation with me, he recognized he doesn't know how to live properly in this world. He wants to learn how to live a new, clean life.

The other men are in the same situation. Sin had made them captives and destroyed their lives. They are searching for how to change their lives. God led them to this service and nudged them to come forward and repent. They prayed and asked for His forgiveness for their sins. For us, who were witnesses of this event, it was an encouragement to see people repenting.

Pray with us:

1. For these new people, that God will strengthen them in His Word.
2. Pray that they will have the desires to grow and to change.
3. Pray for our church, that it will grow and bring forth fruit.

March 2021



Dear brothers and sisters, we thank you for your prayers. The ministry in Desna is continuing, the church is growing, and the ministry of the rehabilitation center is developing. At the current time, there are twelve men in the rehab center who have various addictions, with alcohol and drugs being the main ones.

Each day there is Bible study. We are studying prayer and most importantly fellowship with God. Our goal is to teach them how to build a relationship with Christ so that the men can draw strength from God. After all, in our church we have more than one example of how God

saves and changes lives. We see that this is a battle in which we are constantly wrestling in word and prayer. We see that in this way our Heavenly Father is glorified. Through the rehabilitation ministry, more people in Desna see us in a good light, because they see living testimonies of how God changes people's lives. We help them to learn how to work with their hands so that they can earn income for their own support. And they in turn help us to work on the church building with pleasure. They attend the church's Sunday services. Plus, on Saturdays I conduct Bible studies with them, where they can ask questions and share their problems and experiences.

I want to share about one of our rehabilitants...

Vlad

I've been acquainted with Vlad (shown on the right in the photo) for a very long time, more than 30 years. At one time we had been close friends, but then our paths parted after I came to God. Yet, more than once God has brought him across my path so that I could witness to him.

Vlad is a very good guy, and he's a talented auto mechanic. But sin ruined his life. The first time I witnessed

to him was in 2008, when Vlad was released from prison. He listened attentively but didn't open his heart to the Lord. Ultimately, sin took over him. For about 12 years, he was in and out of prisons. Drugs destroyed his health. He was rejected by his parents and his childhood friends. Everyone forsook him except the Lord. I confess the fact that I had no hope he would leave his sinful path.

One leader of the rehab center, Sasha, didn't lose hope and called us to pray for Vlad. For a couple of years, Vlad lived in Chernihiv. As it turned out, he came to Desna to see his brother, and after leaving his brother's place he stole a bicycle to sell in order to buy drugs. As he was walking, he happened to meet the leader of the rehab center. Vlad wasn't doing well. It was obvious to him that he wouldn't last long if he didn't get off the path he was on. He was invited to stay in the rehab center, and he joyfully agreed. We were all amazed at how God began to work in his heart.

They took the bicycle back to its owner, which was also a testimony to him. Vlad repented and went through withdrawal without drugs. He quit smoking. He's already been in the center for four months, and we all have observed how God is changing his life. He's regaining his physical strength. Every day of his own will he gets up and spends quiet time with God. He visits his mother, and for her it's a great joy to see how God is changing his life. True, his father isn't ready to forgive him for his past actions, but I trust that this will happen in the future.

Pray with us:

1. For the ministry of the rehabilitation center.
2. For the church, that it will grow, and the ministries of the church will develop.

Respectfully,
Igor Fomichov

