



The Yurchenkos in Ukraine

1st Quarter Report, part 1

January



At last, the winter breaks for children are over, and we were able to invite them to our church for a Christmas program. I contacted the principal of the elementary school, and he joyfully responded to our invitation. Besides that, the principal himself offered to lead the children to our church for the Christmas show.

We specifically planned not to put on this program in a public place such as a school or the town club but in the church so that the kids could see

what a church is. Many of them were visiting our church for the very first time. Before the presentation, I told about the Sunday school in our church and invited the children to visit it.

The children really liked the show, which told the story of an elderly shoemaker. This shoemaker really wanted Jesus to come to him for Christmas, and so he waited and waited for Jesus to come as a guest. On the frigid Christmas day, the old shoemaker often peered out the window in hopes of seeing Jesus approaching his home, but he didn't see him. However, he did see people walking past who needed warmth and food. The cobbler invited in such ones and gave them hot tea. On that day, the cobbler never did see Jesus. When he lay down, in a dream he saw all these people whom he had invited into his house. Then an angel appeared and informed him that, in being hospitable to such people, he had received Jesus into his home. This story really pleased the children and the teachers who had accompanied the children to the performance.

We distributed gifts and children's literature. In our theater team there is one girl whose family recently moved her from another city. She really enjoys working in the puppet team even though she is not yet saved. The first time her mother entered



the church was for this presentation. After the show, the mother remained for teatime. We talked a lot about God, about the church, and she had a lot of questions. Please pray for her, that she and her husband will be saved.

Another woman named Lena has already joined our team. She recently began to attend the church but already labors hard in the puppet theater. She even asks for time off from work to take part in the ministry to children. Lena is very close to God but so far isn't saved. Pray for her salvation.

Thank you very much, dear friends, for your love, prayers, and care for us. Thanks to you, we can be active in ministry in Ukraine. May the Lord bless you!

Sincerely yours,
Vitaly Yurchenko

January, part 2



We received an invitation to bring our puppet theater and to minister to the disabled at one of the churches in Kyiv. Anatoly and Lyudmila, the organizers of the puppet theater, used to attend this church. It was a touching meeting of friends with whom we used to serve God together in this church. Since then, a lot has changed. Many people have come and gone through the ministry of the puppet theater. Anatoly and Lyudmila remain the only unchanging servants of the theater. They started this ministry together, but now there are more than ten people in the team.

Disabled adults and children gathered in the church. Interestingly, puppet theater performances captivate all ages. They contain easily understandable messages of truth for every person, regardless of age and intellectual development. Thank you, dear friends, for

supporting this outreach. Anatoly and Lyudmila are no longer young people, and this ministry is becoming increasingly difficult for them. Please pray for them. May the Lord give them strength and health to continue in this ministry, plus enthusiasm and desire to serve and sacrifice. Praise the Lord for this!

Sincerely yours,
Vitaly Yurchenko

March, part 1



In Makarov and Andreevka

These settlements were under occupation. For more than a month there were fierce battles in this area.

We arrived there with special passes because there had been mine clearance performed in that area. Many thanks to the bomb squad workers who risked their lives to do their job. We pray for them! The road was hard. There were many shot-up, burned cars along the roadside. These had belonged

to people who wanted to leave and save their families, but the Russian soldiers decided otherwise. My heart can't stand it... Tears flow constantly.

We distributed bread, medicines, and food to the residents. We spend time simply talking to people and crying with them. Only 5 houses remained intact in Andreevka. Everything is in ruins, burned and broken. During the occupation, 50 people disappeared; 10 were found dead. The fates of the rest are unknown. We pray that the Lord will bless those people especially. Many



died, heartbroken, after losing their homes and their relatives. But we believe that Light will overcome darkness and that God will bless our country!

We sincerely thank you for every prayer, donation, and open heart! May the Lord richly bless you!

Vitaly and Alyona Yurchenko



March, part 2

The town of Kopylov



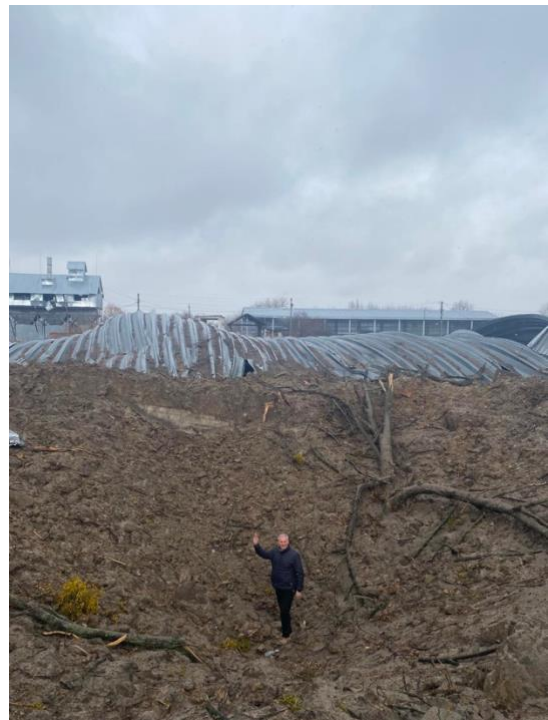
For the first time in 39 days of war, we were able to drive on the Kiev-Zhitomir highway. Doing so was scary and painful: there were columns of burnt Russian equipment, many cars of civilian people who were shot, scattered clothes, shoes, burned and broken houses.

We arrived in this village of Kopylov on the third day after the liberation by the Ukrainian army. The village was empty, broken, destroyed and frightened. We saw many deep craters from bombs. There were no people to be seen. Then we encountered a local resident who told us that there are people but they are still hiding and afraid. We asked him to call people together so that we could distribute help to them.

At main crossroad, people waited in line for us. They requested bread and medicines. We did not have enough bread and food, so

the next day we returned with more. People wept with joy and expressed thanks. We prayed with them and asked God for peace for Ukraine!

In this village there is an orphanage, which was taken care of by our church. Our puppet theater had also showed performances there and did holiday presentations for children. Thank God, all the children were able



to go to Germany on the third day of the war, and on the same evening shelling began there. Now that building is very damaged and needs extensive repairs and rebuilding.

Thank you, dear friends, who pray, help, support, and care about people in Ukraine!
May God bless you and your families especially!

Sincerely yours,

Vitaly & Alyona Yurchenko