



## The Fomichovs in Desna, Ukraine

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report, 2023

#### July

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Your prayers are a huge support for us, and we see how God answers our prayers. Time and time again, God adds those who are being saved to the church, and now another person accepted the Lord as his Savior. His path was not very simple and easy, but God reached out to his heart. I want to tell his story.



This man's name is Zhenya. He is in the middle of the photo. Zhenya and I lived next door to each other, and our parents were often in the same company. Zhenya and I were friends, but we weren't very close because he was much younger than I was. His father was a combat officer who fought in Afghanistan, a very respected officer who received various medals. He commanded a special forces company, and in our town, everyone knew him and everyone was afraid of him, because his nickname was Thunder. Whenever Zhenya's father

appeared anywhere, everyone fell silent. He was a very strict man and very strong. In our town there were legends about him, how he fought courageously.

Zhenya's father passed away early, and his mother could not cope with the loss. She began to drink heavily, and the children were left unattended. Zhenya chose the path of crime and began to lead a riotous life. He went to prison early. He became addicted to alcohol and drugs. It was because he began to steal that he went to prison for the first time. After his release, he did not stay free for a long. He went to prison a second time and served a total of ten years in prison. While he was in prison the second time, his mother died. That hit him hard, although he knew she drank heavily. Before he was released, he began to write to us, asking us to help him, for food or for the journey back home, because he didn't have a ticket. We helped him a little. We wanted to witness to him, to talk to him.

Well, when he was released from prison, he did not want to hear anything about God but did not avoid communicating with us. We continued to pray, and God answered our prayers. One day Zhenya and his friend Yarik decided that they needed to change their lives, so he turned to our rehabilitation center for help. We accepted them, and Zhenya repented before God for the first time in his life and asked for God to enter his heart. It's so wonderful to watch how God

changed his life. There is already talk about baptisms. God opens hearts of stone and changes people's lives. Zhenya gave up bad habits and reads the Bible every day. We see how his life changes. He goes to work and actively attends church. At the Bible study group, you should see his eyes as he eagerly devours the Word of God.

Pray with us:

1. For Zhenya, for his spiritual growth, and that God would strengthen him.
2. For the ministry of the rehabilitation center, that God would change people's lives.

Sincerely,  
Igor Fomichov

### **August**

*Be strong and courageous.*

I never cease to be amazed at how great God is and how He opens doors to serve Him. We could not even imagine that it was possible to hold camps for children during the war, but God opened such an opportunity, and we are grateful to Him for this.



Of course, now it is not so easy. We had to apply for permission from the government, which is located not only in Desna, but also in Chernihiv. But God arranged everything—we were given a document indicating we were allowed to hold camps in five villages.



We really faced criticism. Many people expressed indignation that we were holding camps. They complained that there could be shelling. We were worried and prayed hard, and we saw how God answered. During all the days we spent in camps, God protected us, and there were no worries, which greatly encouraged us.

In each village, we had from 50-90 children, plus parents, and these camps created a sea of unforgettable impressions for the children. The children were so delighted. And not only the kids; the parents all walked up and thanked us for making such a wonderful camp for the children. Our goal was very simple—to have an entertaining part for children and divert their thoughts away from the war and tell them we need to be strong and courageous to pass all the trials and that God can help us with this. The main story in the camp was from Mark 5:21-43, which tells how God raised Jairus' daughter from the dead. The children memorized this story. Interestingly, almost no one knew this story because they were mostly all new children in the camp. We had the opportunity to testify about our Savior. In addition to playing games and earning prizes, we had a lot of sweets and delicious hot dogs.

### **Kosachevka Village**

We had no plans to hold a camp in this village. We assumed there were not many children there and that if any wanted to come, then they could join us for camp in the neighboring village. However, the deputy and the head man of the village council, having learned about our plans,

began calling me and asking why we couldn't hold a camp in their village, since they have many children. In short, they asked us to come and do one. And it is so interesting—after the lesson about Jairus, I asked a question. The children were young for remembering all the names of people, but when I asked who helped, they answered, “Jesus.” So little children remembered the name of Jesus, that He helps, and He is powerful enough to raise a person from the dead by faith.

### **Vipovziv Village**

The mayor of this town came to the children's camp. When we got to the lesson about Jairus, he sat down with the children on a blanket and listened so attentively to the story of the resurrection from the dead by faith. I see that now people in Ukraine are much more open to hearing the scripture than before and that everyone believes in God.

Pray with us:

1. For the end of the war.
2. That children turn to the Lord as their Savior at an early age.



With respect,  
Igor Fomichov

### **September**

#### *Baptism*

There was a holiday in our congregation—four people joined the church.

Despite this difficult time, God is carrying out His work in the church, touching the hearts of people. Their stories of repentance serve as an inspiration to others, showing that even in difficult situations, faith and spiritual strength can be a source of change in life, and people feel the support of God in their lives.

Oleg was the first to be baptized; he had been addicted to drugs and learned about our rehab center from his sister. He arrived with great distrust, expecting to see something terrible in the rehab center. But the examples of the brothers and the work of our Lord instilled repentance in him. God began to change his life; he began to grow in the knowledge of God. He had come through a difficult path, but the Lord saved him. Oleg decided to follow God and expressed a desire to be baptized. Alena is the mother of four children. The youngest son was born during the war. Alena has been coming to our church since she married my friend Oleg. But only during full-scale war did the Holy Spirit settle in her heart. On the third day of the war, pregnant Alena went with her children to the kindergarten, where other sisters from the church were, along with the children. It was at this difficult moment of hopelessness that God touched her heart. There was a conversation on the property of the kindergarten, and it was there that Alena repented. She came to the gazebo and wanted to pull back and think about her life. There, her heart became so heavy; she began to think about God and how she needed to align herself with God, that she could not



continue to live without God. She repented, and tears began to flow. she could not stop; she had a special feeling that God had entered her heart and she had become a child of God. She told me about her meeting with God before we began preparing people for baptism. My heart overflowed with joy at hearing how God had touched her heart and encouraged her to repent and align herself with God.



Veronica and Inna are now girls engaged in Sunday children's ministry. Veronica also participates in worship. The girls have been friends for a long time. Inna is the daughter of a church deacon. And from childhood she's been in the church. Veronica's mother was baptized 4 years ago and is now in the military. Veronica often helps her mother, sitting with her brother and taking care of the house. God worked in her heart, and Veronica accepted him as a Savior.

When I talked to Veronica and asked how she accepted Jesus into her heart, she told me that it was hard for her and her mother to live without their father, and her younger brother was often sick. So, she and her mother prayed a lot and saw how God answered, and from early childhood she saw how God was always there. But the moment came when she considered her relationship with God. Then she decided to devote her life to God. This year, she was an important team member in the children's camp.

Pray with us:

- 1) For our church, so that God would open doors for the preaching of the Gospel.
- 2) For our musical ministry, that God would bring musicians to our church.
- 3) For our children's ministry, that there would be an opportunity to create a class for Sunday school.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Igor Fomichov