



## The Koops in Druzhba, Ukraine

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

#### July

Hello friends!

I can definitely call July a month of gathering the harvest. That's because 3 people accepted Christ in their hearts during different services. I'm so happy because of that, and I praise God that He answers our prayers and gives us people for harvest.

The first person to repent this month was Ludmila, for whom I asked you to pray for. At the beginning of this month on a Saturday evening, the Holy Spirit led my heart to pray for Ludmila, and of course I did so. The next morning when we came to church, the Holy Spirit was calling me to pray for her again during the service.

After the service I had a last meeting with the Baptism class, and I told people there to decide concerning baptism. I saw that Ludmila was concerned about something during the whole service, so I asked her if she wanted to stay after the meeting and to talk with me personally and she said yes. When we started our conversation, she immediately told me that she was troubled by fears and doubts those days, so I started sharing the Gospel with her once again. What is interesting is that the Holy Spirit brought many different verses from the Bible to my mind, and we started reading them one after another. At the end of our conversation, I asked her if she wanted to repent and to put her life in God's hands and to entrust all her fears and doubts to Him. She told me that she was ready to do that, and I prayed together with her. She was the first one to pray, and then I prayed for her. After the prayer she told me that she was so happy that she finally did that. The next time I met her on Sunday, she shared with me that there were no fears and doubts anymore. Now she is waiting to be baptized. That is a testimony of how hard it is for some people to come to God and to make that decision.



After that we had an extreme camp for youth. This year it wasn't like those we had previously, but I was sure that this camp was in God's plan as I've had thoughts from God about doing it since last winter. First, there were fewer young people than in previous camps; there were only 12 young people (they were non-believers) and our team. We expected that there would be at least 25 unbelievers, but many parents didn't allow their children to go, being afraid

that it's too dangerous to live in tents during the war. Beside this, we know for sure that God was working in that camp: firstly, with our team, as I had a few meetings with Christians who also needed some spiritual advice. Our team also noticed that the campers were especially keen to hear the Gospel. We read the Bible everyday with them. They asked many questions and were open to talk about God, which is a rare thing for such camps. So, we knew that God was doing something. At the end of the camp one girl repented during a personal conversation in the tent. She told us that it took her a long time to do this and that she was very happy that it happened in camp. The next week after the camp, three girls who were at camp with us and had never been at church before came to the Youth Bible Study group, and this is also a great miracle from God.

And only a few days ago one woman came to me right after the Sunday service. She is not a Christian, but she has been attending our church for a year now. She called me and said that someone wanted to talk with me. We came to the auditorium, and there was her mother waiting there. We started talking with her, so she told me that she lives in Italy, and she has watched our online services every Sunday for 2 years. When she heard that we'll have a baptism in August, she came here, as she wanted to be present at this event. She'll go back to Italy very soon, and she wants to be sure that her soul is rescued. I started sharing the Gospel with her and suggested to her to repent and entrust her life to God. She agreed and we prayed together. In her prayer she asked God to forgive all her sins, and then I prayed for her. Right after that she said that she really wants to be baptized next Sunday together with the whole group, as she has cancer, and she doesn't know how long she will live but wants to make a covenant with God. We agreed to meet during the week and to talk about that, so probably we'll have not 5, but 6 people to be baptized this Sunday, and this is an incredible God's work! I love it so much when God works and saves other people through us. This inspires me to serve Him and to be a part of His unbelievable work of saving people.

Please, pray for:

- The baptism we'll have this Sunday and especially for the meeting with that woman from Italy (her name is Anna)
- For our kids' day-camp in our micro district through which we started our ministry here last year
- For my pastorate: for God to make me such a pastor as He wants me to be (by the way, I was ordained a pastor this month)
- For the purchase of our apartment (we are on the active phase of this question)
- For the health of my wife and daughter, for their recovery after birth.

May God bless you!

Sergiy Koop

## August

Greetings friends!

This month was very busy and full of blessings. We had 3 very important events and, honestly, it's hard to describe everything on one page, but I'll just briefly tell you about each event and how God works here during the war and how He blesses us.

Let's start with the most exciting event. That was a baptism of 2 people from our micro district and 4 from New Life church. That was an amazing event as I was baptizing and giving communion for the first time. That was a special day for me, and I will remember it forever. I'll remember those happy eyes of people who made a covenant with God, of women-refugees, who didn't know God only half a year ago and now are part of the church. Sasha, that guy I was talking about in my previous letters, started counting down the days until the baptism and was so excited, that he could not wait to be baptized. I wish you could see his face when I called him to



come to baptistry! He ran to me and was baptized with a huge smile on his face as if he was entering Heaven. That was unbelievable! He came to me after the service and said: "Sergiy, I was sitting and thinking about the day you suggested I attend Baptism classes. I've realized that I would just sit and cry regretting it if I had said no to you that day. That would have been a huge mistake in my life. I'm so grateful to God that I was baptized today." I can't express how happy I was for all those people and for our decision to stay in Ukraine during the war. Seeing all those people being so happy because of the covenant they made with God is worth it!

After that we had a week of Choose Life project. We had a kid's camp in the first half of the day. After lunch we painted the ballfield equipment and carried sand to fill up the windows in the school's bomb shelter. During the evening we had some time with the youth, but honestly, there were more kids than youth. That week was also full of God's blessings. Every day we prayed for no air alarms during the kids' camp, and there was no siren during all those 5 days. On Friday no sooner had we spoken the last announcement than the siren started. So, we said goodbye to all the kids, and they went home. We could clearly see that God protected us for that whole week.

During that week there were many kids, their parents and other people who heard the Gospel. I don't know the exact number, but there were more than 100 people we shared the Gospel with. This is an amazing work of God in our micro district. By the way, we have a very nice relationship with the school director and some teachers now. And what is interesting is that Sasha, who was baptized only a week ago, shared the Gospel with so many people during that week, and he did it very nicely. He was full of emotions after that week as he was with us as a member of the team.

One more exciting event of this month is the purchase of an apartment. We are sure that this apartment is from God, as we could definitely see it. We had a proper amount of money for the purchase of an apartment, but the apartment we liked a lot was a lot more expensive, so we just prayed and were waiting. One day we saw an advertisement from one man of that exact apartment building, but cheaper than what we saw from other agencies. I called that man and we met to see that apartment. He said that he can drop the price a little bit, but it was still too much for us. So, I told him that we would think for a day, and I started praying asking God to set the heart of that man to call me and drop the price, so we could buy this apartment. So, I just prayed and waited for his call. The next day he called me, and I told him that we have only a certain amount of money, and he said that he is ready to drop the price once again, so we were sitting and taking care of paperwork for this apartment in a few days. When we were sitting in their office waiting for one person, I had 30 minutes to tell them I'm a Christian, what I do in life. I told them about God, and we had a very nice conversation. They even agreed to meet for coffee one day. This is a testimony that God is doing His work even in such moments.



Please, pray for:

- Our new season of clubs. We will have a kids club, teen club, math club, and Bible groups
- For people of harvest, we can work with
- For our plan to become a separate church in 2024
- For repairs in the apartment. It is rough, with no finishing at all. We want to make a beautiful renovation to spend time with different people there
- For my wife and I, for God to give us wisdom to build our relationships and be in the ministry the right way
- For me, for God to teach me how to be the pastor He wants me to be

P.S. I know, I wrote a lot, but I couldn't make it shorter in any way. I wanted to write even more, because even though there's a war in our country, God has blessed us a lot during this summer. It was amazing!

Blessings,  
Sergiy Koop

## September

Greetings friends!

In September we've started our season of kid's clubs, teen clubs, and Bible Study groups. The weather is very nice, so we do our kids club and teen club meetings in the stadium of School 12, where our kids camp was. This is a great opportunity for us to be in an area of non-believers and keep meeting new people. We really want to meet parents through the children's meetings, and we pray to God to get their heart ready and to be open for conversations. We really want them to attend our Bible study group.



We always pray and ask you to pray for people He is already working with, and we see His answers to those prayers. One woman, a refugee from Kherson, started attending our Bible study group, and honestly, I don't even know how she found us. (I asked her about that but forgot). She is constantly attending our meetings and even started attending our church on Sunday. We are praying for her now for God to open her heart for understanding the Gospel. I had a conversation with her about God and she understands very little now, but we have a lot of time to tell her about Christ. Her life situation is not easy, and she is always very sad, tired, and concerned about something. I really want her to understand the Gospel and accept Christ in her heart, so that He will fill her heart with His peace.

We do all our services, but we pray for people, so we can spend time together with them, sharing the Gospel practically with our lives. And honestly, it's always hard to pray and find such a person you can work with and observe God's work in their life. It's always a long process that takes a lot of time.

We want to become a separate church with our own Sunday services in 2024, but we need to find a dedicated core group of people. It's not an easy process, so we need your prayers for God to break that kind of spiritual wall and provide us with the breakthrough in our micro district.

I asked you to pray for God to teach me how to be a pastor, and I already can see the answer. It's a time when I have many personal meetings with Christians who have many different questions now. For example, every week before the Bible Study group I have meetings with Sasha, who was baptized a month ago and whose parents were against it. Every time, he has many questions about Christianity and spiritual life. I love that, but every time I have conversations with someone, I pray for not me, but for God through me to guide everyone I meet with. Everything is clear and easy with Sasha, but there's another guy who needs answers for his difficult questions. I have no idea how to help him, so I need God's help. I must be in constant fellowship with Him to have His wisdom to help people. Please pray for that because I need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Please, pray for us:

- For people of harvest for each team member
- For God to prepare us for becoming a separate church
- For the repairs of our apartment, for finances, and to do everything right
- For my pastorate as I desperately need God's wisdom
- For holidays for our family. It's been 1,5 years since the beginning of the war, active ministry, and intense summer. We are getting tired; everything is starting to annoy and irritate. We understand that we need to rest and recuperate, but we have no idea how to do that.

Thank you for being in ministry together with us! May God bless you!

Sergiy Koop