



**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Church Planting in Chervona Sloboda**  
**3rd Quarter 2015**

**Summer Camp ~ Chervona Sloboda, Ukraine**



Very often it's hard to organize kids and to attract their attention, but not in this camp. The camp team had prepared so well that all the kids were active, obedient, and with great pleasure and interest joined in the camp program. Lyosha presented the lessons very interestingly; the kids listened with open mouths and remembered everything that he told them. To tell the truth, we adults also listened to these lessons with interest.

In this camp we had some 13 and 14 year olds, but to our surprise they were among the most active. With joy they sang songs and recited Bible verses, and in the evenings they camp to the church for fellowship around the fire. The camp leaders retold how they had come to faith in Christ, and this was a wonderful testimony for the teens.

This camp was held thanks to you, our friends in the USA, thanks to your love and generosity toward us. On behalf of our Church and our leadership and the residents of the city, we thank you, our dear friends, for your prayerful and material support. May the Lord bless you! Thank you very much!

Also, we sincerely thank the leaders of our camp -- Igor, Lyosha, Sasha, Vova, Katya and Lera -- for their active roles in the camp. Thank you all very much! I want to thank the sisters who kept us fed so well all during camp. Thank you very much!!

This was our best camp in the past several years, and the camp team was terrific.

**Kiev Seminary**

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ!

I thank the Lord for His mercy and grace, by which we live and move and serve Him! And I thank you, friends, for your prayers for us and for your priceless help, which you render to us constantly. Thanks to your aid, we can conduct this ministry in Ukraine. Thank you very much! May the Lord bless you!

As I have already written, we do experience difficulties in our seminary due to the military situation in our nation. We have lost many students from Eastern Ukraine and several from Russia. Many of them have been distributed around Ukraine; some have gone to Russia. The economy of our nation is on the verge of default. Many people have lost their work, their livelihood, and are lacking the means to survive. These problems affect our students and on their ability to come and attend the seminary.

In advance of each session, we make announcements about it in order to remind potential students about it. But in recent times students have not been in a situation where they could come to seminary. There are various



causes for this. Some students cannot get off of work to come; others fear they will lose their jobs if they claim time off to attend. Quite a few have been obligated to move elsewhere because of the war. The students who remain inside the area of military activity cannot come because they don't have the funds for it, and exiting occupied territories is not easy.

We've spent time pondering how we might possibly assist our students with these problems, and we pray for them. We request that you join us in praying about this complicated matter and for the ministry of our seminary.

Not long ago, we came to a decision to aid the students from the eastern part of the country. We invited them to attend seminary at the seminary's expense. Recently Sergei Shaptala, the president of our association of churches, visited those eastern areas. Sergei met with many ministers and forwarded to them our offer for students, including the seminary's willingness to cover their travel expenses and living expenses at the seminary. We hope this will resolve some of the students' dilemmas in attending. Please pray for this project, that the Lord will bless us in this.

Also, we constantly use the online resource of our seminary on our Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCNQg9iVys2nbPVMG4dbGDg/playlists/> This channel was created for students who cannot come to seminary; they can go through the training at home. This was done so that students need not draw out their seminary training by several years, but can complete their education in a timely way.

Once again, thank you, dear friends, for your material and prayerful support. We appreciate you!

### **September 2015**

We always rejoice when a person hears the Word of God and the result of that is his salvation. This past month, the Lord has given us the privilege of being witnesses of the salvation of a person's soul right in our own church.

Recently a young man attended our service. As it turned out, he had already been in our church sometime before. Several years ago, Sasha (that is his name) had visited our church with others from a rehabilitation center. He had repented and graduated from the rehabilitation program. When Sasha finished his time of rehabilitation, he returned to a normal way of life, worked, and attended a church. But then something went wrong and he ended up going back to his former way of life, back into his sinful condition. Sasha drank much, lost his job, and quite soon ended up back on the street as an unneeded person. Sasha somehow wound up in Chervona Sloboda. By his own testimony, for a full month he decided not to come to church even though he frequently walked past the building. Each time, some sort of invisible power led him to walk by without turning aside to approach our church or to enter it. Thus, over and over he simply walked past without pausing. But one particular morning, gathering his strength, Sasha set out for the church and entered. Right away he felt at home here. Brothers and sisters gathered around him and sincerely took an interest in his life and where it was headed. During the sermon, Sasha listened very attentively. It was clearly visible that some kind of struggle was going on inside of him. Tears often welled up in his eyes. Afterward, while we were drinking tea as we usually do, I asked Sasha if he wouldn't like to pray and repent of his sins? Sasha agreed, and we prayed together that the Lord would forgive him and free him from sin. We promised to pray for Sasha. It is not easy for him to fight against the sin that has sunk its roots so deeply into his heart. Please pray for Sasha. We believe that the Lord is powerful to set him free.

I am thankful to you, dear friends, for your prayers and support for our ministry in Ukraine. May the Lord bless you!

Sincerely yours,  
Vitaly Yurchenko