



DESNA, UKRAINE 2nd Quarter 2011 Report

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April 2011



Dear brothers and sisters, in the past month we have had a situation which has given us an opportunity for evangelism. And it all began with one telephone call. One morning I got a phone call, and I was told that much trash was piled behind our church building and that if we did not get rid of it within three days, then we will have big problems: commission would come and our church would receive a fine. I went to the church and began considering what would be the fastest way to deal with the situation. However, within the hour a major general arrived and introduced himself. He said that he expected quick action out of us.

I began asking for help from individuals who have access to a tractor, but each one said he could not help due to different circumstances. One said he might be able to help some days later, and others had other plans. Various people started reminding me that this work can't be done later, and that there was no time to lose in waiting. Out of desperation, I talked to some guys who have a large truck. They agreed to help. So we began this process of loading the construction refuse. This was a big job. First we had to load up the truck, and then we had to drive away and unload it. However, with each passing day we saw how God was using that situation for witnessing to those unsaved fellows. For me it was a great lesson to see how those guys, who never go to church, were diligently working. And without asking anything in return, they invited their friends to come and help, and many of them did. Also, men from the church participated in gathering this trash of construction refuse. And we were able to witness with our lives and to fellowship with them. But one situation impressed me most of all. We prepared a lunch and sat down at the table to eat. There were seven of us, and except for me all of them were unbelievers. I said, "Would you mind if I pray before we eat?" They looked at me and said they did not mind. What else could they say since they were seated in a church? I prayed, and in the end I said, "Amen." I opened my eyes and they were looking at me without saying anything. I thought maybe they did not know what to say so I repeated the word amen, and this time they understood that they were supposed to say it also. This was the first time they had prayed, and after that they began to say amen each time. After that they freely pronounced the word amen after each prayer. Although each time a new guy from among their friends came to help, he had the same reaction. And we noticed that each day they began trying harder not to use bad words in front of us. In addition, these guys gave me an opportunity to chat with the local priest. We talked for about a half hour, and we had no conflicts. True, he asked me the question why we have a cross hanging on our church, and I said that it needed to be there... He said that he has nothing against us, and said that we are of no interest to him, that we have freedom of speech; whoever wants to come, let him come. His son was helping us to load up construction trash, but after our conversation, the priest called and told him to go home.



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June 2011

I want to thank you for your support in serving on a military base in Desna. Thanks to the mission BIEM, we were able to hold a children's camp, which ministered to from 40 to 59 children. We had good programs, and

the children could learn more about the Lord. We also had a group of students from Maranatha College. We worked with them as a team, and it was a great encouragement for the Ukrainians to see how our brothers and sisters from America were on fire for the Lord.



When we went to distribute invitations in the center of our town, the children just ran to us, everyone wanted to talk to Americans. While handing out invitations to children, many adults came asking questions and we also were able to invite them to church. Also, this was a good opportunity to attract young people. In the evening, we organized sports on the church property, plus we played games in the church. Many new young people came to play during this time, and we got acquainted. On the last day we had a bonfire, and a young woman, Lena, expressed a desire to repent. She recently had been coming to our church, and I was at the and I had tried to get her to repent before, but she was not ready yet. However, when she got to know people of faith, she desired to walk with God. We all were sitting around the campfire,

singing Christian songs, and I decided to approach her and talk to her. I asked her to invite Jesus into her heart, and she said she had been sitting there and thinking about that. I told her the Gospel, and I suggested that we could invite along one of the other believers and pray. We called my brother Rick, and with him went into the church, where once again we explained what Christ did for us. It was evident that she was nervous, and Rick suggested that before the praying he could tell how he it was that he repented. That relaxed the situation. When Rick finished, it was clear that she was no longer so worried. After his testimony, we bowed in prayer, and we experienced that special moment when a sinner comes to God in repentance. After praying, we went back to the fire, where we shared with the believers that Lena was now reconciled with God. Everyone congratulated her; it was a special evening.



Prayer:

- 1) For the youth ministry,
- 2) The Sunday school children, that they would come and find salvation at a very young age.
- 3) I wish that Lena would grow strong in God, and her family also started going to church.

With respect,
Igor Fomichov