



TERNOPIL, UKRAINE 2nd Quarter 2012 Report

APRIL

Baptism in the church April 29, 2012.

The joy, the feeling of elation, a feeling that you're in the right place and doing what needs to be done is experienced by all those who had been involved in evangelism, discipleship and friendship. With Slavik, Veronica and Mary we experienced the same sensations that are familiar to the farmer, who prepared the ground, sow, get up early and went to bed late, suffered when the storm was approaching, and while it did not rain. Eventually the crop is safely in storage. As life goes on, there is a sense of satisfaction from the past stage.

This baptism was especially that way and was the fruit of youth ministry, and for some, even the fruits of children's ministry.



Slavik came to the church through one of the youth camps that we conducted. In the camp he first became acquainted with the gospel message. Slavik can be regarded as a typical representative of the youth of Ternopil. His parents are working abroad, and as an adolescent, he was given the education of the streets and the Internet. The word "education" seems inappropriate, rather let's say "influence." At some point Slavik felt a void in his life. Even though he entered the Pedagogical Institute, but it also did not bring satisfaction. One day he and his sister were invited to a youth camp. From this moment life began to change for Slavik. In the camp much was new to him and even confusing, but the relationship and friendship with the guys from the church made an impression and he came to the youth meetings the second half of the year. After the youth had invited him along to celebrate the New Year, at that meeting he understood

that he was going the wrong direction. When he got home and could not relax he bowed in prayer, and repented. Next he immediately told friends that lived nearby. Since then he has gained spiritual mentors and friends. He began helping in various ministries especially design work, presentations to churches, business cards and even the design of a Christian newspaper. Now Slavik has a dream - he wants to serve God among the youth.

Veronica came to the church from the very beginning of our missionary work. Probably more accurate to say that she even came before the church was organized. Veronica came to the Lord through the children's ministry. Her mother, Svetlana, was baptized with the first group. Together this led to the study of the Bible and the home of a little girl, Veronica. The conversion of Veronica is particularly valuable for us and probably for you too. She repented at the camp on the Sea of Azov, which was conducted by the mission BIEM about 5 years ago. Often, after the camps we think, "How many in the camp repented of children or young people." We sometimes tabulate statistics and ask ourselves: "How will life continue for these children? Will we see them in the church among the saved?" Unfortunately, sometimes it happens that we have some of our students see the city in a state of intoxication or in bad company. After Veronica, God reassured us that our work with you is not in vain in the Lord.



Another outstanding personality of our church was Mariana. This girl came to us several years ago as a 13-year-old teenager. Mariana is the fruit of people who believe in personal evangelism. One of the families in our

church bought an apartment on the outskirts of the city. There they lived in the neighborhood of an interesting



family. Her father is a Muslim from Dagestan, and her mother is a Ukrainian who converted to Islam. God began to use Volodya and Julia (a family in our the church) as a testimony for this family. While the parents quickly distanced themselves the two daughters, Susana and Mariana fell in love with this family and began to draw close to the Lord. Susanna, the eldest of the sisters first accepted the Lord. A little later Mariana was saved at the children's camp. Very quickly she became very involved with the young people. It seems that the Lord gave her the "gift of consolation." She can weep with the weeping and genuinely happy with those who rejoice, although she herself endured harassment from her family. Her parents were totally against her faith, and especially against her being baptized. At one point her mother kicked her out of the house, and so she lived

with another older sister. Eventually her parents began to change. Recently even their father came to worship. Please pray for our young friends. They will undoubtedly go through more tests and have to make important decisions. When we talked with them before baptism - they together convinced us that they have a desire to serve God all their lives. It would be great to never lose this desire.

MAY

Our Day Camp for Children was centered on the theme, "The Future of Ukraine" and was held in Ternopil on the playground of school № 6 . This camp was special for several reasons.

We entrusted our young leaders with much responsibility in conducting this camp. These are young people 15-17 years of age. Most of the leaders are camp leaders for the first time. Half of them were campers the past 2 years. It must be admitted that they have fully justified our expectations. Some of the older guys have noticed that hardly anyone would work on this camp so energetically. A few weeks before the start of camp, they started to form a group to give out invitations. This year they did it in a special way. They took a trampoline, installed it in a little park near high-rise buildings where there is usually a lot of children. After four children jumped on the trampoline for 5-7 they invited them to our camp

The next great blessing for us was the arrival of teams from the United States. They also actively assisted in conducting the camp. The first part of camp was conducted by them. It was a great encouragement for our youth. Our youth leaders have become great friends with this team. On the last evening before their departure, we and the senior leaders who followed them felt like "old friends". They were playing some games where they beat each other over the head with a plastic bottle (if you do not have time to name someone from the team). Immediately after they departed each group added each other to their social networks.

At the end of camp, we invited parents to special camp meeting. At this time we decided not to invite children with parents in our little room in the church, and decided to come to them instead to the same playground where the camp was held. At this festival we played relays with the children. The children also sang songs that they learned at camp. We invited the parents after the holiday together to see films about the Christian family, and also invited the children to our children's Christian club.

This camp was also special because we could further develop relations with the director of the school. Last year he fearfully allowed us to conduct the camp at the school - but this year it was a completely different level of relationship. He became interested in the opportunity in school to get a trampoline. We are now thinking about how we can help him with it.

Undoubtedly it was a special camp for children and leaders. Here are some comments from participants of the camp "The future of Ukraine":

Sasha. 13 years. "I like sports, is interesting. Interesting Biblical stories have helped to know more about God. Do not like the fact that a large part of the trampoline. "

Bogdan. 12 years. "Here, we enjoy fun games every day. We come two hours before the start of camp to jumping on a trampoline. If there is such a camp again, I would like to come back. "

Ilya. 11 years old "I liked that are all interested in the Bible, play games, and you can make friends with someone."

Alenka. 12 years, "I liked everything from beginning to end. All games, all interesting, Bible stories, all very cool, I learned to do a lot of fun stuff here (crafts), where I learned more about God, I really liked it. "

Anya. 12 years. "Here it was fun, fun. We learned more about God. "

Maxim. 9 years. "I liked that they gave candy and games. I remember the story of the Prodigal Son. "

Karina. 9 years. "When we come here we play games, sing, learn about God, we hear Bible stories"

Julia. 10 years. "I enjoyed it. I learned to respect God, sing new songs, playing all sorts of fun games, doing all sorts of interesting things. "

Vadim. 17 years. Leader. "Through this camp, I met many children. I walked down the street now and little children say "hello". It was very unusual and nice. I was in the camp before as a sports instructor. This is my first camp as a leader. I hope that I have met the expectations of team leaders.

Andrew. 15 years. Leader. "I like the whole camp. Here, we never got bored working with such neat kids. This is my first camp as a leader.

Veronica. 16 years. A leader and translator. "For me, this camp is an opportunity to tell the children something about God. This is not the first time I'm in the camp as leader, but it was a very good opportunity to share the Bible, and I realized that for me it is a special opportunity. When I hear and see the children after biblical worship hour when God touches their hearts - I know it's not my merit, it is God's service. I am very pleased that, through me, God can touch the hearts of these children, who pray. For me this is a great joy. "

JUNE

"I know the winner for Euro 2012"

All of Ukraine, all the people in our country, and especially young people are preparing for the football championship. I do not consider myself a football fan, but also eagerly waiting for this football festival which is to be on the European scale. In Ukraine, preparing for this even meant several new roads, building new airports, hotels. Business was prepared in case of a rescue. Authorities prepared to show that they can organize something big, hoping to get some advantage in the next election. People are prepared - as the Ukrainian national team has also participated in this championship. Bars made sure they bought enough beer. All invited people to watch the game in different clubs.

But was the church ready to use this opportunity? We pondered how we could ... To take part in it - or to distance ourselves from this? We remember a lot of friends from among the unbelievers of our youth, and knew that they would still go to a bar or someone will be home to watch football for 3 weeks with a bottle of beer, and even worse with a glass of vodka or a drug . So we decided to offer an alternative to the secular holiday. Thus was born the idea of creating a Christian mini fan zone, "I know the winner" was conducted in the room that we rent for the church. This was supposed to be a special evening for Christian youth.

Youth team began intensive preparations. Some recruited Christian athletes, others began preparing a variety of games, some prepared songs, and someone was responsible for the scenes. We distributed about a thousand invitations. Since the main intrigue of the football action was: who will win? We decided to call this camp, "I

know the winner." To be able to point to the greatest winner, whose victory is still remembered two thousand years later – that is Jesus Christ. Youth for the team produced 12 t-shirts that read, "I know the winner."

The beginning of the meeting was scheduled for an hour before the match. This time was called "Start-time." This part consisted of songs, testimonies, games, proclaiming the truth of the Bible and prayer. Then some Coke, popcorn, and on the big screen, a video projector showing the most interesting matches. The most popular games in which the Ukrainian national team has participated.

Here are a few testimonials from young people.



Veronica.

"For me, the program "I know the winner", was special. Using the football organizers of this action not only created a good fan zone, but held the attention of the youth. Each time it was shared by Christian athletes, that human glory is worth nothing and that their lives before coming to God was useless. And at the last meeting the youth learned that the winner of the most important is not the team that wins the "Euro-2012" or any athlete, but an important victory was made more than 2,000 years ago, when Jesus conquered sin, and through him we

win!"

Andrew.

"Hi, football in the evening was just super! As for me - it was very cool! We listened to stories of Christian players. I realized that it was not just a game... all this happens by the will of God! "



Slavik.

To participate in the football action for me was a great pleasure. Really cool to hear witness to people about Christ, even through such things as watching football matches. Efficiently using the 40 minutes before the match, to carry the gospel through various cartoons, videos and testimonies. For myself, I shared in what was advertised: "I KNOW THE WINNER!"



Julia. The leader of the youth ministry.

"This summer has presented a good opportunity to meet new people, especially those who are not indifferent to sports. The door was open to anyone who wanted a fun and healthy atmosphere of watching football matches in the European football championship.

Meetings on the Euro 2012 helped to tell the youth that we can have victory in heaven. In this environment we could meet new people, talk on the theme of sport and football in particular, play games, and root for the Ukrainian national team and watch the real stories of experienced players who truly believe in Jesus Christ. Famous athletes shared the secrets of the success and spoke of the problems and solutions, which are typical for us and our families. And most importantly, that their victories, they are because of the Lord.

This mini fan zone has been a platform where everyone from the youth group could feel necessary, indispensable, and understand the need and the joy of serving God. "



Thank you for your support of our ministry.
Your brother in Jesus Christ, Vitaly Bilak.