



DESNA, UKRAINE 1st Quarter 2012 Report

January 2012



To start the New Year, our church held a celebration of the birth of Christ. [Christmas in Ukraine is traditionally celebrated according to the old calendar, on January 6.] We rejoiced in this gift from God. We ourselves could also give gifts for the children of the church and those who come to Sunday school. For many of them, what they receive from us is almost the only Christmas gift they receive, because they are from poor families.

Also, God has allowed us to hold a meeting with all teachers of the Desna school and to give them special gifts on Christmas: a Bible, children's Bibles, and posters. I had a conversation with the director and assistant principal of the school. But the Devil does not sleep, and 2 days after that meeting, the school's head teacher called and asked the missionary, Igor, not to come anymore and not to conduct classes on Christian ethics, which he had organized every week for high school students.

But the Devil cannot resist God's intervention in the lives of people by His almighty hand, so we pray for God's influence on this situation.

At our church this month we experienced a replenishing. Came a family, an ethnic Gypsy. The man of the family repented while in prison: he has 3 children and his wife had not yet accepted the Lord. They live in a town called Oster, where there is no Baptist church, and for a long time he'd been looking for where to go for church services. God brought them to us on Sunday, and they were very pleased that once again they'd found a family. The husband (his name is Vasya) told me earnestly and simply about how God came into his life and how he was glad that he did not die. His wife, though, has not yet decided to follow the Lord. She attends every meeting with her husband and three babies.



In addition, a female member of the military from Bila Tserkva found our church. She is 20 years old and she is in the army in a military orchestra. She sings the praises of God and plays the piano, and she's glad to be back among the faithful. With her comes her boyfriend, who is also a soldier.

Please pray for our church, and for a resolution of the problem with the school so that the Devil will not destroy the seeds sown in the hearts of children. Pray that new people will come to the church and join us in fellowship, and praise God.

February 2012



In the second month of the New Year, we rejoiced along with the angels in Heaven. We gained a new Christian brother named Sasha. His wife, Lena, with her little daughter, have been coming for a year. She attends all the services, and church groups, since she turned to the Lord last summer. Her daughter goes to Sunday school, and her husband even started coming to meetings. Speaking in a personal conversation with me, he said that he is not yet ready to repent before God. In the church we prayed for his repentance and for God to free him from smoking. And, recently, he said, "My heart heavy," and that he was ready for an important decision. In prayer he bowed before the Lord Jesus Christ.

Three young sisters from our church decided to participate in social work. That is, to help however they could with problem families. They are registered with the town council as volunteers, and received addresses of people who need help. So they began this work. In the first family to which they had come to visit, there were many problems. The girls met with a woman Zoya, who could not get out of bed because of illness. She has two adult children, but recently her daughter died after being in a long coma caused by a beating at the hands of her husband. This woman is suffering, and the girls can share the gospel with her.

Another family consists of five children (by different fathers) and a mother, who may at any time be deprived

of her mother's rights because she can't properly manage her finances. The children, in this case, would be sent to an orphanage and the girls from the church are trying to communicate with this mom, to offer their help, from time to time they feed these children at home. Some people take such care as a burden and an awkward sympathy, but some take it, and, therefore, open a way for preaching the Gospel.

Please pray for the ministry to large families and the family of Zoya, that their hearts will open and for repentance, for the new converts to grow spiritually, for the unity and growth of the church.

March 2012



Dear brothers and sisters, thank you for your prayerful support. And please, do not cease to pray for the ministry, which takes place in the city of Desna. This month, a family conference was planned to take place at our church. For our church, this was a new experience and we did not know how everything goes and what you need to emphasize. We invited all interested couples, and registered ten couples. At first I was bothered, because I wanted many more married couples. But after the conference, we analyzed everything and realized that all went according to the will of God, and God knew whom to lead there. I personally saw a good opportunity to testify for the Lord and His plan for the family, as well as a good opportunity to tell the Gospel to people. We started praying that God would give an opportunity to hold another conference, but for 50 couples. Statistics says that Ukraine is a leader among European countries in divorce, but even without statistics we can see that in our area a lot of people get divorced for various reasons. My opinion is that many people are not taught a correct concept of marriage. And we need such conferences. But now that I have experience with such a conference, I'd like to improve it and use it all for the glory of God. Many people have huge problems in their marriages, but they have no one to talk to about it. If someone from among our brothers reads my letter and feels he is experienced to serve Ukrainians in such a project, we will be happy for you.

The conference consisted of several stages, one stage was a lecture and individual work in couples. We put great emphasis on the final part, which included a romantic dinner, where the husband and wife can enjoy time together.

Below are the opinions of some people who participated in the conference:

Sasha and Ira.

For us, this conference was a good opportunity to focus on our relationship. Thanks to this conference we got to renew our relationship and our impressions are very good.

Sergei and Natasha.

Sergei: I liked it, but it seemed that it was one-sided as if it were all for men only, as we lead and how to help. I would like that to women, too, would be taught how to be better wives. But we really liked it.

Lena and Sasha.

This is the first time we went to a conference, since I've only recently started to go to church, but in all honesty I can say that there was something to think about....

Artem and Olya.

We were invited to the conference; we did not know what we expect. Olga and I came to the conference, not being a husband and wife, but living in a civil marriage. After the conference we decided to legalize our relationship. [They have already set the wedding date].

Pray for us.

The Fomichovs

