



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
Church Planting in Chervona Sloboda
2nd Quarter 2012 Report

May

Greetings to you,

Alyona Schurenko is one of the first who believed in Chervona Sloboda. Alyona graduated from the seminary and is now serving as Sunday school teacher. We had long prayed for her husband Sergei, who was not opposed to God, but did not want to accept Jesus Christ. The time came, and we rejoiced to see how God changed his heart. Then Sergei entered the seminary to learn more, he's willing to know more about God and serve Him. Now, we are witnesses to the fulfillment of God's promises. In Acts 16.3, we are given the promise: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." This promise was fulfilled in the Schurenko family. Roman, the son of Sergei and Alyona repented and now is preparing for baptism. He actively participates in the life of the church, is learning to play the piano, is planning to enter our music department at the seminary and later wishes to serve in the church for the glorification of the Lord. Roman helps to hold camps for children and attends school evangelism, where he studied more efficiently to testify for Christ. Thank God for the Schurenko family. Pray for them that the Lord would have used this family for His glory.

Another blessing. I recently visited the men of a church in the city of Vinnitsa, where I presented the work of the seminary to those brethren. We plan to expand the curriculum of the seminary faculty and begin a department specially for pastors. Those brothers unanimously gave their blessing to the seminary's new project, promised to send students, and fully support the work of the seminary. We just had a meeting which was attended by Dr. Sam Slobodian, president of BIEM, and director of BIEM in Ukraine Eugene B., and Sergei Debelinsky, who is the president of the independent Baptist fellowship, and by myself, the least of the servants and the rector of the seminar. We discussed the reorganization of the seminary and the opening of the new pastoral-faculty. Praise the Lord, the meeting was constructive, a unanimous decision to extend the service of the Seminary. We believe that this will be a great blessing for us.

Prayer.

Pray for the funding of the music faculty. Pray for a new pastoral department. Pray for the admission of new students.

Pray for the church in Chervona Sloboda, that the Lord will draw people to the church.

Pray for the proposed evangelization of Zavalivka, a neighboring village. There is fertile ground for making the Word of God known. The villagers themselves asked us to come to them and teach them the Word of God.

Pray for the Sunday School completion in Sloboda, for financial assistance.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Your work is not in vain before the Lord.

June

It so happened that this year BIEM's camp coincided with the camp of our secondary school in Chervona Sloboda. Of course, we could not venture to carry out a children's camp from our church at the same time as a school camp. That would be fraught with unpleasant consequences and misunderstandings on the part of management of the school. Moreover, our relationship with the school has improved a lot lately. A couple of



years ago, we ran the camp in conjunction with the school. It was visited by a group of American students. They became good friends with the children and left a pleasant impression of the school. Then we gave financial aid to repair the school, and that has further strengthened our friendship. We have proven to the school that we love them not only in words but in deeds.

When I called the school principal and suggested that the church bring over a group of American students from the college Maranatha and spend a day with the children, the director happily agreed. They even offered to feed the group in the school cafeteria. Then came the long-awaited day. The school received the group in a very friendly way. The first thing was that by order of the Principal, Mikhail Mikhailovich, they fed the group. Then came the game time to warm up. The children were actively involved, because they love outdoor games. It was fun and very noisy. When the time came for the Bible lesson, the question arose of where to conduct it. Teachers who attended the camp told us that all the school rooms were closed for repair. Then I suggested we go to our church, especially because it is very close. Some of the teachers protested, saying that they could not enter the church, we need a neutral territory. One teacher asked the director for permission to go



to church; to the delight of most and to the discontent of several teachers and parents the crowd headed towards the church. The Bible lesson was wonderful; the children listened attentively to the story of Naaman. After the lesson, everyone received a little cross to decorate for a craft. At this time a very unhappy mama showed up at the church. She had learned that her daughter was not in school but in church, and she was very upset. This mother tried to take her daughter out of the church, but she refused to go. The mom left, telling her daughter not to linger too long. In parting, the Americans painted pictures on the children's lovely cheeks, which made them even more pleased.



We are very grateful to our friends from America who gave us a holiday. It served as a great blessing to our church. Thank you for your prayers and support. Please pray for the children in Chervona Sloboda, for the teachers and principal. Pray for the upcoming children's camp, which we plan to hold in July.

God bless you!
Vitaly Yurchenko