



The Buykos

First Quarter Report, 2017

January

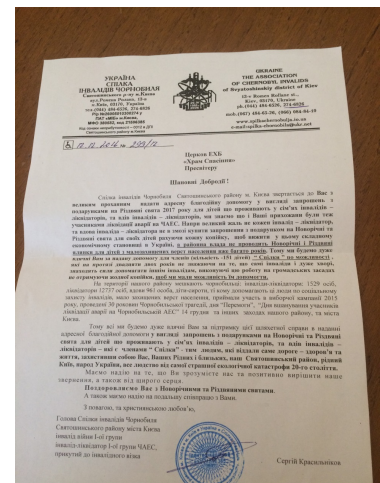
Christmas – This is a holiday that gives people hope in the miraculous. The miracle of eternal love and peace, giving rise to a readiness to take the Good News to all people. This year, in keeping with good tradition, the children and youth of the Kyiv Baptist church named “Temple of Salvation” prepared a special spectacle for children. The Christmas theme was titled “The gifts of Artaban.” The story tells about the long travels of a Magi in search of the Savior. Artaban desired to bring his gifts to Jesus Christ, but on the way he gave them away to poor people who were in great need. At the end of his life’s journey he asks the Creator, “Lord, when did I see You hungry, and when did I see You thirsty and gave you a drink? For thirty years I wandered from country to country in search of You, but could not find you.” And ever so lightly and gently the Lord’s soft reply came: “Truly, truly I say to you: that which you did for those around you, you did to Me.” Artaban had found His gifts had been accepted.

After this play, no one in the auditorium was left untouched by it, thanks to a subject that everyone could grasp, and the excellent performance by the participants and the fine decorations and costumes. The teen choir’s singing of God’s Word and about the work of the Holy Spirit created an atmosphere of peace, love, and joy for all the spectators. At the end of the presentation, all the children received Christmas presents and illustration Children’s New Testaments. Some 800 copies of God’s Word for children were distributed. Thank you to BIEM for this wonderful opportunity.

This Christmas holiday was a special blessing for 151



children from families of disabled liquidators of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Before the holiday, the director of the society of invalids of Chernobyl, Sergei Krasilnikov, appealed to the brotherly



council of churches with a request to render charitable aid on behalf of the children of the liquidators with presents for the Christmas presentation. The fact is the local authorities and government did not help families with invalids. By God’s mercy, the children came with their unsaved parents. And these families heard the Good News. One mother came with a child before the play and asked for a present right then because, she said, she was hurrying to work. This woman smelled strongly of alcohol from a distance. We discussed it and decided to give the gift, since the package also included a New Testament with pretty illustrations. The child could read the

New Testament alone at any moment. Furthermore, children should not suffer because of the parents. Already on the 26th, the Chernobyl organization sent a letter of gratitude.

Much energy and finances went into the preparation for this holiday. Not only did adults work, but so did children: the pupils from the Sunday school at the Temple of Salvation church. And it's all the more joyful to see that the efforts were not in vain, that the holiday gave many people joy. The Word of God was sown in their hearts. We praise and thank our Lord for everything! We ask you to pray as we prepare to hold the same presentation in Bilogorodka, so that through such services the children and their parents can hear the happy news about the birth of our Savior and to receive a gift of the Holy Scriptures!

February

Victor's repentance



When a sinner repents, the heavens rejoice. In our church, we too greatly rejoiced. Victor is a man for whom we have prayed a long time. He actively helped in the construction of our church. He became the first man in our church whose heart found peace in Christ after many years of wandering in darkness. He came from the world; his family members are unbelievers. All of Victor's life thus far was spent without the Lord in his heart; therefore when he repented, that was a special

event for us. Tears of happiness were in our eyes. We sang hymns of praise and thankfulness. The whole church got on their knees and gave praise to the Creator for this saved sinner.

However, while the church was rejoicing, the enemies of mankind's souls were preparing a serious trial for Victor in order to shake his faith. The Word of God says a man's enemies are in his own house. When Victor's wife learned that he had repented, she began pressuring him psychologically. For two weeks she would not talk with her husband; later she used any possible occasion to pressure him with words. In the morning before worship service she would say, "Don't forget to give away all the tithe to your church." That was as if to say, "Take all of our money for the home and give it to your church."

Friends and loved ones wondered how it could be that he wouldn't drink alcoholic drinks, and they wondered if their friend had fallen into a cult.

It takes great courage to openly declare that you have become a follower of Christ and want to change your life, especially when everyone around you is far from God. There is a great risk that everyone will turn away and say that you've gone out of your mind. But Victor had decided on his position in life with regard to the Good News and the Christ who was revealed to him. He openly said: "I am a Stundist [a word for a non-Russian Orthodox believer]; I do not drink!" Thank God for his decision and courage. This was the first fruit of his repentance.

For a long time, Victor has had to take medicine for his heart and blood pressure. He has bottles with medicines standing on the windowsill in a certain order, so that even with his eyes shut he can take the right one and make no mistake. No one in the house ever touches his pharmacy. One evening he came home after a hard day of work, and his heart ached, so he took his pills, drank the necessary dose and ... felt like something was wrong. He lay down, and all his body felt weightless. Victor recalls that he thought this was the last moment of his life. It turned out that his daughter-in-law had shuffled the medicines. As a result, he took ten times the normal

dose of a different medicine than he intended. When he began to feel better, his wife said with a tender voice: "Victor, go to your church; you will sing psalms, it will help you feel better."

There will be more trials and difficulties in Victor's future. He who is faithful to the end will be saved. We are praying, and we ask that you, dear brothers and sisters, please support in prayer Victor's path and faith, that the Lord be with him in all his paths and give him peace of heart.

March

Trip to the Orphanage – Boarding School

The last chord of our winter holidays was a trip to the children's boarding school in Velikoye Polovetskoe. The BIEM mission has a history of cooperating with this boarding school for many years: the mission helps financially, provides the children with clothing and some food, has assisted with maintaining the premises, and organizes children's holidays and events.

This year we decided to visit them with a Christmas play and gifts. We purposely waited a while, because relatives of children in the boarding school often take some home for the holidays, but we wanted to touch all of the children with the joyful news of the birth of the Savior.



We decided to perform for them the same play that we had performed in Bilogorodka. It's called "The Gifts of Artaban," and some of the players included children of our mission workers: our son Misha and Nikita Yurchenko. The boys played the shepherds. In addition, 100 gifts were prepared: candies with fruits.

At the orphanage we were received in a very friendly and open way. My husband Eugene introduced me to the director. And while the others were busy with decorations before the performance, the director and I visited the kindergarten they have for children with speech defects. In that group were 14 children from ages 3 to 5. You walk into that room, and little eyes look on you in a special way—with hope.

These are small children, who are in such great need of a mother's care, and many of them have already managed to go through difficult circumstances. One child had an ear bitten off, another had burn marks from cigarettes. In our country, there is no simple denying of parental rights: either parents themselves refuse responsibility, or social services take children from families due to abuse or other actions.

I asked: "Who wants gifts?" Everyone shouted joyfully: "Me, me!" Except for one boy, who sat with his head lowered in a corner of the room. I approached him, handed him a gift, and a smile appeared on his face. He was very shy and not used to having anyone offer him gifts.



After getting their gifts, the children impatiently began to open them. The first thing each one found was a huge apple. They washed them off and began eating. It's a joy to observe such happy children.

The kindergarten room and its restroom have been repaired. The BIEM mission had previously provided funds to repair a room for children, so I saw pretty, new restrooms with small toilets for small children to use comfortably. A new rug covered the floor, and there were pretty tables and chairs. Everywhere there was cleanliness and coziness.

When the children got accustomed to my presence a little, they began running up and competing with one another to tell me something; everyone wanted attention and affection. One girl just walked over and hugged me. With tears I left this room, where the staff works with children with speech defects.

Next came the play, where the Word was heard, and we gave gifts to all the orphans. Each child thanked us sincerely. This was a special atmosphere of love and of good.

Praise to our great Creator for the opportunity to spend such wonderful holidays among orphan children and to have the opportunity to give them a bit of happiness.

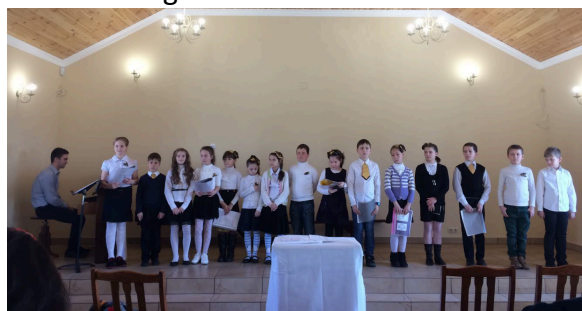
Dear brothers and sisters, may the Lord fill your hearts with peace and bless your families. I ask that you pray for each child and staff worker who heard the Word of God and the singing. New Testaments were distributed to each child. Pray that they will read them and that the Holy Spirit will work in each heart.

March, Part 2

(submitted by Angelica Buyko)

In March of this year, pastor of the church Bilogorodka 2 Eugene Buyko, had to travel to the USA on mission business. All the church prayed for his visit to various states. He visited a group of Americans who had come to Ukraine and helped in constructing this church.

All responsibility for the church ministry lay on the shoulders of the church's deacon Roman Chaika. Although he is a member of the "Temple of Salvation" church in Kyiv, he bears a large portion of ministry in Bilogorodka. He and his family live less than two miles from the church, and they greatly rejoiced when they learned that a church would be built here. Roman has a wife named Olya and two young children, Anechka and Misha.



During the time when Eugene was away, something good developed: Roman and Misha Buyko created song folders in which were the words to worship songs we sing in the church. Elderly people rejoiced because these songs were printed in large, easy-to-read letters.

Also, last Sunday we had a Sunday school group visit us from Temple of Salvation. The group consisted of 17 children, ages 9-10. They had prepared an interesting program in which there were Bible verses, testimonies, and singing. That was the first service at which brother Petya Kirilenko preached. He, too, was one of those who helped in constructing the church and is a member of Temple of Salvation Church.

We thank you for your financial and prayerful support. Praise God that His work is going forward. Please pray for the new people coming to the second Baptist Church in Belogorodka.