



Desna

October 2017

Dear brothers and sisters, we thank you for the help you give to our churches. Thanks to your help, we have opportunities to testify of God's care and love for people.

We have provided much material aid, and people always needed it. They are always grateful when they receive it.

Lena

This sister has a serious illness. She doesn't walk and can do very little. We constantly visit her, fellowship, pray together, and read the Bible. She always says, "How can I serve God? What can I do? I am useless to God."

But then the humanitarian aid arrived, and we delivered some for her family. She called and said she had distributed items to all her acquaintances and some neighbors. She asked if she could get more, since needy people were inquiring. We took her another batch, and with great joy, she distributes to neighbors and acquaintances while telling about the church. She happily shares that she's a believer and a member of the church. For her, this aid has become an excellent opportunity to have a hands-on ministry and be useful.

Leva and Lena

This family that attends our church has an amazing history. Lena said to me, "I wouldn't have decided to have a child while I was addicted to alcohol and drugs. But thanks to God, my husband and I are free of those addictions. God gave us a beautiful girl, for whom we are very grateful to Him."

They have a nine-year-old son, and three months ago this daughter Darina was born. Leva's son is very sick, there's not enough money for medicine, let alone clothes and shoes. Then little Darina came along, and she needs attention too. They prayed for help, and then help from you arrived: children's clothes for both their girl and son. They were in seventh heaven with happiness. "How amazingly God cares for us," they say.

On behalf of all those who have received help, thank you. It's a great blessing for the people from our town.

May the Lord bless you.

November

She thought for a long time.

Dear brothers and sisters, it was very pleasant for me to spend some time in your amazing country, and in your kind and attractive churches. You received us with great love and respect, which could not have left a better impression. As they say, being a guest is good, but being home is even better. I was already missing my family and my church.

In the first service after my return, a young woman named Inna came up to me and said that she had thought for a long time and decided to repent. This news confused me for a few seconds. But then I quickly came to myself and began a conversation, and then agreed to



continue the conversation after the service. Afterwards, we were talking about thankfulness and about prayer needs. Then Inna stood up and said she wanted to repent. This pleasantly surprised all of us, because she is a shy girl. But she decided to repent in front of the whole church.

And this was a source of great joy for everyone. After all, there is no greater joy, than when a sinner repents. Some years ago, Inna had met a brother from our church named Pasha. They began to chat, and grew into love for each other. But this was a shock to us, because she was not a believer. And we all fellowshiped with them to that end, but he said that she is a very good person and that he prays for her and was waiting for God to answer, but he didn't want to put pressure on her, because he didn't want her to respond simply out of pressure. He told me that he was waiting for her to repent, and not before that would he make a decision about getting married.

After she got saved, we all wished her our blessings. Each one spoke from his or her own heart and shared with her words of edification. This happened in front of everyone in the service, and then Pasha said, "Inna, tell us whether anyone here has pressured you to do this."

"No," she said.

She added that she considered these matters for a long while, and she observed all of us, and this was her own decision. Later, they took their documents to get a marriage license to become man and wife.

This was a blessing for the whole church and cause for joy. And this Sunday, prayed for blessing on Inna and Pasha, and there was a holiday atmosphere in the service.

Pray with us:

1. For Inna and her Christian growth in God, that God will strengthen her and help her to follow Him.
2. That God will bless this union and produce a firm, loving, family.

Fomichov

December 2017

Called to Serve the Lord

I'm often asked how many people attend the church in Desna, and I don't always want to answer this question. I prefer the question, how many people in your church are involved in ministry? In response to that question, I like to talk, because it's important how the members of a church relate to ministry. We have in our church people who have dedicated themselves to ministry. I'd like to talk about such ones, because there are brothers who serve the Lord, and they were born again in our church, but then God called them to serve elsewhere.

One of those is Lyosha Savchuk. Along with his family, he is planting a church in Chernigov. Another is Sasha Petrenko who, along with his family, is starting a church in Goncharovsk (this is a military base 50 km from Desna). For many years the brothers have

ministered in these places without being ordained to the ministry of pastor. For over a year now, we've been preparing for this wonderful event, to ordain these brothers to pastoral ministry, plus another brother from our church, Vova, to the ministry of deacon.

For a long while we prayed and talked, because we recognize the responsibility of ordination. In this matter, we accepted the decision of Sam Slobodian, and Zhenya Buyko, and Nikolai Velichko. We consulted much, prayed, and prepared for the event. Because we saw a point in this. The churches are growing, and I am already beginning to field many questions about marriage, communion, and other issues. But in addition the church needed to grow and develop in deacon ministry, so Brother Vova Minenok was nominated as a candidate for deacon and the church supported him. Vova has always had a desire to be useful to the church, and it was decided to ordain him for ministry.

It was suggested that we hold a ceremony in the church "Temple of Salvation" on Puhovo Street in Kiev, where Nikolai Velichko has been the senior pastor for many years. We accepted this proposal with great joy. We organized a trip to Kiev, and for many in our church it was their first opportunity to visit a huge church, and everyone was in great delight. They were glad God arranged everything this way.

Savchuk Leshia



Brother Lyosha moved with his family to Chernigov in 2012 to start a new church. They started from scratch; there was no one. It started as a student ministry, but the goal was always to organize a church, so much prayer and work was done, and this service would've been hard without the help of the BIEM mission. In the autumn we baptized three people from Chernigov. Lyosha is a very dedicated brother to the service of the Lord, and loves the Lord very much.

Sasha Petrenko

In the Goncharovsk ministry since 2004, there as been an active children's ministry, Bible groups, and two years ago God blessed them with a room for Sunday meetings. One brother lives in a three-room apartment on the first floor. He decided to hold services in his apartment, so he equipped one room for the Sunday service of the church. This year there was one wedding and one wedding, the village is small, but people need a Savior, and Sasha preaches not only in words and endowments about Jesus Christ. This year they had a wedding. It's a small town, but people need the Savior, and Sasha evangelizes not only in words, but also in deeds about Jesus Christ.



Vova Minenok



Vova came to the biblical study in Desna, and he became one of the first to receive water baptism in 2002. He has actively participated in the children's ministry and helped in holding children's camps. In 2009, he unofficially took on deacon ministry in our church. He is a very good brother who loves his family and loves children. Everyone in our church sees him as the leader of the children's ministry.

Pray with us:

1. For the ordained ministers from our church:

- Lesha Savchuk and his family
- Sasha Petrenko and his family
- Vova Minenok Vova and his family.

Pray that God would use these brothers for His glory, that through their lives many people would come to God.

Yours faithfully,
Igor Fomichov