



Kosyanchuk

2nd Quarter Report

April

“Sing unto the Lord a new song” (Psalm 150:1).

In times past, the Lord used the psalmist to call His people to raise new and better praise to Him. Time passed, but our God, just as before, wishes for us to be engaged in lifting praise to Him for what He is and for His works on our behalf. The Easter holiday recalls the event by which we gain peace with God and salvation, and it prompts us again and again to praise our Creator, the Savior and Lord, and to do this in the very best way.

This year, our First Baptist Church in Bilogorodka had an opportunity during a children’s Easter holiday to re-perform a play, which we had shown the children some years ago. However, we wanted something else, something better. There we decided to stage a different play that would tell about the heart of man and about how the Lord can change it, thanks to the death and resurrection of Christ. The theme was not new; what was new was the whole process of preparations: the thing is, this time the play was done practically with only children and teens, without the participation of members of the church. This was not easy, since children are harder to motivate and organize than adults. Another thing that was new is that we decided to record the whole program as a soundtrack. This would allow the audience a better sound for listening, while the children could concentrate more on expressing the feelings and worries of the characters. This way, the viewers could grasp better what they were seeing. To some degree, all of these changes caused us concern, but we trusted in the Lord and continued forward with a desire to do God’s work in the best way possible. And God blessed! Although there were challenges in organizing rehearsals and creating the recording due to several sicknesses and busyness of the children, the Lord helped us to accomplish everything, and on the Easter holiday the children’s play took place. More than 80 kids and parents came. Together we sang, played games, pondered the meaning of the word “Passover” and the historical life of Christ, and at last considered how all of this affects us, and the play helped to address that. The seed of the Word of God was sown. And, as the Lord has said, it will not return to Him void (Isaiah 55:11).

We believe that in time the Word will bring an abundant harvest and will lead many others to living faith in God and His praise! May praise be to the name of God, who prompts and helps in praising Him with new and better praise.

May

For several years now, the Lord has given us the opportunity to visit disabled people in the town of Bilogorodka. We generally do this around the Easter and Christmas holidays, when people—even those who are skeptical about faith in God—are inclined toward hearing and receiving the Word of God. Each time, we try to share with the children and their families both materially and spiritually: Christian children's books, Christian films or cartoons on disks, and most importantly, the Bible. In our country, in the majority of situations people have no spiritual hunger as they did 15-20 years ago; however, the Lord is still doing miracles through the Holy Spirit. Of this we are convinced!

We had 24 addresses. After dividing ourselves into two teams, we set out. Most of the parents already knew who we are, so it wasn't hard to pay them a visit. Most of them received us joyfully. One even apologized for not attending church. There were also parents who at one time had been children in our Sunday school, but who then went the way of the world.

We gladly invited those who were able to come to church. We shared our hope, given in the resurrected Christ, as well as gifts presented "echoes" of the greatest gift from God, Jesus Christ. We also gave children's Bibles. You simply had to see how happy these people were. In one place, near a dormitory where two girls from a dysfunctional family live (one of whom is disabled) children were playing. Seeing us, as well as the books that we give, the kids surrounded us. Each child wanted to receive their own children's Bible, and we eagerly responded to such zeal by distributing five Bibles, and we also invited the children to God's house and summer camp, which will start on June 19. There were also relatives there; they were also very grateful for such invitations and gifts.

In all, we gave out 30 children's Bibles and children's tracts titled "The Greatest Gift," in addition to about 40 gifts. We hope that, in God's goodness and mercy, He will work in the hearts of those we visited, and that the Word that was sown and will bring forth much fruit to God's praise!

June

"For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which
Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient,
by word and deed...."
Romans 15:18

Summer Camp

This year the Lord gave us an opportunity to hold a Christian children's camp in the first Baptist church in Bilogorodka from June 19 - 24. It was a good decision to place an emphasis on the New Testament, so the program we chose for the camp was called "Knowing Christ." Over these five days, the children were to learn the five

characteristics of Christ, the five definitions He taught about Himself while on earth: “the Good Shepherd,” “the Bread of Life,” “the Resurrection and Life,” “the Light of the World,” and “the Way, Truth and Life.”

This year, by God’s mercy, the team consisted almost entirely of brothers and sisters and teens from our own local church, which gave them a chance to prepare and to work together more smoothly. Also, there was an opportunity earlier, in comparing with the last year, to start preparations. However, despite such circumstances, there were many other difficulties and experiences that constantly reminded us of our dependence on and need of our Lord. Our camp was held immediately after the camp at the 2nd Bilogorodka church, where our cooks were involved, as well as some members of our team. Therefore for them, this was a heavy load. One person could not help due to sickness. In addition, the large number of children in the groups created a special burden for the leaders involved in the spiritual training; they had not previously had practice directing such a large number of children.

But despite that, the camp began and continued with God’s blessing. The total number of children who came to the camp was about 150. They were divided into four age categories, and each day they heard Bible truths presented for their age level. They sang Christian songs, played games, created crafts, watched Christian films and cartoons, and memorized Bible verses related to the day’s topic.

On the first day of camp, brothers and sisters from America visited us. They helped one of the groups during craft time, and then they left materials that the other groups could use for crafts later. As in past years, the Lord helped to prepare the children on Saturday for a wonderful children’s service for Sunday. The children invited their parents and relatives. The teams of each age group prepared music and also did a short play on what they learned from the Bible. Even though the preparation time was limited, and not everything turned out exactly as it was supposed to, we had never before had such a blessed children’s service: more than 100 children came, and also about 60 adults. The children participated in an orderly, harmonious way, which exposed God’s truth to their parents and relatives.

At the end of the service, we also had the opportunity to summarize the Gospel and invite the children and their families to reconciliation with the Lord. We pointed out that Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven, and also to the happiness that everyone aspires to. After the festive service, the children waited for dinner, and the adults had sweet rolls and compote. In addition, the children received modest but important gifts.

Seeing them later, after this service, you could see that what they learned and received was valuable to them. We pray and believe that our Lord will produce in the heart of every child, as well as their relatives, further action, and the sown seed of the Word of God will bear abundant fruits in its time!

With God’s help, we now plan to hold another weeklong event in August, before the resumption of the school year for fellowship with all the children in the Sunday school of our church. May the Lord lead and direct everything according to His will! We believe that He will work out everything for the best!

