



The Kosyanchuks in Bilogorodka, Ukraine

4th Quarter Report 2017

October

God is doing His work of salvation on earth and is laboring on each heart. Great praise and thanks to Him for this.

Around eight years ago, two middle-aged men began to come to our church. Right away, one of them stopped coming, but the other one repented. And when we were talking, then I learned that he had repented in prison while serving time. Yet, when he returned home, his wife and son didn't receive him back and drove him away. He left that home and wandered from town to town and once again returned to his old sins.

Arriving at the home of an acquaintance of his in our area, he stayed in the area, found a job, and then searched for a church. One day he walked past our church building, saw the times of worship services on the sign, and began to attend, first with his buddy, and then by himself. After repenting he continued attending services in the house of God a while, but then approached me and requested money so that he could travel to his family. When he got it, he left. We didn't see him again even though he was supposed to be preparing for baptism. The church prayed for him for some time, then eventually stopped. Then, eight years later, practically everyone in the church had forgotten all about him. This year, when a group of believers were staying in the new church on the other side of Bilogorodka, one of them asked if we recalled that man. When no one could recall him, he declared that he was the man who accepted that money and disappeared.

He told how, when he returned home, his son received him and offered a room to stay and gave him a job in the son's business. His conscience bothered him. He had repented and asked God for forgiveness but then was not obedient to Him. So once again he decided to return to God. Praise the Lord for working in that man. He was reconciled with the Lord, became a member of the church, restored his relationship with his family, and now is laboring for the Lord. Thus, we had a meeting with a brother in the Lord these eight years later.

We are sincerely thankful to the Lord for His mercy and love, which He sheds on all of us. We thank you, too, for your brotherly support, love and prayers.

May the Lord bless you.

Amen.

November

Unending is God's love for us people; it manifests itself at every step, especially to those who seek Him.

Several years ago a young family settled in the village of Komarivka. They heard testimonies about Jesus Christ, about salvation, about life in faith. The husband responded, recognizing himself as very sinful and wanting support in his life from the Lord. Perhaps his decision to follow the Lord was influenced by the fact that he grew up in an orphanage, and he did not have parental support.

And this young man began to attend services. Sometimes his wife came, but they had no agreement in this. Soon he repented and began to prepare for holy water baptism. However, members of the church noticed in him instance of untruth, deceit, minor thefts, and all that was in the orphanage. He was not allowed to be baptized, and he began to skip more and more services. He again repented, but again sinned. And then he decided to sign up to serve in the ATO, the zone of military operations. He signed the contract, passed training, and was sent to a military unit. Members of the church prayed for this family: they have children, and the wife is pregnant, but the husband went off to war, so this family needed the support of the Lord very much.

And an unsuspected event occurred. When he and his comrades were crossing a road to a train station, a vehicle ran into them, and they ended up in the hospital. After some time, after treatment, their contracts were annulled, and they were sent home. This was a clear lesson of God's mercy; yet, this was not enough for him to understand everything.

After returning, he got a job as a driver for a local businessman, to take him to the forest. And the main goal was to earn more money for the family, since the child had been born and they needed more money. So he worked this job when called upon, even at night and on Sundays, forsaking the service and the church, thereby showing ingratitude to God. And he decided that he is capable of organizing his own life.

But one time he overloaded the vehicle. He rode through the forest on a rough road and damaged it severely. All the money that he had earned for his family went to repair the car, and even that was not enough. He lost his job and was ashamed to go to church: people do not trust him. This is the condition in which his soul ended up. And he began to traveling to the city, looking for at least some sort of work. And then one day, returning from an unsuccessful search, he drove to our local church. He donated his time and helped to repair the house of God.

And then, weeping, he confessed his situation to us and admitted that he was not able to solve life's problems without the Lord.

We prayed with him, fed him, sheltered him for the night, and in the morning we offered him work in the house of God, since we need an internal repair of the sanctuary and needed an assistant for the journeyman doing the work. And here, three weeks of working, prayer, and reading the Word of God bore fruits, even if small.

The hardest thing for him was to go to church in Komarivka. He was very ashamed and fearful; but praise God, the Lord gave strength and, this Sunday he

went there. Fear turned into joy, both for the church and for him. Heaven also rejoiced on the return of the prodigal son. Thank God; the Lord in His mercy did not leave them in this difficult period of time. Now we pray that the Lord will help this brother to continue following Him.

We are grateful to you for your prayers and brotherly help. We also ask you to pray for this soul.

May the Lord bless you, too, with His blessings.

Amen.

December

The end of this year was a bit unusual! Before celebrating New Year, we celebrated Christmas for a second time this year (Jan. 7, 2017, and Dec. 25, 2017)! There have been many preparations for Christmas holidays, and we were actively preparing for the children's holiday, which took place on December 24, 2017.

Many children and their parents came for Christmas. Most families are unbelievers, and far from the Lord. But during these holidays, people are more receptive to the news of Christ. It was evident how parents were interested in listening to the story about the birth of the Lord. Some people heard for the first time these truths presented directly from the Word of God. After the service, there was much chatting and discussions, after which parents promised to send their children more often and to attend personally Sunday services.

One 24-year-old man who had attended all our camps as a child, and who also visited all our children's holidays, had heard many times the news of salvation. Yet, he chose a way of life far from the Lord. During this time, he himself became a father, and he brought his daughter to our Christmas meal. Perhaps his 2-year-old understood little, but after the Christmas service this father declared the following words: "I heard everything today. It was as if everything were about me – the sermons, the singing, and the children's play."

Many more parents came up and thanked us for such a pleasant holiday for children. And the children asked about the opportunity to attend Sunday school classes. We hope that the seed sown will give yield fruit, and that the house of God will be filled with saved souls.

At the end of the service, each child received a Christmas present.

We sincerely thank the Lord for His care of us, and we thank you for your prayers and fraternal support.

May God bless you all.

Anatoly Kosyanchuk

