



**Yurchenko  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report, 2017**

**April-May**



As usual, Spring not only revives nature, but brings people back to life; a storm of activity begins. In our church, too, activities increased after the winter. Sergei Debelinsky visited us for Easter. He is now responsible for the central region of our brotherhood. Sergei provided abundant instruction for the church [in Chervona Sloboda] and brought us Easter greetings. A week later, we were visited by the church in Borivka, where Igor Balashov ministers. They gave many testimonies, preached the Word of God, and sang psalms. We enjoyed good

fellowship. Our puppet troupe continued its ministry; we receive invitations to minister to children.

Recently we went to the village of Sukhorevka. This is a village, like so many in Ukraine, that is slowly dying. People are deserting such villages. The school in this village was closed due to insufficient children. The Kindergarten was also closed. People have no work. If a person has a chance to leave the village for another place, they take advantage of that chance. But such villages still have people in them, and those people have kids. For children in such villages, any event is a holiday. They have nothing; no one comes to visit, and no one needs them. Any attention they receive is a huge blessing. The mayor of this village accepted Jesus Christ. They constantly ask us to visit and to help them with spiritual life. We are thankful to God for the opportunity to serve such people. We thank you, dear friends, for supporting us and praying for us. Thanks to you, ministry is being done in Ukraine. May God bless you abundantly!

Please pray for such villages as Sukhorevka, for the people living in them. Many are dying of alcoholism. Pray for our church and the puppet theater ministry.



## May



Along with the children of our church, we drove to the children's festival that had been organized by our Brotherhood of independent Baptist Churches.

First, we had to get permission from the parents to take their children away to a children's event. Happily, we didn't need to persuade the parents; they gladly gave permission for the kids to go. This was a good sign and means that the parents trust us, which in turn means that the church's

reputation in the village is growing. Praise the Lord for that! Gradually, people are forgetting the myths about the "bad" Baptists. 😊

Secondly we had to consider where we could get a van to drive the children from the village to the church on Pukhova Street. But praise the Lord, I have a minivan that seats 7 people, so with children and adults, we were 9 people in the van, and we were able to travel comfortably and economically without renting a van.

Third, the children really enjoyed the festival. We had marvelous weather, a great program, songs, theatrical productions, games, and a tasty meal, many children and



new acquaintances. On the way back to Sloboda, the children were very cheerful and were sharing a lot of their impressions of the day.

Fourth, we are thankful to you, dear friends, that thanks to your prayers and material support, we can serve the children in Chervona Sloboda and sow the word of God in their hearts. Thank you very much! Pray for our children.



Sincerely yours,  
Vitaly Yurchenko

## June

### *Chervona Sloboda, Children's camp 2017*

At last, the long-awaited day had dawned, and children were gathered near the church building. They waited impatiently for our church camp to start. For a long while before the beginning of camp, children from Chervona Sloboda were standing outside asking, "When will camp be?"



We replied, “Soon. Be patient; camp is getting closer.”

Then out of the church doors stepped the leaders: Lyosha, Sasha, and Vova. The kids greeted them with cries of joy. From the start, we divided the kids into two teams. Then we began various games and races.

On the run, the children grabbed snacks, replenished their strength. Now, the most important thing began: the Bible lesson. The first lesson was on the creation of the world. By the end

of the camp, the children were acquainted with the biblical story, the last lesson about the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, about His death and resurrection, about hope and forgiveness, about eternal life. In the evenings, children came to play field hockey, then sat by the fire and listened to various stories and testimonies from Christian leaders.

These six days flew by. The children didn’t want camp to end, but the leaders were awaited in other camps with other kids who needed these things just as much. For the Sunday service, the kids came with their parents. We started with a Bible reading: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). We explained how the Lord knows your concerns, your pain, your suffering. He wants to forgive your sins, to heal your broken hearts, to give you hope and eternal life. The children sang songs and picked out themselves which ones to sing with the church. In conclusion, our puppet theater gave a presentation about the death and resurrection of our Lord. This was our Easter show.



Through the course of camp, the kids learned Bible verses and actively strove to participate in all the competitions. This way, they scored points, collected them, and were able to spend them in the store and trade these points for the things they liked. That’s an overview of our camp in Chervona Sloboda, which was so long awaited and so short, but unforgettable. The children already look forward to the next camp.

We are very thankful to you, dear friends, for your prayers and your support. Thanks to you, we were able to hold this camp. Thank you very much! May the Lord bless you! Please pray that all the kids from this camp will be saved. The older boys want to continue meeting for games and for field hockey, the game that especially interests them and is simple yet fun. We would like to do this with them regularly, but to do that we would need to buy all the equipment. If anyone would like to help with this, we would be grateful.

Sincerely yours,  
Vitaly Yurchenko