



The Yurchenkos

3rd Quarter Report, 2017

July

Ministry to widows

Sister Olga has already served many years in social services. She takes care of several elderly widows in our village. Our church also took on care for these widows; whenever possible we provide various assistance to them. Even our local newspaper wrote about our church and how we care about the elderly. But, most importantly, we have the opportunity to preach the Gospel to the elderly. There was a time when I drove around the village in my car and picked up elderly widows to bring them to the church services. They could not move by themselves. Thus, several elderly women accepted Christ and departed into eternity in faith.



One time an elderly woman named Matryona came to our church. I had previously visited Matryona, but she had not yet been to our church. Like most elderly Ukrainians, Matryona considered herself an Orthodox believer. She had no desire to visit our church.

Plus, the Orthodox priest did not allow such. Once she visited a worship service, Matryona loved us with all her heart. We began affectionately calling her “Aunt Motya.” Aunt Motya did not miss a single meeting. She fell in love with everyone, and if she could not attend a service, Matryona really missed it.

It so happened that Aunt Motya fell and injured her hip joint. She lay in the hospital for a long time. After the hospital, Matryona could not walk by herself. Olya visited her every day, read her the Word of God, and prayed with her. I also visited Aunt Motya from time to time. One time Olya said that Aunt Motya was very sick. We immediately went to her. I wanted to talk with her about faith. We were very pleased when we heard from Matryona that she believed in Jesus Christ and that she was sure of the forgiveness of her sins. Matryona was sure that if she died, she would be in Heaven with the Lord. We prayed with her, then a few days later Aunt Motya went to eternity.

We are so grateful to the Lord for His mercy and love, for giving us the opportunity to serve the elderly and take part in their salvation. Thank you, dear friends, that you are praying for us and supporting us financially. Thanks to you, the work of God is being done in Ukraine. God bless you! Pray for the elderly in our village that they will be saved.

July – Supplemental Update

Children's Ministry



Summer is a time of rest and vacations. Children are free of school assignments but often don't know what to do with themselves. For us, this is a great chance to minister to such children; during this time it's easy to come in contact with them. They are ready for any adventure.

We believe that even the most insignificant showing of attention to a child leaves a good imprint on his life. Children have good memories. They easily take in and recall new information. When we tell them a Bible story, children receive it

with open hearts and trust. They easily believe in stories told by their parents at night, and it's with the same curiosity and trust they accept the Word of God. Over time, children grow up and good stories leave pleasant memories of their childhood, but the Word of God that they heard as a child begins to grow and bear fruit. It changes their worldview and affects their life.

During the past month, we took our puppet troop to visit about ten children's camps. We were invited to minister to children, and through the presentation of the puppet theater we conveyed to children the truth of Christ, the Savior.

Recently we again visited an orphanage in the village of Kopylov. This orphanage serves as a center for social adaptation of orphans, street children, and children whose parents are deprived of parental rights. We showed the children a puppet show, played games with



them, and held a competition for Bible knowledge. Children received prizes for their participation and correct answers. We held a competition, "Ukraine Has Talent." The children sang and told poems. The older kids performed various sporting tricks. In the end we presented a Bible lesson, and following that all the children prayed.



I took spiritual interest in two teenage boys, one named Grisha, the other Yaroslav. These guys leave for a sports school in one month. I wanted to

instruct them as much as possible so they could make right choices in their lives and be saved. I talked with the administration of the orphanage; they gave permission to visit them any time and in unlimited quantities. On Sundays, I plan to take some of the kids to our church. After the services, to have fellowship with them and then return them to the orphanage. I ask you to pray for these children, for their future, for our plans and ministry to them, that the Lord will bless us in this outreach.

I'm very thankful to you, dear friends, for your prayers for us and the material support of our ministry. Thank you very much! Thanks to you, orphan children and homeless children are surrounded by attention and care and receive spiritual and material sustenance.

August

As I already wrote previously, I continue to visit boys in the orphanage. A little information about that orphanage: This is a center for the social rehabilitation of children. To this center they bring children of the street, homeless children, and children who have been taken away from parents who lost their parental rights. From the adaptation center, they are sent to children's homes of the family type, boarding schools, or even to families.

In this orphanage there are about 50 children of various ages, beginning from age 2 and up to age 16. We try to give all the children some of our attention, but lately, I have paid special attention to two teenagers, Grisha and Yaroslav. I want to teach them as much as possible in faith so they can go to school prepared for the difficulties and challenges of this world. Grisha has been in the adaptation center for 4 years, but Yaroslav only one month. After three weeks, these guys leave for school. Grisha has enrolled in an institute for chefs, and Yaroslav to learn how to be a crane operator.

When I was talking with these guys, I noticed that they are very open to receiving the Gospel. Both showed interest in playing the guitar, but they cannot play, and they do not have a guitar. I brought them my guitar, gave them a lesson, showed them simple chords, and gave an assignment to memorize those chords by the time I came back. We also discussed faith and life with God.



I left my guitar with them until Sunday. On Sunday I went back to pick them up, and they were released into my supervision for church. The guys have achieved some success. They memorized the chords and can even play a little on the guitar. They really enjoyed the church. We plan to bring yet other youth from the orphanage to the church. The orphanage director asked whether we could spend more time on these children and take more of them to church. Pray, please, about this orphanage, and specifically for Grisha and Yaroslav.

Thank you for your prayers and support. May the Lord bless you!

September

It's been about a year now since Volodya and Anya began to visit our church. This young couple moved to our village from Krivoi Rog. These two differed from ordinary people. They belonged to the youth subculture called "Emo." Their philosophy and appearance were completely different from the generally accepted standards in our culture.

When Volodya and Anya started visiting our church, some local residents asked, "What kind of Satanists are going to your church?"

I answered, "Come and see for yourself." We took these guys in as they are, gave them attention and showed them love.





For about a month Volodya and Anya lived right in the church building. They were going through a very difficult period. When they arrived, they couldn't find work right away, so they had no money and couldn't rent a place. God began to work in the hearts of these young people. The Word of God, which they heard during worship services, began to work in them and to bring about changes in their

understanding, in their philosophy, and in their outward appearance. These are not things that we addressed; God did it all.

Anya brought up the subject of baptism. They seriously considered their lives and about dedicating themselves to Christ. Their relationship to each other improved and began to stabilize. Before, Volodya could seize any excuse to leave Anya for a couple of weeks; then he would return, live with her peacefully for a couple of days, then once again argue and take off. So their relationship had always been stormy.

When I began talking with them in preparation for baptism, I observed that the Lord had already changed their lives very much. But we didn't rush into baptism. I wanted to confirm their serious intent, because those in the "Emo" subcultural can be extremely emotional and wounded people. The church didn't want their decision to be baptized based on mere feelings. We wanted to see real evidence of their faith.



On Sunday, September 3, the church gathered on the shore of the local river, not far from our prayer house. Volodya and Anya were beaming, dressed all in white as they descended into the water, and they testified of their faith before Heaven and the church. That day, the Lord joined this young couple to our church. Afterward, Volodya and Anya participated in their first Lord's Supper. What a joyous day! We thanked the Lord for continuing to invite saved souls into the church. Praise Him!



I'm so thankful to the Lord for you, dear friends, for your prayers and financial ministry to us. Thank you very much! Your labors are not in vain. Thank to you, we are experiencing blessings in our ministry in Ukraine, and God's work is continuing.

May the Lord bless you!

Sincerely yours,
Vitaly Yurchenko