



The Buykos

3rd Quarter Report, 2018

July

Bible study

After Easter this year, in our church we began to hold Bible studies. Each Tuesday evening, by God's mercy, no fewer than 11 people gathered, and sometimes that number was up to 20.

Sam Slobodian was present at one of the very first studies. Praise God that the Holy Scriptures are translated into many languages. All of us can learn the very same truths.

We began the study in the Acts of the Apostles. Our family prayed ceaselessly, so that each chapter would be revealed in a special way in the hearts of our friends, so that these meetings would be a response to people's search, prayers, and life's difficulties. At one recent study we were working through chapter 5 of Acts, specifically the account of Ananias and Sapphira. It speaks there about how God does not demand that His children remain naked and barefoot without a penny in their pocket. The Creator was our sincere hearts, which give Him honor and praise.

No sooner did we finish the reading of the Word of God than Vitya, who took part in the church's construction, repented and began regularly attending services. He confessed that this was the answer to His prayers. When the construction was still in progress, all the workers ate together. At first, Victor joined the general meal, but later at apart, citing the fact that he was on a diet. As it turned out, Vitya's friends and relatives were fearful right from the beginning that our church would steal away his property: that the church would force him to sell his house, his car and bring all the money as a donation. Therefore, they forbade him from eating dinner in the church. They claimed something that influences the nervous system was poured into food.

Time passed, and no one demanded anything at all from Vitya. He came to his own conclusions. Now he isn't afraid to eat with us, and he knows the church's priority is on God, not on belongings. This was the very questions that had been nagging at Vitya's heart for a long time.

Praise God for His conduct and work in the hearts of those who come here. We see how He establishes the sprouts of faith and cares for each of us.

Thank you for your prayers.



July, continued...

We've already written about 11-year-old Vadim, who comes to our church in Bilogorodka with his grandmother. He plays the accordion, and each Sunday he attends the worship service and a Sunday school class.

As it turns out, he lives in Kiev, not far from the church "Temple of Salvation." But every weekend he comes to his grandmother's place in the village of Bilogorodka. After learning that the Temple of Salvation church would be holding a camp at the beginning of summer, he agreed with his parents to attend it, and he also invited his non-Christian friend (the one in a yellow shirt in the photo). Thank God that the hearts of young children cling to Christ and are a light in this world.

We're also praying about holding a day camp at the end of August at our church. We've approached the sisters who attend our church with a request that they help out in the camp. There's a lot of work in store for that kitchen. We plan to feed the children.



Although

Vadim's mother rarely attends services, she joyfully responded to this need. Now our team has one more pair of hands, ready to serve to God's glory. For us it's a great joy that Vadim himself and his close family members are drawing closer to Christ.

We ask that you pray with us, that this family will be protected from all evil and wickedness, and that they will know the rebirth in their hearts. Praise God!

August

Church Work Day

Something special and long-awaited happened in our church—landscaping our church property, which we had long prayed about. From the earliest days of our church construction project, we had in our hearts a dream that people coming here for worship services would feel as if they are in an oasis in this sinful and desolate world, finding peace of mind and tranquility both inside and outside the House of Prayer.

We had asked the Lord's blessing for favorable weather, since the two days before had





been excessively hot, so hot it would've been hard to plant trees and flowers. And we prayed for a team, since alone it would've been hard to accomplish such a large-scale event quite in a short time. And we prayed for finances, since landscaping costs a lot of money.

The Heavenly Father not only answered our prayers, but answered them abundantly. There were sufficient offerings to buy 20 decorative trees, rose bushes and ornamental plants, gardening tools, gravel, and building materials for the expansion and construction of flowerbeds.

In the early morning that Saturday our family arrived with Vitya, plus the family of deacon Roma Chaika in full force (a month earlier their 3rd child was born, a daughter, Sonechka), the family of Pukhova church pastor Igor Kruptsy (his wife Svetlana is a professional in landscaping). They live far away; they spent a lot of personal time and finances but declared this was all for the glory of God.

In addition, the Stepanovich family also volunteered to work. They brought flowers, which they themselves grow in special greenhouses.

For Vitya, this day became a special blessing. He prayed with us for favorable weather. His wife had asked, "How do you expect to plant trees and flowers in such stifling heat?" To which he replied in faith, "God will provide."

The Lord did, indeed, provide. On that day the temperature was cooler, and rain drizzled for the first time in a long time. For Vitya, this was a big testimony and faith-strengthener.

I'd like to add the observation that joint work and joint ministry unite people's hearts. All of us worked, both adults and children, from morning to late evening.

Because the gates stood open (Zhenya constantly drove to the store to pick up construction material and plants; we planted flowers around the fence), the locals were able to observe the progress of the work, and how everyone labored.

Last year a neighbor boy named Andrei visited. Afterward he didn't attend church. But on that Saturday he rode past the open gates several times on his bike in order to watch us. After a while, he couldn't resist wondering and stopped to ask Zhenya, "What you doing, preparing for camp? When will it be?" But what amazed him more than anything was that Zhenya was also working. In great surprise, he said, "What is this, you also have the church father working?" After that, the teen himself wanted to participate. He helped to spread 6 wheelbarrow loads of gravel.

As we see, people pay more heed to our deeds than to our words. The Gospel isn't only the open the distribution and proclamation of the Word of God; it's also the actions by which people recognize us.

Praise and glory be to our Great Creator for such a blessed day, and for turning our church into a wonderful oasis. We pray that many residents of Bilogorodka will come to Christ in our house of prayer, and that their hearts will be filled with peace.

We want to express gratitude to Samuel Slobodian and the BIEM mission for finances for landscaping around our house of prayer.

September

The camp we held in August yielded some fruit, which we are now beginning to see. Right on the very last day of camp I got better acquainted with several girls in the older group. They came over and asked if there was any chance they could assist with conducting the camp next year. It turned out that one of them, named Katya, plays the clarinet. I was surprised that I was learning this only on the final day of camp. I invited her, not only to come to Sunday school, but also to bring her instrument. We could play something together.

From that day on, Katya didn't miss a single Sunday. And twice now she has played in front of the entire church. She had never played alone before. Even with accompaniment, she had never played in front of so many people, because she normally plays with an orchestra, and for her it was hard to get up and play in front of everyone. Yet, even though it's scary for her every time, she likes to learn something new.

We learned that her grandmother is a Baptist, but her parents are unbelievers and are less than happy about their daughter going to a Baptist church and to a Christian camp. In reply to the question of how they allow her to come in that case, she explained, "Papa always reacts more calmly about it. Therefore, I talk only to Papa when I tell where I'm going, and I ask that he tells Mom. It always works."

Something else that's interesting is that she always comes to church in a dress. Even this past Sunday, when it was very cold outside, and before this she had orchestra, but she came alone on the bus. She walked in wearing pants, and her first question was "Where can I change into my dress?" In this way, she has never once been in our church services in pants, although no one has said a word to her about it.

On the last day of camp, some other older girls promised to come to Sunday school, but they didn't show up on the first Sunday. But the next week, three of them arrived together, and we had a good time talking. They didn't want to leave. They're still coming (sometimes not all three, because one of them is often away), but they really like it. One of them said that her mother did not want to let her come.

"Why not?" I asked.

She said she's running a temperature.

"You're running a temperature now?"

"Supposedly it's passed. I already feel a lot better. I just really wanted to come."

Pray for these teen girls, that they will continue to come.

Thank you for the material and prayerful support, thanks to which we were able to hold the camp.

Praise be to God
The Buyko family

