



The Fomichovs

First Quarter Report, 2018

January

Ukraine is an amazing country. This year the government decided officially that people would celebrate Christmas as does most of the world, on December 25. But in Ukraine people



have traditionally celebrated on January 6. As it turned out, we were able to use both of these events for evangelism. For December 25, we organized a wonderful evening at the church, where we had invited friends and relatives. This was a good opportunity to witness about our Lord. We covered the table and decorated our hall. There was much Christian music. We read the Christmas story from the Bible and prayed. All evening we were focused on our

Lord and on the fact that He came to this world for the sake of people. We did all that we could to create a homey atmosphere, where people who came to the church for the first time could feel themselves in the presence of family. After all, we want to be a strong and friendly family.

And I know that many responded well, and they said that such a service was extraordinary, and it was so home-style, and many members of the church spoke about the warmth that was present in the church. After this evening, one girl named Vika started to attend the services. She told me she really enjoyed it at church and that she would try to come. She said that, when she comes to church, she rests. Although her husband never has visited the church, and has heard nothing, he likes that she comes even though he's not ready to. But he happily watches their kids when she comes to services.

Continuing to use the holiday, on the traditional January 7 Christmas we held a musical service. A music group from Chernigov came to us. They sang, and brother Lyosha Savchuk preached. We had unbelievers come to that service, and some people who are drawing closer to the Lord. There were soldiers, and that gave us great joy, because we joyfully praised our Lord. One soldier said that he will come whenever it works out for him. For many, seeing young people praising the Lord gave great gladness.

Pray with us:

1. That the Lord would cause the seeds that we planted in these people to sprout and grow.

2. Pray for our musical ministry in this church. Ask God to send someone who can lead our song service in praise of God.

February 2018

A Prayer Request

Something unforeseen has happened in our family. My father became very ill, so we drove him to the hospital in Desna. There they gave him an I.V. and sent him to a different



hospital. But the doctor warned me that she suspected he might have cancer. The symptoms indicated to her that this wasn't a very good condition, and perhaps would be the end.

They told us that his lungs were full of water, and suggested it might be lung cancer. But a few days later they told us that he had a sick heart, and they would treat his heart, and only afterwards would they send him for a more extensive examination. But everything

was done on the level of the local hospital.

Judging by his appearance, he seemed to be improving. However, one morning they called me and said he'd taken a turn for the worse: He'd had a blood clot in his brain and was paralyzed on the left side, which also affected his face. We were frightened and took him by ambulance to Chernigov, where they performed an X-ray of the brain. Doctors stated there was no hemorrhage in the brain, but that a stroke had occurred.

Now there are consequences. He speaks nonsense; he can't walk without aid, and in general he behaves strangely. For our family, this is a shock. We are most concerned because he has never put his trust in God. I pray with him, and for his health. I try to talk to him. But it seems that he doesn't completely understand what I'm saying, and in general he behaves very oddly and says strange things. Therefore, I ask you to pray that God will show my mercy to my father and save him. Pray with our family.

With respect,
Igor Fomichov and family

March

Serving in the Army and Believing in God

Many people ask me the question of how to serve in the army and also believe in God, so I explain to them. One time there happened an unpleasant story. A guy by the name of Maxim got involved with crime. He and a couple of other young fellows beat up a couple of guys, and he ended up at risk of a prison sentence. He had some unpleasantness with the police, and he was very worried. Right at that time in his life we met, and I told him about God. And he began to visit the church. He prayed and asked God for help, and God helped him to resolve the problems that he had.

After his situation was resolved, he received his draft notice for the army. He began to think about it. One evening I was walking to our Bible study group, and I bumped into him. I invited him to come to the study, to which he replied that he couldn't. He was on the way to the gymnasium for sports. I couldn't comprehend this. I replied that the gym will wait, that it is important to get close to God.

What he said surprised me. "Igor, I don't know how to be a believer and serve in the army. Those over me will laugh and won't think I'm manly. They'll consider me some sort of whiner.

I began to explain to him that he'll always be a man. "And if you will live with God, then you'll never need to fear anything. He'll always be with you."

To my disappointment, he chose to go to the gym and hoped that it would help him. However, it turned out that when he decided to live apart from God, this was only the beginning of all his problems. But God kept knocking at the door and sent messengers to him.

Maxim told me that one of the commanders is a believer and that he "always talks to me about God."

I said, "Max, you see; God will never forsake you and will always be beside you."

He replied, "If I would obey you and chose God, this would redeem me from many sinful problems."

Roma (a soldier)

For many, it's a great blessing that the Desna military base has a church, because the believers who end up here can come and continue to have fellowship with brothers and sisters. And then one young guy responded to the call to military enlistment office and was drafted into the army. For him, it was a big shock to land in such an environment where so many curse and with other situations that are hard. His faith began to cool.

Roma declined to take the military oath, and because of this they started applying pressure on him from every direction. But God led him through all this darkness and gave him a chance to witness of the Lord for many people. (One officer's heart warmed to Roma. For some months before this he was driving in a car with one reserve officer who goes to our church and thus learned of us.) While working with Roma, he told him that there is a church in Desna that he can attend. It's amazing to see God work in the lives of people. This officer helped him so

that Roma could attend services every Sunday. Roma declared, "For me, this is such a huge blessing."

Victor and Galya

Victor was called up for military duty when war broke out in the east of Ukraine. He was already an older man who already had children and grandchildren. The first time he learned of our church was when he was walking past on the way to the baths. He decided he would try to arrange things so that he could come to the church on Sunday. The first time we met, he showed up for a service with an army buddy. Some weeks later, he departed for the war in the east of Ukraine. We saw them off with prayer and asked God to preserve them. Time passed, and he eventually showed up at the church again. He explained that he'd returned to Desna and would be serving here, so he wanted to attend our services because he understood, that without a church it's simply not realistic to live. So he brought his wife Galya, who also comes to our church now. Everyone is thankful that there's a church in Desna.

Pray with us:

1. Quite a few soldiers would like to attend our church, but not all are allowed off. (For commanders who regard the church through the lens of their understanding of the Russian Orthodox church, it's incomprehensible why it's important to attend church every Sunday. The Orthodox have high holidays; that's when it's vital to go to church.)
2. Pray that God will use our church to minister to those fulfilling their military duty so that we can be a great blessing.
3. We're praying for God to send us someone who can lead our music ministry.

Respectfully yours,
Igor Fomichov