



The Fomichovs

April 2018

Be ready.

I'd like to begin this letter with thankfulness for your prayers. For our church, this is very important. Our family feels your support and care.

Sometimes we live and don't stop to think about a lot of things. We do not go into the depths of the Word of God, how much truth is written there, and how this is written for us personally. It all started with the fact that my father fell sick, and he became very ill. We went to the hospital, where they examined him and said that he was healthy. We took him home, but at home he was getting worse and worse.

We went back to the doctor, and at the first examination we were told that they didn't want to frighten us, but it was possible that he was in the final stage of cancer and didn't have much longer. As a pastor, I had often stated that of every 100 people, 100% of them die and that nobody can avoid death. But there is one escape, and that is by believing in Jesus Christ and thus receiving eternal life. I believe this deeply, but in this situation, I was upset because my father was an unbeliever. He had never held a Bible in his hands. I had tried to witness to him many times, but he told me that he didn't want to hear it. He and my mother are so much under the influence of society, that even after seeing the miracle that God did in my life, they called our church a cult. It was always painful for me to hear such words, but I understood that the Soviet Union had left its stamp upon their lives. My father spent the majority of his life in the Soviet Union, and the topic of God there was simply ridiculed and closed. Possibly for this reason it was hard for him to accept my words.

We were preparing for the Easter service, and our church had big plans. I got up early in the morning to pray and to meet at the church. Suddenly I got a call. It was my mother, and she said that something was seriously wrong with my father and he needed to be taken to the hospital. My wife Sasha and I went to see Papa, and the first words he said were, "I'm done for. I'm dying."

We put him in the car, and I said to Papa, "You need to be reconciled with God, to pray, and to ask God's forgiveness. To my surprise, he said, "Okay, let's pray."

My mother got in and asked what he had said. I answered, "Papa and I are going to pray." She didn't say a word. Papa and I prayed, and then my soul became peaceful, because after all, the Word of God says, "Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." I thought, in the Soviet Union his heart had become so hard, that for so many years he didn't want to listen to me. But here, through this situation, God had touched his heart.

This was the beginning of that day. We drove Papa to the hospital for treatment, then headed to the church. As we drove up, people were already going in, and I saw that new people had come. We began the service, and in front sat two young ladies I didn't know. I began to preach about the resurrection and about eternal life, and one of them began to weep. After a while, she walked out. Then after several minutes she came back in with teary eyes.

After the service I approached them and began to chat with her, and she told me that this was her first time in a church. Her cousin had advised her to come, because she couldn't find peace. Two months earlier, her husband had committed suicide, and she was left alone with her daughter. This event hit her so hard that she didn't know how to live further. We talked for a long while. I suggested we pray, and she agreed. We prayed, and she said that her heart felt lighter. And today she heard of eternity. I know that this young lady Olya met with great tragedy at the age of 25, and there is much she doesn't understand. But I know that on that Sunday God led her to a church service in order for her to hear about our risen Lord, and about how we must decide the matter of eternity.

Pray with us for our church, that God will bless it and cause the church to grow.

May

A Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters!

For us, the electronic sign that hangs on the wall of our church is a huge blessing, because it continues to serve well. This Sunday a soldier came; he had been on his way to the military showers and



saw information about our church on the screen. That sparked a desire to visit our church, because he attended a church in his hometown. However, since he had entered the army, he hadn't had any such opportunity. So, here he found himself in Desna, where he never expected to find a Baptist church. Then, as he was marched to the military showers with the rest of the recruits, they were told not to look right or left. Yet, hanging in sight was this amazing digital sign that the whole formation couldn't help noticing.

"I noticed and understood that this building was a church," he said. "I told myself I would try to come."

We invited him to our church picnic. He came and brought along an unsaved buddy who has searched for the Lord a long time. At the picnic, we talked with this buddy Victor quite a bit, and he asked us to sing some Christian songs. Later, when the time came to depart, Victor asked for us to pray for him. We stood, and everyone present at the picnic stood with us and prayed.

This electronic sign serves as a huge blessing for our church, and we are amazed at how God is using it for His glory.

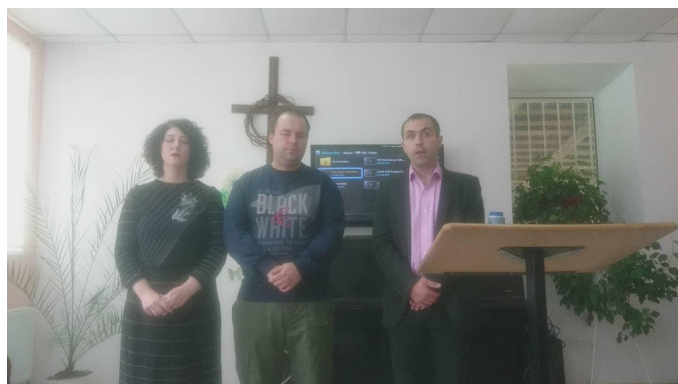
Please pray with us:

1. Not all of the soldiers are allowed to services. Therefore, our prayer is that God would oversee the arrival of those recruits who, marching to the military showers and seeing the information on the screen, will be able to attend the church.
2. Our church still needs for God to send us a leader for musical ministry.

June 2018

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” Luke 15:7

It all began when a young lady named Kseniya came to a service, and with her she brought her little daughter. She told us how her papa had recently died, and when she was at the funeral she was so impressed that she thought about eternity. And she decided to search for the Lord. When she returned to Desna, she began to look for a church, and after learning about ours she came to a Wednesday evening



gathering. We got acquainted and told about our church, what we believe, and about the Sunday services, to which we invited her.

She promised to come on Sunday with her husband, who is a military officer. It seemed to me that this would be difficult for him. After all, for men it's harder to come to church, and he was an officer, too. And it turned out that he did not come on Sunday. I did not go into details, but I understood something was wrong because Ksenia was upset by something. I thought that her husband did not want to go to church. However,

on the next Sunday they came as a whole family. Ksenia and Vova have three children. We began talking and became friends quite quickly. We began sharing the Gospel with them right from the start of our acquaintance. And on that Sunday, when we gave the call to repentance, they both came forward. And the most interesting thing is that Vova came first, and only then Ksenia, even though we expected that it would be just the opposite.

When they walked forward, some people cried for joy, because this was a special event in the lives of Vova and Ksenia, but also for the life of the church. They prayed the sinner's prayer of repentance and entrusted their salvation to Jesus Christ. They requested forgiveness and asked for new life. Almost immediately after repenting they wanted to be baptized. Now we are holding talks about baptism with them.

Pray with us:

1) For God to work in the lives of Ksenia and Vova, that they will grow in their knowledge of God and prepare for baptism.

2) Pray for our church, that God will use it in evangelism.

With respect,

Pastor Igor Fomichov