



Fomichovs

3rd Quarter Report, 2018

July

Tent Camp



All year we wait for this evangelistic camp, because in it we see a special work of God. In this camp there is a lot of time to fellowship with the campers to enjoy relationships and to share the Gospel. The camp we hold is in tents, situated on the River Desna. We set up a tent camp, and for five days we live in tents, cook meals over the fire, swim in the river, and hold various games. But the most important thing happens in the evenings, which we hold around the campfire. During these evenings we praise the Lord and tell the young people about the

Savior. This is always very effective, because such an atmosphere is unforgettable. God's presence overflows our hearts, and the young people themselves bear witness to the fact that they are changing. We hold discussions on various topics that confront young people, and we tell what God thinks about them.



In this camp, there are teens and young adults from various places—Desna, Goncharovsk, and Chernigov. This year we had 42 people in the camp. We talk about the Gospel and summon these young ones to come to the Lord. And in this camp we also made an appeal, and they agree to pray, but when you suggest praying before meals, something strange happens. I want to tell a few stories that impressed me.



Slavik

He came to me and said, let's walk along the riverbank, and I happily agreed. He began to ask me questions, such as how did the church in Desna begin and how did I come to God? Slavik knew that his two uncles had been my friends. Before I turned to Christ, his uncle

Yulik and I had spent much time hanging out together. His uncle never did turn to the Lord. Even though I witnessed to him, he died in prison. And even while he was imprisoned, I sent him clothing several times. I was looking for any opportunity to witness about the Lord, but his heart was closed. His other uncle, Vasya, was open toward the Lord, but he just couldn't leave his narcotics. He and I spent a lot of time together, we talked and prayed, but over and over again he turned back to drugs. When we were doing construction work on our church, he spent much time working there. God strengthened him, and after Yulik's death, he went three years without using narcotics. He married and had a son. He went to live in another city where he and his wife attend a church.

Slavik asked many questions, and I began to recount for him my testimony, and it really amazed him. At the end of my testimony, I wanted to suggest that he come to the Lord, but at that point he suddenly became frightened. I experienced a moment of déjà vu; I'd seen this picture before. He began to leave our conversation, and sharply said, "Well, I'm going back." I saw his frightened eyes, and I realized that something was happening in his heart. I followed him and found him drinking water. I asked, "Slavik, did something scared you?" He said yes, fear had struck him. I said, "God is touching you. You need to turn to God." But he started to change the subject. I told him, "If you want to talk, come to me." I thought that God was knocking at his heart. And how wonderful that there is such a camp where you can testify about the Lord.

Dima

Dima was in a Christian camp for the first time. His mother let him go, but because the weather was to be bad for the first few days, she didn't want to, but she allowed him to go. Dima had a difficult childhood. He got cancer and spent much time in the hospital. He underwent all sorts of treatments, and they couldn't help him in Ukraine and thought he would die. However, his mother found an opportunity to send him to Israel, and there he was successfully treated. But this took a long time and wasn't easy. His mother worries about Dima a lot, and I had thought she would not permit him. In the camp he and I got better acquainted, but he wouldn't reveal what kinds of interests he had, possibly because he didn't want to in front of the other guys. Yet, after he returned home from camp, his mother phoned and said that he enjoyed everything and that he would like to go to church. And he came to church on Sunday and obviously liked it, since he didn't want to leave.

Pray with us:

1. For the young people who were in this camp, that they will come to God.
2. That God will help Slavik and Dima to come to a point of sincere repentance.

P.S. I want to express gratitude to you, brothers and sisters, for your help. Thanks to you your support, we can hold such camps!

Respectfully,
Pastor Igor Fomichov

August



Dear friends!

We thank you for your prayerful support and aid in holding a children's camp in Desna. God blessed it, and about 75 children came. In addition, there were parents who came every day, which gave us a chance to talk with them.

In the camp we told the children the Gospel, and we taught Bible verses, and sang Christian songs. The kids were ecstatic. And we were glad to serve them with joy in our hearts.

The kids were glad to play the games, receive prizes, and to make crafts. For one day, we also planned on cooking hotdogs over a fire. We told the kids that they themselves would be preparing their own hotdogs, but that we would be helping them at the campfire. They were so excited as they did their own food preparation. There was so much happiness. The camp went just marvelously, but the very greatest joy was ours, when we got to share the Gospel with them.

Mimi

The parents of children would come, and I would go over to greet them, and if I didn't know them to meet them. And there was one young lady whom I'd seen many times. I chatted with her and asked how things were going. I knew her husband slightly and was aware of the fact that he has a problem with drugs, although he serves in the army despite that. And right away she began to tell me how terrible everything was concerning how they were living, and she didn't know how things could go on that way. I had not expected such a reaction, and our Christian sisters continued talking to her. And for the entire camp she would bring her kids and then stay and converse with everyone.



One day when we were cooking the hotdogs with the kids and feeding them, this fellow named Petya arrived on foot after his shift to get his whole family. I greeted him and offered a hotdog. He hung back, as if he didn't want one, but I understood he'd come straight from work and was hungry. I gave him a hotdog anyway, and he was glad. He was so touched and he asked if we would be there for a long time. I said that we were getting ready to send everyone home.



When I asked why he wanted to know, he said, "I want to give your church a gift. I want to give you some gear for cooking meals over a fire."

I was very pleased. But I figured that he was just talking out of emotions on the spur of the moment. However, the next day he came to the camp before work and presented this gift, with his hopes that this gear would serve us well.

I understood that this was an important moment for establishing a relationship with him, because he is in need of help. I wanted him to know that he could turn to the church for

help. I know that God did not lead him to us for no reason. I hope that he will come to us for help and that God will give him a sincere repentance.

Anya

The mother of one boy came to watch her son in the camp and to see how he was behaving himself. I walked over and began to talk with her. She asked how her son was doing, so we chatted. She said they had just come back from the hospital and that her mother has cancer. We talked with her a lot. I hope that these difficulties will lead them to God for help, and for the salvation of their souls.

Pray for the ministry in Desna:

1. That God will bless our church and bring us many new people.
2. For the children's ministry, that children will learn of the Lord from a young age.

Village of Smolin

In the book of the prophet Isaiah we find these words, spoken by God: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" These are amazing words. We understand them to mean that God desires to send people into ministry, so that His words will be spread. And that is just how it turned out in this small village of Smolin. We prayed about this place for a long time, and God opened the door.



I'm convinced that it all began with one prayer. At one time there was in this village only one Christian—a grandmother who prayed for her village. We can't say exactly what it was that she prayed, but we know that she was deeply rooted in her faith. And then the BIEM mission helped us to buy a small house in this village, so that we would have a place to begin a ministry. The grandsons of the woman who had previously lived there informed us that their grandmother had been a believer.

In this village, people regarded us with great caution and somewhat in fear. When we held a children's camp there last year, parents wouldn't allow their children to come. The neighbor children climbed on a shed and watched what was happening in the camp, and some walked back and forth along the road to see, but never came into the courtyard, even though our children and we repeatedly invited them.

However, this year the situation changed, and we had 37 children in the camp. Grandmothers also came with their grandsons, and mothers brought their kids. One day, these women sat on benches and listened throughout the Bible lesson. One of them approached us afterward and expressed that she was delighted at how we presented it.

We explained the Gospel to the children and wanted to be friends with them. I believe we succeeded in this. The camp brought the children great enthusiasm. Parents walked over and thanked us for holding a camp for their kids.

We were able to hold this camp thanks to your support. Following is a story about one boy who was in the camp.

Dima

He came to camp, and by looking it was clear that he isn't from a well-to-do family. He was not neat and wanted to put on an appearance that he was a very important child. He immediately caught my



eye, and I began to make contact with him. He quickly noticed my interest in him, and began to chat with me.

Dima was on my team. In one game, they had an assignment to write their name, and he began to behave strangely. Not until later did I realize that he can't write, and for this reason he was acting that way. During the Bible lesson, when we were talking about God, and then began to discuss about Jesus, he piped up and said it's very clear that Jesus is also God, only younger. We couldn't help but smile at his answer.

Pray with us concerning this village. May God open their hearts to the Gospel and save people.

Thank you for your help for ministry in Ukraine. May God abundantly bless you and your families.

September

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. (Isaiah 6:8)

Brother Lyosha and I were invited to visit a juvenile detention center, where we would have four days to visit young criminals and share the Gospel with them. We prayed, and then decided to accept this offer, because we understand our calling; that is, our mission on earth to evangelize in this perishing world.



Our plan was this: to go and hold services in which we would sing Christian songs, play various sports, and do that which we consider extremely important—we would share our personal testimonies of Christ. All four days we visited this detention center for young criminals, who had committed crimes ranging from thefts to murder. We had a lot of time to share the Word of God with them, and many of them received us with joy.

However, there were those who were not happy about us and didn't want any contact with us. There were various nationalities, but what surprised me were two Gypsies who were open, and who with much joy talked about God. I even had the idea that this is now the Gypsies' time. During the time we spent in the juvenile detention, there was a lot of talk about Jesus Christ. It hurt me so much that many grew up on the streets, and the streets turned them into criminals. How much evil they have already seen and done in their short lives. And it is clear that many of them would like to change their lives, but it will be hard for them, and we understand that only God can save them and change their lives. A few stories struck me deeply.

Amar

By background he's a Gypsy. He was orphaned at a young age, and now he's 17. But according to Gypsy law he married at 13 and had a son. He had a family but took the wrong path in life and committed a crime, for which he was put in prison. Everyone rejected him, so once again he feels abandoned and not needed by anyone. He says he had thought about God, and we talked a lot. I wanted for God to give him sincere repentance. We talked about hoping in God and about prayer. I gave him a t-shirt to remember me and our conversations. I had no idea how glad such a gift would make him.



Lyosha, age 17

His story upsets me. His family attended the church, and everything was fine, but at one point his father died due to an illness. Under the influence of grief, he went to the streets, and as we all know, the streets are a bad teacher. The streets teach nothing, except how to sin. That's what happened in his case. He committed a crime, and for that was sentenced to 7 years. Lyosha is a talented guy, but he believes in nothing. I was surprised that he even came over to talk with us, and we spent a lot of time talking with him about God and prayed. My prayer is that God will give him sincere repentance.



In those four days we had many conversations. Each person has his own fate, and each one has his own grief. And when we talked with these young criminals, one thought impressed itself on my mind. If not for God, there would be no hope for them. God alone can save and change their lives.

Pray with us, that God will use us.

Respectfully,
Pastor Igor Fomichov