



The Fomichovs

4th Quarter Report 2018

October, Part 1

Evening for widows

Dear coworkers of Christ, I would like to express my joy with all my heart. Thanks to the BIEM mission, we were able to hold an evangelistic evening for widows in Desna. We had about 50 widows in attendance. Of those, about 10 are women whose husbands died in the war now going on in Ukraine. We were able to witness of Christ and to talk about eternity. On many of them the evening made a strong impression that the church showed them such care, and the sisters from the church prepared an unforgettable dinner.



However, more than anything else, the American guests and their concern touched them. Ninety-eight percent of the invited widows are unbelieving women, who had never been with us for a service, and they were worried and concerned about the invitation to come here, since in Ukraine there are many negative rumors about Baptist churches. But they saw with their own eyes that everything was good, and there was nothing to fear. Thanks to our American brothers and sisters, we were able to provide them with gifts of groceries, which were a big help to them.



It was an unforgettable evening, with many positive comments. People were so pleased that they were remembered and cared about.

I understood that this was good for the church, and these women and families would talk about this evening in town. As a result, many people would change their attitude toward the church. After that evening, a couple of new women began to attend the church, and others said that they will come

whenever possible. People left very positive feedback, and for me as a pastor, this was very pleasant and would be useful in my future ministry. Plus, people saw and heard the Gospel presented, which is very important.

However, the thing that made the strongest impression on me was how the whole church came together and served as one big, friendly team. We had planned that we would distribute invitations for that evening, and the widows who brought an invitation would receive a gifts. Our people from the church asked around about widows and where they live. They went to visit them and chatted and invited them and did the preparation work.

It's not unimportant that now the church members have made contacts with these people whom they invited to church for evangelistic evening. Therefore, for me this was a huge encouragement, the way



everyone came together to make this service a success. I understand that God worked in everyone, and in us as a church, showing us how we need to minister to people. Many of those women who came to hear about Christ wept, because their soul aches.

We are praying for more fruit from this evangelism.

Thank you to all the brothers and sisters who joined in giving for this ministry in Ukraine. And I want to thank Mount Tabor Baptist church, and also BIEM. May the Lord bless you.

October, Part 2



Every Christian experiences great joy when he shares the Gospel with an unbeliever. You get filled with such energy, and God sends you the needed words in order to speak His Truth. And it's another great joy when that person embraces the Gospel.

Along with a group of Americans, I traveled around Ukraine and visited orphanages and participated in evenings organized for widows. We were able to share the Gospel and tell people directly about the grace of Christ.

Then, one night, we were in Fastiv. I was sitting in the rear of the auditorium when two women and a man walked in. By looking, you could tell that they had a serious problem with alcohol. The man even had a darkish burgundy tint about him.

The women took seats near me in the pew, but the man remained standing. There was an unpleasant odor coming from them, but we sat together for the rest of the service, and I prayed for them. Before the final prayer, the pastor asked if anyone wanted to be reconciled with God, and that man raised his hand. Because there were so many people there and the man stood in the rear, the pastor didn't see him. So I went to him and asked, "Would you like to pray?"

He said, "Yes, the pastor asked if anyone wants to, and I do."

I said, "Let's pray now." Then Sam Slobodian walked over, and we began to pray. This man (named Taras) repented and asked Jesus to save him and to free him from his bondage to sin. Great joy filled us that God had led Taras to this service and prompted him to pray and to appeal to God for salvation. My heart overflowed with great happiness, that Taras had turned to God, and it encouraged me that the Holy Spirit is working and leads perishing ones in this world to call out for salvation.

After the prayer, I spent a long while talking with Taras. I learned more of his life, that he'd become an alcoholic and seemed unable to do anything about it. He already has such strong seizures that leave him without strength. He is seized by convulsions, that there are mild episodes of epilepsy. If he does not stop, then it will end sadly.

Pray for Taras, that God would set him free and give a desire to grow in the knowledge of Christ.

November

Pray, and faint not.



For a long time I have prayed for my parents to come to God, and 18 years of prayers have not passed in vain. My prayer in recent years was basically thus, "Lord, do not take my parents until they are reconciled with You. My father repented a month before his death, and this touched me to the depth of my soul.

After Papa's death, Mom began to drink. She didn't want to talk with anyone and didn't want to listen to anyone. We repeatedly tried to talk with her, but she just drank and drank. We brought her to our home, but she would come out of her alcoholic stupor, but then returned home and resumed drinking. We didn't know what to do, except to continue in fervent prayers for her.

Then came along a special project organized by the BIEM mission, an evening for widows. We invited my mother to it, too. She promised to come, but several hours before it began she telephoned, already drunk, and said she wouldn't be coming.

A couple weeks passed. Mom came out of her alcoholic binge, and we invited her to a service. She promised to come. She came to the service, and there was an evangelistic sermon. Other women who had attended the special service for widows also came.

After that service, we drove home for supper with Mom, my sister, and her husband. We had a serious talk there. I raised the question of the meaning of life, and I saw how this touched Mom. She barely restrained herself from crying, then got up and went to the bathroom so no one would see. She came back from the bathroom as if nothing had happened. But I'd noticed that moment, and it didn't leave my mind. I mentioned it to my wife Sasha, who said she hadn't noticed. I suggested we pray, and after that prayer I felt a prompting to go see my mother, so I did.

Mom rejoiced that I had come to see her, but was guarded because it was already late. We sat in the kitchen and started to talk. I reminded her that Papa had repented and that she needed to reconcile with God.

I said, "You were upset at home today and almost cried."

She said that, during the sermon she felt uneasy. Something had started to happen in her soul.

"God is knocking to come in. You have to open your heart to Christ. You see there's no point in this world, and that death is next, but the Lord offers eternal life."

With tears in her eyes she said, "I see that there is no meaning in life. What's next, I don't know."

I said, "Will you agree to pray?"

She said, "Yes."

We sat in the kitchen and prayed. She repeated the prayer of repentance after me. Following the prayer, she felt ill and began to breathe heavily. I did not lose my head and said that I would also pray for her. During my prayer, tears flowed from her. After the word "Amen," she calmed down and said she already felt better. She and I talked a while longer, and when I left her, she was already happy about life. Since that prayer, she has not missed a service, and has been going to church for more than a month. She has met many people, and they have accepted her. She feels loved and accepted there.

PS: I wanted to sincerely thank everyone who prayed with me for my mother. God heard our prayers. Hallelujah!!!

December

Humanitarian aid

Dear brothers and sisters, we would like to express our great gratitude for the aid you provided for our churches. The economic situation in our country is weak, and the war in the east drains all the spirit out of people. As it is written, there is great gain in godliness and contentment.



The clothing that you sent to us [in BIEM's container] is being distributed to various people. Some to believers, some to unbelievers. All those who received something were very thankful, and they personally thanked us. May God bless you for your sacrificial hearts.

Now in Ukraine, cold and snowy winter has begun, and we have been distributing those winter coats that you sent us. They are greatly needed. But one of the goals in this has been to witness about Christ. People react in different ways; yet, they are always grateful, and this is a testimony to them of the love of Christ.

Here is a photo of Sasha, wearing like a shield the winter coat he received. But the true desire of my heart is to become better friends with him and to share the Gospel with Him.

You sent much children's clothing, and for many people this is a huge help. After all, kids grow quickly and constantly need clothing. One family who received aid in the form of children's clothing is Pasha and Inna and their little daughter. Other families who also are in need will be receiving aid. And always, the desire of our hearts, and of yours, is that through all of this effort



there will be opportunities to share about the love of our Lord and His care.

In addition, we have taken aid for ministry to Goncharovsk and Smolin, in order to help people in that settlement, and in the village where we are establishing a church.

Thank you for your role in this ministry, which we are performing for our Lord. We pray for the Lord to bless your families.



Pray with us:

1. That we will be able to build relationships with the people who have received aid and witness to them of the Gospel.
2. Pray for the ministry, that God will draw saved ones to the church and give us strength and wisdom to serve Him in such a way that there will be good fruit.

With respect,
Igor Fomichov