



**The Yurchenkos  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report, 2018**

**January**

In Ukraine, Christmas is celebrated for practically all of January; therefore, for our puppet theater there was much work. In January we conducted many children's services, visited various orphanages, churches, and administrative buildings. Winter is sometimes snowy, so much so that on some roads you can't get through without human effort.



The trip to the city of Shpola had its obstacles. On the eve of our trip it snowed, and the roads weren't yet cleared. In a few places we had to push the van. Praise God, we had women with us. Without them, we could not have managed. 😊 Due to the road conditions, we were 90 minutes late, but the children waited for us. When it was all over, we decided that it was worth going. The administration of the orphanage-boarding school thanked us greatly for putting on

the puppet show, and for the fact that we drove such a long way for them. The kids were incredibly excited about the show and for the Christmas gifts that they received. We ourselves received much pleasure from this trip. Once again we had experienced the care of our Heavenly Father. He protected us along the way and blessed the ministry to children. How joyful they were, that someone remembered them and cared about them. For children, it's so important to get some attention and a little love. You, dear friends, are located a long distance from us, but you are hugging these kids through our hands. Helping and supporting our ministry, you are the love of Christ to all of us. Thank you hugely for your participation, your prayers!

Please pray for all the young orphans of Ukraine, for the kids who are deprived of parental love and devotion.



Pray for our ministry. Pray for Anatoly, who had an operation. Pray concerning transportation. We have an aged minibus, which constantly breaks down and is too small; so the puppet team barely fits aboard.

May the Lord bless you!

## February

For our family, February this year was special. My wife Alyona and I spent this month in the USA. As usual, we left before our daughter Darina's birthday. This doesn't please her very much, but we compensate this with gifts brought back from America, and that comforts her a little.

In another country, in theory, a person should be lonely and melancholy, but not in our case. Thanks to you, dear friends; we feel ourselves as if at home. As we visit churches, we meet people with whom we are acquainted—our friends, from whom we feel love, hospitality, friendship, and unity in Christ. Sometimes we meet various brothers and sisters for the first time, but they have the same kinds of souls, and it's as if we have known them all our lives.

We want to thank you, dear friends, for everything that you do for us, for your hospitality, your open hearts and your love. We thank the pastors of the churches for your support, prayers, and hospitality. For us, this is a huge blessing. Thank you very much! May the Lord bless you!

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister” Hebrews 6:10.

## March 2018

Not so very long ago, these places were quite full of people. They worked in various types of manufacturing, built homes, planted fields, and the schools and Kindergartens provided places where children's laughter was heard. As our saying goes, “Life was boiling.”

Nowadays these are deserted houses and shut-down manufacturing centers. Every day the population dwindles. The young people leave this land. The elderly live out their generation. Men and women sit idle without work to do... In order to pass the days away, they drink vodka, and many die. These are depressing places. This is 40-50 kilometers from the Chernobyl nuclear power station. But some people still live there, and they are in need of salvation in Christ Jesus.

We visited the school of the small town of Ivankov, which is situated to the north of Kiev and is located 40 kilometers from Chernobyl. Ten kilometers beyond begins the 30-km-radius Exclusion Zone around Chernobyl, where no one lives anymore. The population of this area relocated due to radiation. All around, trees and shrubs grow arbitrarily. This area is wild.

One brother appealed to us for help. Over the past several years he has been visiting this school and giving the children Bible lessons. The principal of the school is thankful to be receiving some sort of attention; therefore they received us in a very friendly way. There aren't a lot of children in the school, just a little over 80. These are the ones who parents don't possess the means to leave. A few years back, this same school had over 200 children enrolled.

As usual, we got acquainted with the children, played some games with them, sang some Christian children's songs, and then put on an Easter play with the puppet theater. The children were extremely attentive. They sat silently and listened. When we asked questions about the Bible, they answered with confidence. It was evident that someone spends time working with them and teaching them Bible truths.



For us, it was a joy to minister to such children, but at the same time it was kind of sad. Sad, because of thoughts concerning what lay in store for these children in such a depressed place. What can they learn when they constantly see drunken parents, and people who—trying to survive but having no jobs—engage in thievery, deception, and drink, drink, drink.

We can visit such children at least sometimes, bringing them some joy, and sparking in them a light of hope in Jesus Christ. And to pray, pray, and pray yet again for them.



I'm very thankful to you, dear friends, for the fact that we receive from you tremendous help, support that is both material and prayerful. A huge thank you to you for everything! Thanks to you, we can minister to these children here in Ukraine. May the Lord bless you!

Please pray concerning the children of Ukraine. Pray for the depressed regions and about the people living in them. Pray for our ministry to the children.

Sincerely yours,  
Vitaly Yurchenko