



## The Yurchenkos

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report, 2018

#### April

This month, the Lord gave us eight opportunities to hold evangelistic services with our puppet theater. We visited schools, children's homes, churches, and were even in a juvenile prison. Each time that we prepare for a trip, we are concerned and wonder, "How will this go? What is waiting for us? How will they receive us? In an age of modern technology and smart phones, is a puppet theater still worthwhile, or not?" Such are the questions that bother us.

We pray and, trusting the Lord, set out on the trip. After every service, we again and again



receive confirmation that this ministry is still effective today. When you look at the children and adults during a performance, you see in their eyes a living interest. They understand what we want to convey to them through these puppets. But the main thing is that, in this way, we are bringing to children and adults the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and this makes sense.

We weren't able to visit the children's home in Kopylova for the New Year. First they took all the children to a sanatorium for the whole month, and then the children were getting sick, so they quarantined them for about a month. This year about 80% of the workers

in that children's home have changed. They changed directors, and in general there were many obstacles. Only in this past month were we able to visit this home for children. About the only thing we recognized were the walls. Practically all the children were different ones. The majority of the previous children had been distributed to other children's homes, and families had adopted some. Only about five children whom we recognized were still there.

So we had to begin over again from the start, getting acquainted with the children, and starting the Bible lessons from the beginning. We put on an Easter performance for the children, and then played some games with them. Some of the children answered well the Bible questions we asked. They received prizes. That is how our first acquaintance with these new kids went. This is a big prayer request, to pray for the children in Kopylova and for the ministry to them.



In Chernigov we visited the women's prison. At first, it would seem inappropriate to show a puppet theater to adult women; they are not children. During the performance, I observed to see how these women, who had committed crimes, would react to a children's performance. I saw tears in their eyes. They watched as, in the play, a shepherd goes to look for his lost lamb, which

had fled from the flock and fell into the clutches of predatory animals. And when the shepherd finds it, then he gives himself to be eaten by predators instead of lamb, and frees the lamb. Then the rescued lamb returns to the flock, and all of the flock cries for the perished shepherd. But, what a miracle—the shepherd returns! He fought with the wild animals and conquered them! He's alive!

Probably, these women cried because they saw themselves in the place of that wandering lamb. They repent of their sins and crimes. Several of the women prayed the prayer of repentance. Some had already received Jesus Christ into their hearts and attend the prison church. They strongly urged us to come more often to preach the Word and instruct them in the faith. Please pray for these women, for their families, and for their salvation.

We were also in a children's home for kids with psychiatric problems and mentally retarded children in Potiivka. Last year we had a difficult

experience there. The children behaved as if not fully alive; they watched the performance without emotion, did not respond to any question, and didn't want to sing any songs. Complete indifference on their part. It was very difficult for our morale to be among those children. We prayed for them.

When we were invited back to that children's home, we were concerned and increased our prayers. We doubted whether it was worthwhile even to go there, based on our previous experience. After a few reflections and intensified prayers, we all decided to go to these children. It turned out to be a totally different experience. It was as if the children had been swapped for different ones. They smiled and were very active. They sang songs, responded to questions, and watched the puppet show with pleasure. We don't know what happened, but we believe that the Lord answered our prayers and can change everything. Praise the Lord for His blessings on our ministry! Pray, please, for these children.

We're very grateful to you, dear friends, for your prayers and your sacrifices! Thanks to you, God's work is being done in Ukraine! By your prayers, and thanks to your support, we have this puppet theater, and we have the opportunity to perform evangelistic ministry among children and adults. May the Lord bless you! Pray for us.



## May - June

The time for summer camps has arrived. Our puppet theater has been very much in demand. Many camps lie before us, but right from the beginning of the children's vacation time we have already performed for two camps and for Day of the Family, which was recently organized by a new church in our fellowship in Kriukovschina.

At the Pukhova church there was a children's camp in which Evgeny Buyko and his family served. Our puppet theater performed at the conclusion of this camp. We did a show about the Good Shepherd. There were a lot of children, plus a number of parents. We are very glad that we could minister to children, taking to them the Good News in this way.

In the village of Karashina, which isn't far from Sloboda, there was



also a children's camp, and we ministered to the kids of that village. In Karashina they already know us well. We've already taken the puppet theater to that village five times. We've developed a good relationship with the administration of the school there. They constantly invite us to various children's events.

In Kriukovschina, the church called "House of Peace" held a Family Day event. This church was recently established in a new region, and they opened a church building. Also, not long ago this young church joined our brotherhood of churches. We try to support them, as we are able. This region offers excellent potential. For the most part, young families live there. Now we are preparing a new show, particularly for children's camps. Pray for our ministry, that the Lord will bless us in this labor.

Thank you so much for your prayers and for the material aid. Thanks to you, God's work is being done here. May the Lord bless you!

Sincerely yours,  
Vitaly Yurchenko