



**Yurchenko
3rd Quarter, 2018**

July

Ministry in a camp for disabled children



Recently we were invited to take part in a ministry to disabled children. We took the puppet theater to this camp, where the kids were with their parents. I should mention that in our country few people give much care to people with disabilities. Society doesn't provide for them. They are in need of moral and spiritual support. In general, it's various volunteer organizations, churches, and missions that take upon themselves to care for such ones.

In this particular situation, one church with which we have friendly ties has a ministry to disabled kids. They bring them to worship services and holiday services and organize children's camps



for them. They invite us to minister to these kids through the puppet theater. We put on a show about the Good Shepherd. The kids listened and heard that Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd, that He loves them and cares about them. When one deaf-mute girl volunteered to glorify the Lord, we wondered how she would do it, because she does not hear or speak. When the music started, she "sang" with gestures. It was very touching.

Another girl was weeping after the show. When we asked her why, it turned out that she is simply starved for attention. Her nanny had spoken very rudely, and this really bothered her. We talked with her and prayed with her. We were once again convinced that these children need attention and care, that they are deprived of it.

Some new children went along with us. These are some who are interested in serving in the puppet theater. They are still learning how to do it, but they have a great desire to participate, which gives us joy. It means the ministry of the puppet theater will continue.

We also plan to perform in other places; we ask you to pray for these services.

Pray concerning the disabled children in our country, and in general for the ministry to these young ones. We are very thankful to you, dear friends, for your prayers and material support, and for your labor. This is a priceless investment in God's work in Ukraine. Thank you very much, and may the Lord bless you!

August 2018

This year, a team from the “Choose Life” project conducted the camp in Chervona Sloboda. Within our brotherhood, this youth project has already been working for several years and enjoys success because this program includes not only work with children, but also social ministry and work with youth.

As part of our preparations for this camp, we needed to prepare a place for the camp leaders to live while they were here. We thank Sam Slobodian and the BIEM ministry for their participation in the life of our church. On the second floor of our Sunday school we had planned on creating a room where people could sleep overnight, or for other needs of our church. BIEM assisted us financially, and we were able to furnish the space sufficiently so the team could sleep there. Of course, we weren't able to do everything we had planned, but it turned out well enough for overnighting. Thank you again for that aid.



After the “Choose Life” team arrived on Saturday, they walked through the village and dropped by every home, inviting children to the camp. On Sunday they took part in the worship service. They preached, shared testimonies, and glorified the Lord in song. The actual camp started on Monday. A few more children than usual showed up. Every day of camp, more than 30 kids came. For Chervona Sloboda, that was a big blessing.

As usual, the kids were kept busy with games, creating crafts with their hands, memorizing Bible verses, and listening to Bible lessons. During the camp, kids learned many Christian songs. Several parents came with their kids. We talked with them. After lunchtime, the team of leaders was busy with social service work. For instance, they beautified the church property and assisted some elderly people.

In the evenings, teens came. They played soccer and volleyball as a way of getting acquainted and spent time in conversation with them.

Sunday was the final day of camp. We invited everyone to church, where we put on a puppet show, “The Good Shepherd.” Unfortunately, not all of the children who had been in camp came for church. We pray for these children, and for their parents, and for the youth of Chervona Sloboda, asking that the Lord will send a spiritual awakening.

In recent days two women have begun to visit church services. One is named Larisa, and the other Lena. They are favorably inclined toward God. Pray for them.

We are thankful to the Lord for the camp we were able to hold. We thank you, dear friends, for your prayers and for your financial support. Thanks to you, we were able to hold this camp! Thank you very much, and may the Lord bless you!

September

Visiting the orphanage school in Mostysche



This orphanage school situated in the village of Mostysche in Kyiv sits on a large piece of property – five hectares. The school was built in Soviet times. The school has children with retarded mental development, children with disabilities. In Soviet times the government took care of the school's supplies. They did not need anything. Nowadays they face a constant struggle. There are some who want to close the school under various pretexts, but so far unsuccessfully, because there are other people who defend the rights of disabled children, and thanks to them the school continues to exist.

Ministering to these kids requires a special approach, a special program and conditions. In school, the children are taught not only literacy, but also various crafts. They are taught to embroider pictures with beads, to draw, sew, and work with wood. For this, the school has special facilities.

We met the

headmaster, who showed us samples of the children's work. Everything is very beautiful and done with talent.

Since government officials are not interested in the existence of this school, the budget allowed for it is very small. The school constantly is in need of subsidies. They don't have sufficient funds for materials for learning and also for handicrafts. They even go out walking to find old, unneeded boards and castoff materials in order to create something from them. There are people who sacrifice; as the saying goes, "The world is not without good people."

We put on a show for the children. They paid good attention and answered questions from the Bible. It's obvious that they hold Bible lessons there for the kids. During the show, one of our men talked with the director of the orphanage-school. At the end of their conversation, she suggested that she pray the prayer of repentance, and she did so, receiving Jesus into her heart. Praise the Lord! At the conclusion, we distributed small gifts to the children.

Please pray for this school, for the children and their teachers. Pray for our theater, that the Lord will continue to bless this ministry.

We are very grateful to you, dear friends, for your prayers and material support. Thanks to you, God's work is continuing here in Ukraine! May the Lord bless you!



September 2018, Part 2

This month we had a holiday in Chervona Sloboda: "Day of the Village." For this holiday they invited influential people from the village, the director of the alcohol distillery, businessmen, the mayors of other villages, the school principal, the director of the Kindergarten, the priest, and I was invited as pastor of our



church. A large program was prepared. Various amateur groups, a choir, a dance troupe, and others performed.

The first person invited to give a word of greeting was the director of the alcohol distillery, since this plant is the main source of income and work for the villagers. The director spoke a lot about the achievements of the plant, and then introduced the priest of the Orthodox church as his friend, saying that Father Bogdan (the name of the priest) takes care of our souls, and he invited people to attend the Orthodox church. At the end of the holiday, they gave Father Bogdan and me an opportunity to speak.

Father Bogdan called upon people to love one another. I greeted everyone and explained that tomorrow we would have another celebration in our church, a Day of Thanksgiving. I invited them to this holiday. I presented a picture to the village mayor, Valentina Nikolaevna, and commented on how Father Bogdan talked about love, but people have different definitions of love. God is love, and He defined love as recorded in 1 Corinthians 13. This definition is written in this beautiful picture. After that explanation, I handed the picture of the mayor of the village. The villagers remained to celebrate, and we went to prepare for the thanksgiving holiday in our church. After a long time of confrontation and rejection of us as a church, the village leadership and the alcohol distillery invited us to a public event for the first time, as representatives of the church. Praise God!



They have begun to take us into account, to recognize us. That means people will not fear us and be calling us a cult. Please pray that the Lord will bless our village, and that many people will receive salvation. Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom concerning how to evangelize wisely among these people.

The next day we celebrated Thanksgiving. We had guests from the church in the village of Gruzsky and the Stepanovich family from Fastiv. We enjoyed their singing, plus the testimony of their lives. Vadim himself writes songs, and the whole family sings them. In addition, the children

of the Sunday school prepared a small program for the holiday. It was a very blessed service. We all were glad.

I'm very thankful to you, dear friends, for your prayers and material support. Thanks to you, God's work is continuing in Ukraine.

May the Lord bless you!

Sincerely,

Vitaly Yurchenko