



The Yurchenkos

4th Quarter Report, 2018

October

Our puppet team from Chervona Sloboda joined with the group from Mt. Tabor Baptist Church and set out for the orphanage in Kopylova, which is about 20 kilometers away. When we arrived, the children were already waiting for us. While we got acquainted with the children, the puppet team set up their booth and prepared for their performance.

We showed the kids the story of the good shepherd and the disobedient sheep, which ran away from the fold and fell among wolves. The shepherd set out in search of the sheep, but in order to free it, the shepherd had to pay with his own life.



American guest MaryAnn told her testimony, about how she lost her sight when she was 5 years old. If not for the Lord, she has no idea how her life would be. But MaryAnn has been blind for many years and serves the Lord, has a job, and is happy in her marriage. This was a much-needed testimony for children who have no parents, or for those kids whose parents cannot take care of them due to alcoholism or addiction to narcotics. MaryAnn convinced the children that, with Jesus, we can overcome all of life's difficulties.

The children received gifts and chatted with the friends from America. A few days later, our puppet troupe traveled to the village of Bazar, which is 80 kilometers from Chernobyl. A public school had invited us. This made our second visit to that school.



The school's principal is favorably inclined toward the Gospel. She's very glad when we come to visit them. These people live in a so-called "place forgotten by God." It's an area where there is no work, a place that people leave in order to find a better life. Few desire to visit such places, but all the same, there are people dwelling there, primarily elderly people living out their lives. Yet, there are also families with children, and it was precisely to see these children that we traveled there. You can't imagine how glad they are for such visits. We suggested

that the kids pray aloud a prayer of repentance, repeating the words to the prayer. Who knows, what God is doing in these hearts? Perhaps it's even more than we can imagine. We use occasions to visit all places to which we are invited, but this is made possible thanks to your support and prayers.

Thank you very much for your sacrifices, for your involvement in the ministry in Ukraine. May the Lord bless you! Pray for our ministries, and for the orphan children, and for all the kids to whom we minister.

October (Part 2)

Our people are very religious and trusting, they easily trust the opinions of others and rarely check the accuracy of the information. This touches upon all spheres of life, be it business, politics, social, or religious. People have always followed the majority and supported the opinion of the majority. Living that way is simpler, since it's harder to swim against the current. The religious-Orthodox worldview prevails in our people, especially on the periphery. "So our grandfathers, and our fathers believed, and I will not betray our faith," Ukrainians usually respond to the gospel of the grace of God. It's hard to break the stereotypes and prevailing worldview of religious people, but the Word of God is powerful; therefore we have hope and believe that His Word will break the stronghold of prejudice, traditional religiosity, and human opinion.



When we invited the widows of Chervona Sloboda to our church for a special service, we were faced with various issues. Some said, "How can I go to your church if I am Orthodox?" Others said that they do not need anything from us. Someone else spread a scary story that it's not just a simple invitation, that when you go to the Baptists, they will start collecting 10% percent of your salary and pension. There were others who gladly accepted the invitation. Whatever the case,

out of 33 invited, 23 widows came for a time of fellowship, and this was the majority. The widows welcomed very well a group of Americans from Mount Tabor Baptist Church who came to minister to them in Ukraine. We sang together the great Christian hymn "How Great Thou Art." We sang in stanzas. The Americans would sing one stanza, and the Ukrainians the next stanza. Lastly we all sang together, and this united us.

With tears in their eyes, they listened to the testimony of MaryAnn, who at the age of 5 lost her sight. She inspired everyone with her conclusion that the difficulties of life can be overcome through faith in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Grubbs preached about joy, that we should always rejoice, with the Lord Jesus as the source of this joy.

The widows received bags of groceries, but they were



not physically able to carry them home. Therefore, Pastor Eugene and Pastor Igor drove everyone home in two vans. Several widows shared later that the fellowship had pleased them very much and that it had changed their opinions concerning our church. They decided that we are good people. They especially liked the Americans. We prayed for the widows, asking the Lord to save them. Please pray for them too.

I'm thankful to Mount Tabor Baptist Church for their visit to us. This was a marvelous time of fellowship. I'm also grateful to all the brothers and sisters who sacrifice and pray for us. Thanks to you, God's work is being done in Ukraine. May the Lord bless you!

November / December



The boarding school in Mostysche invited us to visit them with our puppet theater. We had already been there one time in September, and the Lord blessed that service. This time it was harder getting there, as snow was falling and the roads hadn't yet been plowed, but with God's help we arrived.

The children watched a presentation about friendship, and they enjoyed it very much. Although this is a school for children with learning disabilities, the children accepted it well, and for them it was perfectly understandable what we wanted them to grasp. We gave the children small gifts, and this brightened their mood even more.

Praise God, that some of the teachers in this school are believers. They work with these kids, so many of them know Bible stories and know how to pray. These children are very open and in need of special attention. They simply walk up to you, give a hug, and want to talk. For them, this is something very important and essential. Ministering to such kids, we ourselves experience a blessing. Our hearts fill with love and joy. Please pray for such children. There are many of them in Ukraine.

After the boarding school, we went to visit one sister who is disabled. As a result of a disease she lost one leg. This sister is very active. She serves at home with prayers. She prays for many needs. Our visit greatly encouraged her. She retold much of her life, and she also told of God's care for her.

God blessed us with opportunities to visit three other population centers as well. We went to two schools and to one church. We believe that the seed sown in children's hearts will in time bring forth the fruit of salvation for their souls.

Please pray for the ministry to children, and for the salvation of those children. For 2019 we have already planned many services. Pray for success and the Lord's blessing.

We thank you, dear friends, for your prayers and material support. Thanks to you, God's work is being done in Ukraine.

Sincerely yours,
Vitaly Yurchenko