



The Buykos

3rd Quarter Report, 2019

July



After the most recent camp in our church in Bilgorodka, there appeared in our services a family that I've already mentioned before: Sergei and Alyona and their two children, Makar (7) and Kamilla (4). After the camp they took an interest in the church and the Sunday school. Since then, they have been coming in order for their children to grow up in the church and learn to pray and hear the music. Makar is very restless, and when he was in camp last year, he listened to nobody. He wasn't interested in anything, and he made that clear with his facial expressions. Now he is friends with all the kids, and yesterday he prayed in Sunday school for the first time, although he was timid about it and at first didn't know how. He is already waiting for the next camp, and he promises to behave himself well this year. For now, he attends Sunday school, and he knows everyone.

Camilla really likes to sing and to play with the other children from the church. Their parents always play Christian songs at home, because the kids really like them. Sergei said he plays guitar, and now he plays during congregational singing. He takes a church guitar home with the chords in order to learn the songs. Alyona is very glad that he can play somewhere, and mostly that they both enjoy his ministry.

Alyona knows English well, and when Sam Slobodian was in Ukraine and visited us at our church Bible study, she interpreted for him. Last year at our camp she offered to help by doing face painting on the kids, because she is a professional makeup artist. She really likes the music ministry, and she wants for her kids always to be in church and to study music.

We ask you to pray for this young family, which wishes to be in church and to serve God.

Thank you for your support. Praise God!

August

Christ is 100%

From August 19 through 24, a children's camp was held in the town of Bilgorodka. Over 200 people participated in it. Jesus Christ is 100% trust and support, love and forgiveness, mercy and



sympathy, strength and steadfastness. These are the precise godly characteristics that we discussed daily in the Bible and music lessons, crafts, and during fellowship and sporting competitions. By the Lord's mercy, the number of campers attending has risen compared to previous years. And we can thankfully say we had 3 different facets of the camp. Day camp – this was a general camp for everyone and formed the basic program; evening camp had fellowship and sporting competitions with teens; and also 24-hour camp for our youth leaders forming Christian values and good works.

The road to camp

With each passing year, the number of campers grows larger and larger. The majority of the children come from non-Christian families. They pay close attention to all events and the smallest details of what is happening: group prayers, Bible lessons, singing, crafts, quests, lunch times and fellowship. After they go home, they tell all about it to their parents and friends.

Praise God, respect for the church is growing in the town of Bilogorodka. We can boldly affirm that, thanks to two sisters: 6-year-old Eve and 9-year-old Dasha. They came to camp on Tuesday, the second day and were put in my group. On Monday their father, Oleg, was helping in the public school, which was preparing for the beginning of the new school year. One of the teachers was talking about our camp! She advised that he take his children to it, since her son was attending it for his second year and was very happy with it.

Coming to us, Oleg Vladirovich inquired about what we believe, how the church conducts its worship services, and whether we celebrate Easter and Christmas. He brought his daughters earlier than everyone else in order to observe the life of the camp. Then he drove to check up on his ill mother—who can't rise from her bed—and tried to drive back in time to hear the Christian hymns, which all the children sang at the conclusion of the day.

On the final festive day, we had a charitable fair with the crafts that the children made during the camp. The proceeds from the sales went to buying pillows for an orphanage in western Ukraine. Oleg Vladimirovich was one of the few parents in camp. Out of gratitude he donated 20 dollars. For his family budget, that was a significant sum of money.

Seeds of God's Word

The third day of camp was dedicated to the topic of mercy. For the Bible lesson my group learned the story of the Good Samaritan. Over 30 kids ranging in age from 6 to 9 heard about the traveler who fell victim, and about the heartless priest and Levite, and also about the unselfish help of the Samaritan. We talked about the distance from Jerusalem to Jericho, about the location of this road, and about the relationship between the Hebrews and Samaritans, about the value of the oil and wine that were sacrificed for the sake of the injured man. In conclusion, we asked the question, "Who is for his neighbor? How do we react to the pain and suffering of those are near to us?"

Every lesson in the camp was important and applied to the church, to the leadership team, and also for to everyone who supported us. We all recognized that some listeners were hearing the Word of God for the first time.

I was really concerned about whether my kids would understand me. Were they listening, or were they daydreaming about something else as they sat quietly during the lesson? Would they take away any sort of lesson for their own lives? How my heart filled with gratitude to the Lord at the end of the day when 8-year-old Marina, who was in camp for the first time, stepped forward and related the lesson in detail to the whole camp.



“One man set off on a trip on a dangerous road. He had to walk 30 kilometers in the heat. Bandits attacked him and robbed him and beat him up. He was bleeding and couldn’t move. The first person to come and walk past the wounded traveler was a priest—and just imagine—he didn’t help! And then a Levite who works in a church also walked past. And only a simple Samaritan took pity on the wounded man. He didn’t regret using his own oil and wine to put on the wounds, and he also brought the man to the city and paid the innkeeper for his room and board and for his healing. I, too, want to be good, to help my parents at home and children in school. After all, Jesus Christ teaches to be merciful,” this little girl said with confidence.



What a joy it is to see children taking in the Word of God, letting it flow through their hearts, analyzing it and adapting their lives and actions by it.

Every day for five days we sowed seeds of Truth in these children’s hearts. And let us pray that they not perish, but that they will grow up and be strengthened in their young souls, and that in time they will bring forth the fruit of repentance, salvation, mercy and love toward others.

All of our team and the church thanks you for the prayerful support of this camp. We are grateful that the Word of God went forth and that hymns of praise were sung. We’re grateful that children from non-Christian homes heard about Christ and realized who they are in the eyes of God. And for parents who open their hearts. Praise and worship be to the Lord Jesus Christ for His amazing deeds and blessing.

September

Quite recently, our Bilogorodka church celebrated the Harvest Holiday. Praise God, the church auditorium was full of people who had come to thank God for all the gifts that He gives to us. The Sunday school children had prepared a program. The older group sang the song “I thank You,” and the younger children had learned two songs and a declamation consisting of Bible verses in which each of them was a fruit or vegetable created by God.

Following the service, we had a delicious dinner where the teens served very much. What’s interesting is that, on that day two teen girls came. They had begun attending this autumn after summer camp, and even three new ones came with them. These three girls had never been here before, not even for camp (although one of them is the sister of one girl who began coming after summer camp). Even though it was the first time these girls had come, they gladly helped with the dinner, serving tea, setting out food, and helping with cleanup.

For several weeks before Harvest some girls looked forward to helping in the preparations, and they brought from home baskets, and grapes, and even big watermelons, which the father of one girl (who had started coming after summer camp) delivered to the church by car.

The next week, in addition to the girls who normally come, these news girls came back, saying how much they had enjoyed it the first time. These girls are already 16, and they strongly exhibit the influence of this world, so we ask that you pray for them, that they will see the meaning of coming to church and won’t give in to the influence of those who speak against it.

Thank you for your support and for everything you do for us and our church! We ask that you pray for the teens in our church.

Praise God!
The Buyko family