



## The Fomichovs

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report, 2019

#### January



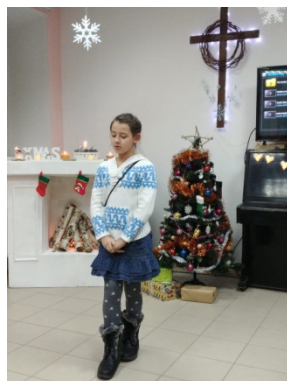
Dear brothers and sisters, I want to thank you for your role and aid in this ministry that we are doing in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We truly appreciate your involvement, and your prayerful support is so important for us. We are encouraged when we see that you are not indifferent concerning ministry for the Lord in Ukraine. And through you, the Lord again and again sheds his grace.

Once again, through the BIEM mission we have received aid from you to provide Christmas gifts for children. And in this way once more we testified to the children and their families concerning the birth of Christ the Savior. We held a holiday service for the children and dedicated it to the birth of Jesus Christ. We distributed gifts to the children. In addition, we distributed gifts to families that have many children. In the photo you can see the joy of this little girl.



The children were totally delighted, and we hope that throughout their lives they will remember Christmas, and how they received gifts from the church. We thank you for the chance to witness to people in this way about our Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, the children's joy cannot be put into words when they receive these gifts. After all, each one understands that, if someone loves you, they give something to you, and we always give with the words, "God loves you."

One girl had broken her leg, so we sent a gift to her. For her this was a great joy. We also sent gifts to other kids who were sick at home. This was a good testimony, both for the children and for their parents.



#### Inna, 10 years old

Inna is an amazing girl who, already at age 10, actively invites her classmates to Sunday school. For us, this is so good to see and hear. How wonderful when a young child tries so hard to get friends and acquaintances to visit the Sunday school.

### Pray for us:

1. For the children's ministry in our church.
2. That God will save these kids at a young age.

### February

#### *A servant of sin*

Dear friends, I'd like to request your prayers for a man named Slavik. I've known him for a very long time, since childhood. He has always been good and cordial, but he's had one vice: he loves to drink. People even gave him a nickname, "Fumes," because he always had the smell of alcohol on him.

It's hard for me to say how many years of his life he's given to drunkenness. He's been



drinking as far back as I recall. When I got older, more than once we drank alcoholic drinks in his home. He was always good and liked having guests.

People always used him, and many did evil to him. He's been close to death so many times that I can't recall them all. But a couple of those stories are very clear in my memory.

Several years ago, he and another young guy were kidnapped by gangsters and put in a basement where they were tortured. The criminals wanted to force them to take a loan, but they were miraculously found and rescued. After that, when

Slavik was sleeping, another guy wanted to smash him with an axe, but he miraculously woke up and dodged the ax. A few days later that man set Slavik's house on fire. His neighbors saved him. I could go on telling many more such stories from Slavik's life. But it is clear that for many years the Devil has tried to kill him, but the attempts were unsuccessful. God protected him and prolonged his days.

It was hard to enter into a serious conversation with him, because he was constantly drunk, and he wasn't ready for a serious talk. But as it turned out, one brother from our church happened to come across Slavik in a certain place and invited him to our church, and he came. He had an unpleasant odor about him, but all of us with one heart were glad at his coming. We began praying for Slavik, for we understood that he would be struggling with his weaknesses.

In the church there are various kinds of people, but everyone relates to Slavik with love and respect. He's already been visiting the church for over a month, and we see that he's going through a struggle. We talk with him. He clearly listens. In my last conversation with him he shared that, when he comes to church he feels better and his spirit is more peaceful. He shared that he has often had thoughts of suicide, and how such thoughts come spontaneously. We pray for him, and we ask that you pray that God will save and free him.

### **Pray with us:**

We ask that you pray with us for Slavik, who has been drinking for over 30 years and is now searching for an exit in God. We are praying that the Devil will not deceive and ruin him. We ask the Lord to glorify Himself through Slavik. He's the one sitting beside me in the photo.

### **March**

Dear brothers and sisters, I'd like to thank you for your prayers. You understand how important prayer is in that moment when you understand that there's a battle going on for a person's soul. And prayer is our weapon in this invisible struggle.

We constantly encounter opposition, which we see in our evangelism. We hear various criticisms of our faith and we must deal with the pressure that the world exerts on those people to whom we witness. The most complicated is when parents or brothers or sisters jump onto a person who is only beginning to draw near to Christ. In this situation prayer is our only weapon, and we are witnesses of how God breaks through that situation and people continue to go to church and learn about Christ despite the pressures others bring to bear on them. I want to share some stories in which we played roles.



A young woman named Anya went to my wife Sasha at her work to get a job. In time the two became friends and began to talk often. Sasha told her a lot about the Bible study group and about the church, sharing what we do. Anya became interested, and she said, "I want to go to church with you." We were very glad to hear this. The church really pleased her, and she began to attend not only Sunday services but also the Bible study group. She shared with her sister and mother that she'd been going to church. At first, they said nothing. But when they saw that she didn't stop attending, they began grumbling, trying to turn her against the church. They began applying pressure and telling her that there is absolutely no point going to church so often. They tried to pressure her through their relationships with Anya. In such a situation, it's difficult to give advice. After all, these are people who are very close to her.

We simply humbly prayed, and God answered. One time this mother came to visit her, and on Sunday Anya got up and prepared for church. The mother said, "You don't need to go. Stay with me. Nothing bad will happen if you miss church one time."

She replied, "Mama, this is very important to me."

And when she came to church, she retold how she had been in a struggle that morning about coming to church but had come to the decision that she would go no matter what so that her family would know how important church is to her. After that, the Sunday attacks did not cease. Rather, her older sister also got involved. But Anya continues attending church no matter what. And we understand that an invisible battle is being waged for the soul of each person. Our best defense is prayer. We know that Anya has begun her walk with Christ and is learning to pray and to read the Bible. Much waits for her ahead. We rejoice when she makes decisions for Christ.

## Vika

Her coming to church was partially connected to the fact that her child got sick, and she simply didn't know what to do and she saw no support. She had no idea where to go for help. At that moment, desperation led her to church. And she began to find comfort in God and in the church. She recently told me, "I see how prayers help."

This is how she phrased it according to her understanding. I told her that God hears our prayers. Because God is alive, He is changing her life, and it's not easy because many trials and difficulties have entered her life. But God is leading her, and we constantly pray for her family. Several months ago she needed to go to her mother's and began to live there. One time she came to Bible study very upset because her mother constantly drank and saw no problem with this. She didn't know what to do. We began to pray, and now Vika is overjoyed. Her mother stopped drinking and has not drunk for several months. God answers prayers in amazing ways. Vika said that her mother had changed dramatically, and I understood that God was working. I told her we needed to pray for her mother to come to Christ.

Pray for the ministry of our church, that the church will grow and that saved people will join it. Pray for God's wisdom and strength to serve these people.

Respectfully,

Igor Fomichov

