



## The Petrenkos

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report, 2019

#### April

Hello, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

This month God was so good and gracious to us. Let me share with you some of what He has done.

In the first place, God gave me an opportunity to attend an instructional time for floor-hockey trainers. This training took place in Bucha, near Kyiv, and this was a good chance to learn new skills and apply them to ministry. In the first place, it was a very good atmosphere, since the organizers and all the trainers are believers, and everyone works with various age groups and in various cities and towns of Ukraine. The training includes a three-day program in which there were both theory and practice. The theory portion touched upon training and how to minister to the children and share about Christ with them.



We learned about planning our training and weaving the Bible into it. There was also time when we learned through exercises, which develop various skills in the game. We were driven to the playoff of the Ukrainian floor hockey championship, and we had an interesting assignment—to analyze the game and the behavior of the players and coach. Afterward we left and went to another location, where we discussed what we'd seen. Each person shared what he'd noticed regarding the behavior of the players, of the referees, and of the general atmosphere in the gymnasium. What I particularly liked was that nearly all the coaches are believers and all of them have one goal—to tell others about Christ, and in order to do that, to use this tool that goes by the name “floor hockey.”

When I was driving home after this training time, all along the road I was thinking about how we sometimes dedicate so little time to our own children and personally witnessing to them about Christ. When I got home, I had a conversation with my eldest daughter, Rimma. We talked for a long while about Christ and about life, and at the end of our conversation I asked whether she would like to come to Christ. She said that she would, and she and I prayed to God. This was a cause of great joy in our family, to know that one of our daughters has already been saved by God. Please pray for Rimma, that God will help her to be faithful to God and for her spiritual growth.

This month we also celebrated Easter, the resurrection of Christ. In our culture, on this holiday practically everyone greets others with the words “Christ is risen!” and the reply is “He is risen indeed!” Unfortunately, this holiday isn’t actually precious; they don’t appreciate what Christ did on the Cross for our salvation. We had a holiday service with the participation of children. Each person there rejoiced and praised the Lord Jesus Christ.

After the ministry we as a church drove over to Smolin and prepared a meal, cooking outdoors under the open sky. We sang songs accompanied by guitar, and people walking past heard words about Christ in the songs. In general, we spent the day in praising God with the church.

Please pray with us concerning the following needs:

1. For Rimma
2. That God will bless our summer camp projects
3. For God to use our church for His praise and grow us in numbers and in spiritual growth.
4. To complete more quickly the process of bringing electricity to our building in Smolin.

Well, that is all we wanted to share with you, dear brothers and sisters.

## May

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Let me share with you how we spent last month. To start with, God answered our prayers, and in Smolin they have already connected the power. This was not a fast process, but the Lord had it fully under control. Also, in the process of getting the electricity turned on, God gave me opportunity to talk with the workers about Christ. One electrical worker rode in the car with me. God put on my heart to speak about Christ. I began to witness and to share about all that God has done in my life, and I told how God could give him salvation. He didn’t say anything contrary and said that he’d already met believers who talked about salvation. So I wasn’t the first to tell him about Christ. Pray that God will continue to work in this man’s life.

Also, another no less interesting event took place this month. Ira and Vika learned about a family in Goncharovsk that consists of a little girl, her great-grandmother, and the woman’s grandchildren. This is a problem family. The little girl wasn’t allowed into kindergarten because she has lice. Besides that, the family’s water was cut off due to lack of payment. Lena, the mother of this little girl, constantly drinks and periodically lives with a fellow who was in prison two times and periodically beats her.

Ira and Vika decided to help this little girl. They went to the pharmacy and bought a treatment to combat the lice. They also brought water and went to their home. It turned out that all of them living there were infested with lice. Ira and Vika declare they had never seen such a massive invasion. These people didn’t understand the reason that Ira and Vika were doing this for them. They asked how they could repay the favor. In reply, the women told them about Christ and said that it would be good for them to visit the church.

The next Sunday Lena came to church. In her drunken condition, she tried to make comments on the sermon. I tried



to explain that afterward she would have a chance to talk and to ask questions. She supposedly understood but at times forgot where she was and all the same attempted to offer comments. However, when the service ended, I went to her and asked what kinds of questions she had. She answered that everything was understandable. 😊 She has come to a service only that one time. Evidently that was just to say she had fulfilled her promise. Yet, she heard the Gospel, and God will work with her.

That's what we wanted to share with you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ! Please pray with us for the following needs:

1. For Lena's family.
2. For the building project in Smolin.
3. For the summer camp.
4. For the church in Goncharovsk to grow, both spiritually and in numbers.

Your brothers and sisters in the Lord in Goncharovsk.

## June

Hello, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ! We'd like to share with you some of the blessed moments that God allowed us to experience this month.

First of all, I'd like to tell about the children's camp that we hold every year, thanks to BIEM and thanks to the team that shares its time and energy. Observing how each year the camp in Goncharovsk goes, I see dynamic progress and growth. For instance, we see how the opponents of our having a club in the school are changing. There is one staunchly Orthodox teacher who, every year, would gather her children from our lessons and take them

somewhere else rather than let them stay with us. But this year she brought the children from her group and didn't lead any away. This is a true work of God in her. She had prevented them from hearing the Gospel. Also, in the past they requested that, when we speak of Christ, we not speak loudly with a loudspeaker. Yet, this year they let us use a microphone and big speaker, and nobody said a word against it. So not only did the children hear the Gospel, but so did the teachers and the people living in the nearest houses. Praise God for giving us such a time when we can be His tools for spreading the Gospel. In the camp in Goncharovsk we had about 150 children.

That wasn't the only camp this month. We had a chance to hold summer camps in Smolin on the property of



the house acquired by BIEM. This year there were many parents who brought their children every day. They thanked us for our care for their children and grandchildren, and also for the fact that we teach them right things. In general, it is remarkable that we have our own property where, independent of everyone else, we can hold different sorts of evangelistic meetings. We see how people gradually begin to relate favorably toward us and how God works in Smolin. Now is the time for sowing the Word of God, which we are doing. And in His time, God will give the increase.

That's how things went for us during this blessed month. Praise God for everything!

Please pray for the following needs:

1. For the remainder of the summer projects.
2. For Ira's health (stomach ulcer got worse).
3. For those people who have heard the Gospel.

That's all the news we wanted to share with you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord!

Sasha and Ira Petrenko