



The Petrenkos
4th Quarter Report, 2019

October

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

During this month we had the opportunity to labor for the Lord, and we'll share with you some of the things that happened in it.

This year turned out to be an unfavorable year for raising potatoes, and people ended up with very poor potato harvests. However, God did bless

our family this year with a special harvest, and for those around us this was a testimony that God cares for us in a special way. Therefore, this year we especially celebrated the Harvest holiday. Indeed, looking at the fruits that God gives, you understand, that everything depends on God, and you see in practice how God controls everything. We held a Harvest holiday celebration service together and thanked God for the fruits, and afterward the whole church held a banquet together.

Also this month, that the grandfather whom Ira and Vika had visited for several years went into eternity. Their final visit was in the hospital. He prayed with them, and today he is with the Lord. This, too, is fruit for the Lord. It's a difficult ministry that requires energy, time, patience, and perseverance. In the beginning Eugene rejected the idea of God's existence, but with each visit his attitude changed. Yes, such a ministry has meaning, since each person should have an opportunity to hear the Gospel.

This month we began a project for the youth. This youth fellowship happens after the Sunday service. At these youth functions we study the Bible together, sing together, fellowship, eat, and we play. To sum it up in one word, we spend time with them. And we hope that this ministry, too, will bring forth fruit. And that someone from the youth will be reconciled to the Lord.

So, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, that is all that we wanted to share with you. Please pray with us for the following needs:

1. For the Sunday school.
2. For the youth ministry.
3. For our church to grow, both spiritually and in numbers.
4. For the continuation of the ministry in Smolin.
5. For the ministries through floor hockey and cooking.



November

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

We'd like to share about how God has blessed during this month.



The floor hockey team and I had a very good opportunity to go to a Christian tournament and to spend two wonderful days there. For this tournament, 35 teams came from various parts of Ukraine. It was the first time we had been part of such a tournament, where there were more than 500 young players. These two days were very difficult for us physically, because my guys' team consisted of 6 people, and they all ended up having to play without substitutes, and this is

really hard, since the other players got rotated out every 3 minutes. It was easier for them to play.

But this is, after all, just a game, and the main goal is to use this game and these circumstances to personally fellowship with the guys and to have an opportunity to share about Christ with them. Plus, such trips give more opportunities to talk with them. In the evenings there were big evangelistic services for all the teams. There, both coaches and players attended. These were special meetings. The boys had never seen such a large number of youth gathered in a church. I can summarize in one sentence that this was a high-quality time for our team, and the boys are waiting impatiently for their second championship tournament of Ukraine.

In addition, God gives us opportunity to continue holding youth fellowships, and the kids happily come and listen to the Word of God and are open to fellowship. I don't know how long the opportunity to fellowship with them will last, but I am confident that, as long as God gives such opportunities, we must use them. Investing in youth, and not only in youth, is an important matter in which we are now involved. Analyzing life in Goncharovsk, I see such a picture: We take 10 kids. While they are going to school, they are here. But as soon as they finish school, they go away from Goncharovsk, and out of 10 young people only 1 will come back. And with that one we will continue to work. On one hand, this statistic is not exciting, but even if only one person repents, then it was worth it! We also pray now about establishing contacts with the parents and telling them about Christ and having a chance to share about faith in Christ with them. We are also conducting Bible study groups and Sunday services and of course the children's group and



the cooking outreach. All of this is possible, thanks to God and to you, our dear brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Please pray about the following needs:

1. That God will give us more opportunities to serve Him in Goncharvosk.
2. That God will work in those who have heard about Christ.
3. For the church to grow, both spiritually and numerically.
4. For our health. Winter is coming, and as usual many children and adults get sick.

That is all that I wanted to share with you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

December

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

So, we have come to the end of yet another year, and we are grateful to God for all the interesting moments in our life that remain in our memory. We are also grateful for YOU, that you have been with us in ministry throughout all of this year. God has done great things through our working with you, and this brings (and still will bring) glory to God! You know, it's really encouraging when you know that you're not laboring alone, but have a good team backing you up.

I'd like to share a couple of particularly interesting incidents of God's working in this past month. Recently, school principal Nina Ivanovna telephoned Ira and asked her to give her a massage. Ira did not really want to, as recently her joints have been hurting, but she told me the situation. I thought this could be a good opportunity to talk with Nina about Christ. So, Ira agreed and set off to give the massage. She returned home with sore arms but a smile on her face. Ira told how Nina Ivanovna listened attentively to everything Ira told her. A week later, the school held a meeting for parents. A lot of people came. At one point, Nina Ivanovna mentioned our church and the worship services we hold in Goncharovsk. God used this woman to provide a good advertisement about us. In this small town, she carries a lot of authority, and many people respect what she has to say. So, that's how it goes in life: God opens some sort of opportunity for us, and we don't understand right away how He will use that.

Also, our local military brigade is currently in the east of Ukraine. With them is brother Sasha from our Goncharovsk church. Not long ago, he came home on leave and attended the church and shared with us about the difficult circumstances there. He tells the soldiers about Christ, and some of these receive what he says. This, too, is a good example of how God uses each one of us for His own praise, regardless of where we are physically located.

So, that is some of what happened in this final month of the year. Thank you again for being with us in ministry in Goncharovsk!

Prayer requests:

1. For the Sunday school
2. For the floor hockey ministry
3. For the youth
4. For health of the children and us
5. For God to use each of us for His glory

Sasha Petrenko