



The Yurchenkos

1st Quarter Report, 2019

January



This year began with very active ministry to children. With our puppet theater, we held more than ten services in January. It wasn't easy, especially in winter. Our winter this year has been snowy and cold. Not all of the buildings where we held performances for children were well heated. Some were not heated at all due to a lack of funds. So sometimes our performers ended up having to put on the show without ever taking off their

warm winter outer clothing. Despite the difficulties, we managed to minister to children this month. It seems to me that children in general don't pay so much attention to difficulties as grownups. So, at each presentation many children attended. Several auditoriums were totally filled. In everything we saw God's hand, His help, his strengthening, and His guidance.



Each time when we start out for the next trip, we pray and, at the same time, we wonder "Are we doing the right thing? Is this actually ministry? Is this God's will?" And each time the Lord gives encouragement and shows that this ministry is needed. We see it in the children's



reactions. They watch our presentations with enjoyment. We see how they learn new Bible stories, learn how to pray, and sing Christian songs. But the most important thing is that children pray and receive Jesus into their hearts. Of course, we can't know how effective is their childlike faith, but we believe and pray that the seed of God's Word will bring forth its fruit in the lives of these children. Thus, over and over we see confirmation that ministry to children is very important and necessary.

We enjoyed a special blessing in the children's home in Kopylov. This particular home constantly has

a turnover of children because it plays the role of receiver-distributor. Every time we meet new children and make friends with them. Furthermore, in this children's home the leadership also constantly changes. In the past year they have had two changes of directors and several changes of workers and teachers. But, praise God, they are all very favorably inclined toward us, and we've never had any barriers to ministry from their side. Thanks to your donations, we were able to buy gifts for the children. And when we put on the Christmas show, the kids were pleased to receive a gift too. They were especially interested to learn that the gifts had come from friends in the USA. I believe the kids were pleased to hear that friends in far-away America think about them and care for them. This is also a good testimony for adults. When they hear that brothers and sisters from America not only care about believers in Ukraine but also help homeless children, this shows them the love of God.



Please pray for the children's ministry, for God's guidance in this ministry, and for the Lord to open more doors of opportunity for ministry. Pray for the children who hear the Word of God, that the Lord will bless the seeds of Truth sown in their young hearts.

Thank you very much, dear friends, for your help, support, and prayers! Thanks to you, God's work is being done here in Ukraine! May the Lord bless you!

February/March 2019



The past two months flew by very quickly for us. From February 7 through March 30, Alyona and I were in the USA. This was a marvelous, unforgettable time. Not so long ago at all it was difficult for us to travel and leave our children behind, since they weren't young adults as they now are. But last year we acquired the status of grandfather and grandmother. Now we have a granddaughter named Melissa.

During the time that we spent in the USA, we were never bored. We visited churches in Virginia, Indiana, and Florida. As always, people received us very kindly, and for us it's very enjoyable to see friends who pray for us and sacrifice for the sake of ministry in Ukraine. In the church in Coatsville, Indiana, where Pastor Kevin Gaugler serves, a brother named Eric donated funds so to get us a laptop computer for the puppet theater. We are very thankful to brother Eric for his gift. This is a huge asset for the children's ministry.

In Chicago we were guests of a couple named Bob and Millie Hill, along with Bob and Wanda and their sons. These are longtime friends who are very hospitable and self-sacrificing for the sake of the ministry. A big thanks goes to them for their loving and sacrificial hearts.

We visited a Christian charity called “Widow’s Jar.” They donated many items for Ukraine. These things were clothing and furniture. We loaded a whole trailer. All of this will go onto a container and will be sent to Ukraine as aid to churches and rehabilitation centers.



Other friends Chip and MaryAnn invited us to their home. We had met them when they visited Ukraine last autumn. They were part of the group from Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, led by Pastor Jason Grubbs with Sam and Amy Slobodian. Chip and MaryAnn are totally blind; yet they are very sacrificing people, and they happily serve the Lord. We very much enjoyed the meal they prepared.

Thank You, Lord, for such people.

Another wonderful surprise was meeting with Michael Fedynich. He is our old friend and partner. Michael is 89, but he is full of energy and constantly witnesses to people about Christ. Each day he visits worship services and various home groups. In the past 15 years, Michael has distributed 65,000 Christian tracts. Michael also gives much for ministries in Belarus. For us, he is a great example of a dedicated and God-loving Christian.



I am very thankful to you, dear friends, brothers and sisters, for your love, your sacrificial spirits, and for your prayers! Thanks to all of you, God’s ministry is being accomplished here in Ukraine! You are in our hearts. May the Lord bless you!

Sincerely yours,
Vitaly and Alyona Yurchenko