



The Buykos in Bilgorodka, Ukraine

4th Quarter Report, 2020

September

In this year, our church has experienced big blessings. The most precious of them was the baptism of new members of our church. On September 6, our church held a baptism. Our oldest daughter Angelica was baptized, as well as a married couple, Sergei and Alyona.

Sergei and Alyona first got acquainted with our church 2 years ago, at the time of the Christian children's camp. They had brought their children, Mark and Camilla, to it. At first, they associated with us with caution, as if studying us. After camp, they began to visit the Sunday services, and to bring the children to Sunday school. The Word was sown and began to grow with time. God drew this family to Himself. Praise and thanks be to God for the opportunity to hold camps and to acquaint people with Jesus.

All of the church rejoiced and thanked God for this wonderful moment, when new people join the church as members.



For our family, this was also a huge holiday. We are thankful to God that Angelica has been baptized. We thank all of you, dear friends, for your prayers for our church and our family! May God abundantly bless each of you!

We ask that you continue to pray for each one who has joined the church. Pray also for those who have heard His Word, that the Word that has been sown will bear fruit.

The Buyko family



October

I want to convey thankfulness on behalf of the orphanage in Velyko Polovyetskoye. They express great gratitude to the mission for the many years of friendship and support!

This year has been very difficult and unusual for everyone. Quarantine brought adjustments to people's normal lives. It has been especially hard for lonely people. In a marvelous way, the mission has cared for widows by means of food packages. And our church likewise has been blessed to have a part in this. Thank you for such an opportunity. The sisters of our church took part in putting together these food packages with joy and great pleasure. We prepared them for both the current and former staff members of the orphanage who are widows and widowers—30 packages.

When Eugene drove these to the orphanage, the doors were locked, not only because of the strict quarantine but also because they had people who were sick at that very moment. Therefore, Eugene met the director outdoors while observing all of the recommended measures (masks and gloves). People were so thankful that several got tears in their eyes. We also included a New Testament in each package. People expressed their thanks for the care and for the spiritual support. They couldn't believe that someone still cares about widows. And many of them couldn't afford such groceries as were in the sacks.

Thank you for enabling us to show care for widows and needy ones!



November

Although this year brought with it many limitations, nevertheless, new people came to the church, which is a great blessing! Due to the quarantine, we held our autumn Harvest holiday outdoors. Then we received representatives of the charitable foundation that our church helps, and with them came our contact person and her daughter. This was their first time in our church. The girl is basically a teen; she is 12 years old. Immediately after getting acquainted, she asked her mother if she could stay afterward and help us

after the meal. Ever since, that girl tries to come every Sunday (her mom drops her off, then drives away to run her errands, and later picks her up). She does her homework for Sunday school. That is, she reads the Bible and fellowships with everybody and isn't shy. She told us how at one time she had taken voice lessons, and we taught her a song, which she later sang in a service. She also took an active role in our Christmas play and those songs. We ask that you pray for this girl and for her family.

During this year, there were some changes in the Sunday school. Now we have, not two groups, but three: the youngest (preschoolers), the elementary schoolers (up to age 10), and the older group (11+ through teens). This is because it's easier for the children when they are divided up this way. The Sunday school teachers are still getting oriented to these age categories and the interests of each as they prepare their lessons.





Also, there's a new woman who has come to Bible study. This last summer, she and her husband moved onto the street where the church is located. They live several houses away from the church. All this time, they have "observed" us, as they expressed it, and eventually the wife came. She really liked it, and she promised to come again.

We ask that you pray for these new people, that the Word of God will touch them.

Thank you for all the help that you render for us.

Praise God!



December



Despite having such a hard year, we still have things for which to thank God. During the circumstances of the pandemic, the Lord has protected us, and people continued to seek and to find God. At least there was a period during the quarantine when we could hold camp, and a session in the seminary, and celebrate the Harvest holiday and Christmas. The Sunday school was also stable, along with the Bible studies. And in this year, we managed to gather gifts of groceries to give to widows and to those who had fallen ill with Covid. This year, we decided to hold a Christmas service, and we are thankful to the mission for the financial help for gifts for children.

The 2 oldest Sunday school groups took part in a play, which we wrote ourselves. The play portrays two families that are totally different. The first family is very secure, wealthy, and gives no thought to the meaning of Christmas as they are weighed down with the cares of this life. The second family is very humble. They rejoice at having a little Christmas tree and tea with cookies. Their

children read the Bible. When "Christmas carolers" (the younger children, who sang and recited Bible verses) come to visit the rich family, the mother in that family recalls her childhood and understands that they had totally forgotten what is truly important. They begin to sing Christmas songs along with the children and decide to take their expensive food to the poor neighbors—who are the second family. The children played their parts very well, and everyone really enjoyed the play, which shows the reality of this present world, its values, and that which we often forget, which is what is truly important.

There was much music, with instruments participating, songs, and children's Bible verses, and congregational singing.

The guitarists (we already have five of us!) who play congregational songs had learned many new carols, and we were able to play along with the whole church while praising God on this marvelous Christmas day.



We also introduced the charity called “A Place under the Sun—You’re not Alone.” They thanked us for support during the course of this year and for our charitable actions and help. They also thanked the BIEM mission, which provided big help.

Many elderly sisters wanted to take part in our church family meal, because in the homes of many families of unbelievers they don't have such a pleasant atmosphere. They enjoyed fellowshiping, helping, and taking part in such a time.



We thank you for your prayerful and financial support. Thanks to you, we have the opportunity to help and to serve! Praise God!

The Buyko family