



The Fomichovs in Desna, Ukraine 2nd Quarter Report 2020

April

Dear brothers and sisters,

I'm thankful to you for your prayers and your support. I want to share with you how we are living during this time, which is so difficult for all of the world. The quarantine has also touched us, and it has limited us in many ways. But we continue to serve the Lord and to share the Gospel. Right now, we have many blessings, and we as the church are united in prayer for people who need God's grace.

Wonderful are Your works, Lord.

This story began very recently. One brother from our church, Pavel, has often told me that he has a desire to minister to people who are addicted to alcohol and narcotics. He has boldly told many people about how God released him from addictions and how he himself had trod this very difficult road. For many years he had used drugs and was in a rehabilitation center. He grew up in the home of an [army] officer, and he himself had been an officer. However, he became a slave to sin, and God saved him out of that. He



and I have a mutual friend by the name of Sasha. With Pavel's help, Sasha went to a rehabilitation center, where he met the Lord. There, he felt his calling to serve the Lord, and he assisted in developing the center and acquired many skills, but most of all he has a heart that shines for our Lord. More than a month ago, Pavel was talking with me. He told how Sasha wants to come back to

Desna with his family and wants to work with people with addictions. He said Sasha wanted to meet with me and to talk.



Our meeting went very nicely. Sasha said that he is burning to serve the Lord, and told me about their plan, how Pavel was prepared to donate his old house for two years to be used as a rehabilitation center, if I endorse that idea. We prayed, and we came to the decision that we can try it. We had nothing to lose. I once again opened my

Bible to Isaiah 61:1-2, where I saw once again what is on the heart of our Lord and gave my okay. These two men and I began to pray even more earnestly. God's works are miraculous. In that old house we now have 9 men, and there we've begun a spiritual work. We are growing in it and are seeing blessings.

Each morning they have group Bible study, where Sasha and Pavel lead. Each day Sasha and I have a meeting. We talk a lot about the Lord and about His Word. Every week I hold a session with these men, and what's amazing is that we spend about 4 hours fellowshiping. They have so many questions. They have so many stories about how they suffered hurts on the path to the Lord. Each has his own fate and his own earthly path. I listen to them, and my heart breaks from pain and compassion. Each one had gone astray into sins. But God has revealed to them another pathway, and they still don't understand fully how to walk it, although all of them have the desire.

I ask you to pray with us for this ministry:

1. Pray for Sasha and his family, that God will raise them up as ministers, and that they will shine for God.
2. Pray for these men, that God will save and change their lives, that they will be able to walk in God's ways.
3. Pray for me, that God will give me wisdom in how to minister to these people. And mainly, that the Word which we preach will settle on their hearts and perform its work.

With respect,
Igor Fomichov

P.S. I'm thankful to you, that you always uplift us in prayers. I will keep you informed about all these blessings. May God bless you abundantly with blessings. And, seeing the time, we understand that God is working in His church, and we want to labor for Him all the more earnestly.

May

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)



Dear friends, I know that you are not indifferent concerning God's work, and you earnestly pray for the ministry in Desna. We are very grateful to you for this. We ask that you continue to uphold us in prayer. Right now, we are having many conversations with people as we tell them the Gospel. We pray to God that He will save these people. Now, using the opportunities provided us by God, we are telling about Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Now God has given us the opportunity to preach and to admonish people who are perishing in sins and cannot find a way out but request help from us. We pray for their salvation and feel the weight of this struggle for the souls of people. It's so painful to watch how people are falling into disastrous habits and cannot break out of this vicious circle.

Dima, age 14

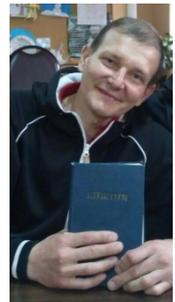
One brother invited Dima to come to church. When he spent a night at the rehabilitation center, they suggested he stay with them. He agreed, because not everything was good at his home. According to those who know him, his mother is a narcotics dealer, and he fend for himself. The street teaches him how to be a criminal. Here, he listens to preaching and learns how to pray. He is involved in working, and he comes to church. We can see how God is touching him. He goes strolling with believers and the teens who come to church and fellowships with them.



It's evident that this fellow isn't guilty of anything; he just was born into such a family where sin destroys everything. He hates his father, and all of us try to teach him and to show him that God loves him and is our genuine Father. He has begun to read the Bible and to pray, and he listens to what we say to him. The teens tell me that he repeats the sermons that he hears me give during services at the rehabilitation center. I'm not surprised that he doesn't want to go home. Little of what waits for him there is good. We can tell that his mother sees how his fellowshipping with believers is beneficial to him, and how he is glad; she realizes that prison was waiting for him. But with God, he can have a different life. Pray for Dima and for his mom, that she will also come to God.

Slavik

A godly heart hurts for people because it understands that, if they don't believe in Jesus Christ, then after their death eternal punishment awaits them. And then here comes Slavik. After serving a term of punishment in prison, where he suffered much, he has reconsidered his life and understood that if he doesn't change his lifestyle he will perish. He doesn't want that, but on his own he can't change, and this is once more confirmation that we cannot save ourselves. So, we invited him to a church service and are trying to persuade him to live at the rehab center, because as it is now, he won't grow stronger and won't become established in the Lord. God has knocked many times at Slavik's heart, and many times he has not responded to God. We are praying that God will give him a sincere repentance and will save him through faith.



Oleg



This man has had such a hard road in life. His mother rejected him, and he grew up as an orphan who received his education from the streets. He did a lot of things in life; throughout his whole life he was betrayed and cast off, and this left wounds that no one can heal except God. We talk with him a lot and discuss how he should live in this world and how he can receive healing from the wounds that this sinful world gave him. And it is evident how God heals him. He found a job and has stopped sinning. God is changing and nurturing him. He is eager and wants to be at church services. Even when he gets a shift on a day when there is a service, he requests for someone to replace him. I see how our church participates in such a ministry of evangelism and discipleship work. I see that this is hard work, but I want it all to be for the glory of our Lord.

Pray for us that God would give us wisdom and fire to preach Christ crucified.

June

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15)



Many of my friends saw my past life as if I had two possible roads. One road led to prison, and the second road to death. It was hard for them to picture any other outcome. That was because we spent a lot of time on the streets, and the street taught us all and filled our lives with criminality. It taught us various sins. Today, I'd like to witness to you about the power of our Lord, and about how He glorifies His name. I want to tell about how God is saving people.

I've been friends with Sasha for a long time. When he was a little boy, he always hung around the older kids, and like a sponge he soaked up various kinds of dirt. And I played no small role in his upbringing. Other than a sinful way of life, I had nothing to offer him. We hung out a lot, and there were even times when I lived at his house and hid from the police. Well, God showed me His mercy and saved me, and when I openly witnessed of my faith, Sasha thought and said that I had gone out of my mind. Time passed. I matured, and by my faith it was evident that God had changed me and my life for the better, but he slid toward the abyss.

Sasha married, but that didn't save him from drugs and alcohol. He sank deeper and deeper into sin. We often witnessed to him and invited him to services. He would say that he'd come, but didn't. The sinful way of life doesn't make life happy. Sin destroys it. So it was with Sasha and Natasha. They divorced, and each of them continued sliding toward destruction with great speed. Their lives were so ruined, that it was difficult to believe that they could be changed. But God began to knock at Sasha's door. I'm convinced that the prayers of his mother and his believing friends were not in vain. God, in His mercy, saved him.

Sasha went to the rehabilitation center and was strengthened in the Lord. It was hard for us to believe in the sincerity of Sasha's repentance, because we had doubts. But we began to see how God was working in his former wife, Natasha. For us, it became evident that God had saved Sasha, because she knew him better than anyone, and for her his coming to God was a testimony. She, too, went to the rehabilitation center, was reconciled with the Lord, and began to grow. They were officially divorced, and had been so for a long time. But after their sincere coming to God, He began to restore what sin had ruined.

They remarried, and God gave them a daughter. They're now a happy family in the Lord. When you look at their family and consider what they have gone through, you know that what seems impossible is possible for God. They've decided to serve God, helping people who, like themselves, have been beat up by sin. Sasha and Natasha returned to Desna and declared their wish to be members of our church and to get involved in our ministry for people addicted to drugs and alcohol. Knowing how their lives were before they came to God, we see praise to God in their story. Only He could change these people. For Desna, this is yet another clear testimony for God's glory.

Pray with us for Sasha and Natasha, that they will grow strong in the Lord and can be good testimonies for those around them.

With respect,
Igor Fomichov