



## The Petrenkos in Goncharovsk, Ukraine

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report, 2020

#### July

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

This was a good month. The Lord led us to enlarge the meeting room in the church since in its condition there was very little room, and we experienced discomfort. To enlarge the room, we took out walls. To help us, Zhenya Buyko and his family came, as well as Igor Fomichov, Lyosha Savchuk and his family, and the family of Sasha in Goncharovsk. Generally speaking, we had a serious team that worked for the Lord. Once we took out some walls, the meeting room became much larger and could fit more people.

We had planned to heat the stove this year, but when Zhenya dismantled the wall, he found that the inside of the stove was damaged. If we had tried to use it, the house could've caught fire at any moment, and we would be without a church. Thank God that did not happen!

Zhenya also brought us wiring that had been received from the United States, and they are also blessings for us. We can use them for the prayer house.

It was also a blessing for the church and for me personally when Zhenya invited me to participate in an evening service at the Temple of Salvation church and to present the ministry in Goncharovsk and Smolin. This was a blessed time for us, when we could share information about our ministry, which we are doing thanks to the BIEM mission. There were many who walked up afterward and told us that our ministry had encouraged them and that they would pray for the ministries in Goncharovsk and Smolin. The Nazarenko family invited us to their home. Zhenya and the Nazarenkos received us very warmly, and we had supper together and enjoyed good fellowship. The kids who came with me also liked it very much.

Those are the kinds of blessings we had this month. Please pray for these needs:

1. For summer camp.
2. For Smolin.
3. For health, and that God will continue to protect us and the church.



## August

Hello, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord!

We'd like to share with you some of the blessed moments we've experienced in this month.

With God's help, this month we held a tent youth camp on the bank of the Desna River.

There were a great many people who wanted to come to this camp. We opened the registration process well in advance, and we had to close the registration much earlier than usual due to the large number of those desiring to come. When I held a meeting for the parents, those parents asked if we could also accept the children of their acquaintances since they wanted to join us.



We had a good camp this year. The children heard about Christ, and we distributed Bibles. On the second day of camp, I received a call from Vitaly Nikolaevich, our mayor. He said that he wanted to visit our camp along with the deputies in order to see it and to talk. Two hours later, they arrived and brought gifts for the children. I introduced them to the children. We all chatted, and they liked it very much. For both us and for the parents, it was a shock that the local authorities set aside time for their children. Then I took a walk with those visitors, and Vitaly Nikolaevich said that he would like for me to

become one of the deputies in Goncharovsk. I thought and prayed about it, but somehow this idea didn't appeal to me even though it was nice that they see our work for the Lord and see that we are adequate people, and they want to see such ones in positions of leadership in our Goncharovsk society. I wasn't sure this was for me, so I went to the mayor and told him that I wouldn't be running for office. He replied that he was sorry to hear it; he wanted to see me on his team.

I left there and drove to the church in Smolin. The mayor of Smolin showed up and said he'd like to speak with me. He tried to persuade me to agree to run. They had been observing me for some time and saw that I'm a capable fellow with whom it is pleasant to work, a person who does good things for people.

Praise God for making our labors visible to people. Briefly, I discussed the matter with the brothers and decided to continue praying about it. If God wants me to get involved in that way, then I will.

Also, God blessed us in running the children's camp in Goncharovsk. This, too, was spontaneous, since before this Vitaly Nikolaevich didn't recommend holding camps due to the quarantine. I decided to inquire to ask again, and if they didn't agree, then we wouldn't hold one. But he said we could go ahead and hold a camp.





On the first day, sanitary inspectors came to see the kindergarten and school. Since our day camp was on the school property, they walked past but turned their attention on us. A couple minutes later, the school administration phoned me and asked that all of the children wear masks. I drove to the pharmacy and bought masks for everyone. The kids put them on, and when the inspectors walked by later, they noticed that the kids were already wearing masks. So, they had no more objections for us.

In Goncharovsk we also had an opportunity to distribute children's Bibles, for which we express a separate thank you! God led us to hold a camp in Smolin. The children there always



impatiently wait for this day camp, and with God's help we had one. The parents brought their children and grandchildren, asked what time to pick them up, and then walked away. ☺ With each year, we see how much more the local parents trust us, and of course this is a big plus.

In Smolin, next to the church building lives a family, and their daughter Anya was in our tent camp. When she learned that we will hold a children's camp in Smolin, she wanted to help. Praise God for the opportunity to serve Him in Goncharovsk and in Smolin, and

every year He broadens our opportunities so that still more people will hear about Christ.

This is the blessed month we had. Please pray for these needs:

1. For the construction work on the building in Smolin.
2. For our health.
3. For those children and adults who heard about Christ.

Thank you, dear brothers and sisters, for being involved in our mutual ministry for the Lord!

## September

We greet you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ!

We would like to share with you some of the things we have experienced this past month. You have prayed with us concerning the construction work on the prayer house in Smolin, and God has indeed blessed. Thanks to our combined prayers and your financial aid, we have been able to

complete the most vital portion of any construction job—the foundation. God helped us to lay down a solid foundation. The workers who toiled on this phase of the job did a great job. And, praise God, I had an opportunity to talk with them about God.

It was funny to observe the people who were walking or driving past when they would stop and stare with great interest as they wondered what sort of building this would be. Some of them approached us and asked what we were building. Word of the construction spread quickly around Smolin, and not only in Smolin, but also to other nearby population centers.



At the time when we began digging to put in a new foundation, the old building cracked. As it turned out, the old house had no foundation, so it had to be dismantled, because it could collapse and injure somebody.

The mayor of Smolin also came and told me that an Orthodox priest had visited him and asked what we were building. 😊

Once again, we thank you for your involvement. We ask you to pray that God bless and provide finances for the further stage of the construction of the prayer house in Smolin.

Sasha Petrenko