



The Yurchenkos in Ukraine

1st Quarter Report, 2020

January



Dear brothers and sisters, BIEM staff, and everyone who prays for us and supports us! Happy 2020 New Year and Merry Christmas!

I'm very thankful to you, dear friends, for your faithfulness and for the fact that, over the course of many years, you remain faithful partners and remain a big blessing to us. Thank you!

The past year was filled with blessings. We rejoiced for God's guidance in our lives, for His support, and His grace in Christ Jesus.

The new year has begun, and it has

likewise begun with the Lord's blessings and in active ministry to the Lord. This year we celebrated Christmas in our little local church in Chervona Sloboda. This time, all of my large family came with me. I am very thankful to the Lord for my family, for their love and support in the ministry in Chervona Sloboda. For many years they bless me, pray for us, and support our ministry. For Christmas, our whole family walked from house to house singing Christmas carols and sharing the Word of God with people. The neighbors really rejoice at this, and each year they wait for us. But unfortunately, so far they have not come to God. We pray for them and, if possible, please pray with us for the salvation of our neighbors. Thanks to the fact that everyone in our family is a musician or a choir member, it's easier for us to sing. So, we use opportunities to give people the Gospel through songs.



We also put on some Christmas presentations for local children. Children came from the Kindergarten and the school to watch. Several children even recited Christmas verses and received prizes. All the kids received prizes. We invited the children to visit our Sunday school. On the next

Sunday, two children came. In recent times, children don't want to come to Sunday school, which is very sad. Please pray for the children, that more of them will desire to come to church.

We are thankful for your help with acquiring microphones for the puppet theater. The presentations have become much better with them. Now the large puppets can move freely and be well heard. Brother Anatoly and sister Luda extend warm greetings and their gratitude for the microphones. This is something they have prayed about for a long time, and through you the Lord fulfilled that need. Thank you very much! We now use the mics in the ministry in the church, too, and this is also a blessing for the church. Now the preacher and the singers are heard better.

May the Lord bless you, dear friends, and provide your every need!



February



Hello, dear friends, brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus! Thank you very much for your prayers and your support! Thanks to you, we are continuing the ministry to children, and thanks to your support, we can not only minister to them, but also give the kids Christmas gifts. For them, this is a great joy and blessing. So, we are forwarding to you these children's greetings and gratitude!

We visited the orphanage in Kopylov. There, in the past several months, the leadership has changed, including the director. They're already on their third director for the year, and some of their staff members have changed too. At this orphanage, we often need to stop and get acquainted with the new leadership. The children constantly change. Some kids get adopted by families; others get sent to different children's homes. It's hard to hold lessons for the kids, because the constant turnover. Over the course of six months, one hundred percent of the children have changed. There's a team of Christian teachers who regularly go to this children's home. We fill in for them when they can't go, or else we hold a separate program for the children.

We arrived with the puppet theater and your gifts. At the current time, the kids in this home are very difficult. It's hard to capture their attention. They're always getting distracted and running around. The staff can't do anything with them. They say that, in the entire history of this children's home, these are the very hardest children to work with. During the show, two girls even broke into a fight. After the presentation, sister Ludmila walked over to one of these girls and got acquainted with her. The girl's name is Liza. Ludmila managed to draw Liza into a conversation. Liza shared her life's story, about how she does have parents, but they hardly pay her any attention and she

isn't receiving parental warmth and care. She is very hurt and angry at her parents. By the end of their conversation, Liza had tears in her eyes and accepted Jesus as her Savior. Praise the Lord! Now Ludmila visits Liza and is mentoring her in the faith. Please pray for Liza and for the other children in this home, that they will be saved.

Dear friends, I am very thankful to you for everything that you do for us. Thanks to you, God's work is being done in Ukraine! Thank you, and may the Lord bless you!

March

Hello, dear friends!

As usual, my wife Olena and I have spent a month in the USA. During this time, we visited churches in Georgia, Illinois, and Indiana. These were wonderful visits with blessed services. Thank for hearing our testimonies, listening to our singing, watching our slide presentation with interest ☺, and for attentively listening to my preaching. You cannot imagine the blessing we received from these services. Thank you so much!

We also visited the missionary warehouse called "Widow's Jar," where we received many various items for the next container shipment to Ukraine. In addition, we selected a number of items for ourselves personally, for which we are very thankful. We had wondrous fellowship with the volunteers. We met some marvelous people, who are sacrificial and ready for every good work. I told them about how I came to the Lord, and then Alena and I sang in Russian. It was a special blessing to sing with them "Amazing Grace" («О благодать, спасен Тобой»). Thank you for the coffee and tasty donuts. We took away good impressions and warm memories from this meeting.

Thanks to modern technology, we had daily video contact with our children and especially with our granddaughter Melissa, who is growing quickly and never ceases to bring us joy.

For many years of trips to the USA, we have grown accustomed to your hospitality, your friendliness, attention, and care for us. We always feel at home. It's always very nice to see you, to return to you, and to see your faces and smiles. Thank you very much for your prayers, for your donations, for your help, for your open and loving hearts, for your hospitality, and friendship! May the Lord bless you! Lord willing, we will see you again next year. We love you!

Sincerely,

Vitaly and Olena Yurchenko

