



The Buykos in Bilgorodka, Ukraine

2nd Quarter Report, 2021

April

This past year has, without a doubt, been difficult in multiple ways, including the social aspects. Last month in Kyiv there was a strict quarantine, and public transportation didn't run. (More specifically, only special workers were allowed to board with special work permits.) But praise God, we managed to accomplish much of what we had planned to do.

For a long time, Americans have not been able to visit us, so we are glad that this month some were able to come despite this situation in the world, which has complicated normal flights. And, thanks to the strict quarantine and social distancing, I was able to visit the lectures in the Kyiv seminary and to listen to various preachers, including the Americans. This was an excellent opportunity to soak up information, to learn more about the Word of God, and of course to practice English.

The Sunday service in Bilgorodka was full of musical ministry. Sam Slobodian played on his trumpet, both solo and along with other musicians.



We are glad that we could glorify God together and to listen to marvelous trumpet playing. This is greatly encouraging. Also, this visit by Americans presented me with a new experience—my first time to interpret a sermon. I'm thankful to God for such an opportunity, to gain experience at services and to increase my understanding. And thanks go to Pastor Kevin Gaugler, of course, who decided to take a risk and allowed me to interpret for him.

The auditorium was full. There were guests, seminary student friends from various cities, plus people from other churches.



Everyone enjoyed both the musical ministry and the preaching. People are glad for the chance to come to church and to be filled by the preaching of God's Word.
Praise God for the successful visit by our American friends and for ministry!



May

Praise the Lord for his love and mercy to us! Despite the quarantine and severe restrictions, people want fellowship with one another and most importantly, they seek fellowship with Him!

Once again, we held a fellowship meeting for women, and praise Him for it! Such fellowship times unite all of us who are of various ages and different characters. But God could unite us through His love, and for this we give enormous thanks to Him!



We have one other blessing. The family who began attending in winter (we wrote about them) also comes to the Bible studies (each Tuesday in the church) and actively participates. At one of the studies, a question arose concerning members of the church and people who simply attend. This matter greatly touched this family. They posed many questions, and it was evident that they had been thinking on these things. After that study, sister Tamara declared that she no longer wanted to be simply a parishioner—an “attender.” She really wanted to become a member of our church. Zhenya spent a long time in conversation with this family. That Sunday, Sam Slobodian and Kevin Gaugler were in our service, and some of the seminary students. This woman walked

forward in front of everyone and openly said that she desires to become a member of our church. Her husband always visits services with her, but he has not yet accepted Christ. All the church was very glad to receive Tamara into church membership. (Nearly a year ago, this family moved to Bilogorodka from another city, and now they live three houses away from the church. Tamara accepted Christ a long time ago and had been searching for a church where she could always be in fellowship.) For our church family, this was a big holiday. We ask that you pray for her husband. Pray that he, too, will receive the Lord as his Savior. He has heard much about Him.

We also ask that you continue praying for our sister Paulina (who lives next door to the church). She is unable to recover from a stroke.

We thank you, dear friends, for always supporting us with your prayers. Praise God for you.

The Buyko family

June

Praise God for Trinity holiday, which went smoothly. The children's group prepared their participation: singing and recited verses. A boy from the older group prepared an accordion number to share. Recently a young couple began to visit our services, and the young man also participated. He praised God by singing and playing his guitar, and he also preached.

The main event of this holiday service was the appearance of sister Paulina, for whom we have requested prayer. This sister is 84 years old, and she has problems with her heart. Not long ago, she suffered a stroke. Now she's in a wheelchair. On Trinity Sunday she amazed the whole church by showing up. Her daughter and son-in-law and their daughter brought her to church. Previously, her family had come only for our concerts. This was their first time to come to a church service without a concert. All of them not only



sang songs during congregational singing but also listened attentively to the sermons and fellowshiped with everyone.

On the second day of Trinity, we also had a service plus a church picnic to which that whole family again came. After the service, they stayed for the picnic, and Paulina's son-in-law helped to grill the meat. Meanwhile, Paulina's daughter and granddaughter sat beside her and talked with other women of

the church. Everyone was glad to see their family in church, since we had prayed for them for a long while.

Sister Paulina wishes to be baptized despite her frail health. She poses many questions and constantly speaks about it.

We request prayer for Paulina, for her health and for her spiritual condition, and that her heart's desire to be baptized will take place. We also ask that you pray for her family, that the Word that has been sown in their hearts will bear fruit and that they will continue to come to church.

Praise God for everything!
The Buyko family

