



## **The Petrenkos in Goncharovsk & Smolin, Ukraine**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report, 2021**

#### **April**

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ! Let us share with you some of the blessed moments that God has permitted us to experience in this month!

First, let me say how, every day, I see how God works His plan in Smolin, for which praise goes to Him! I wrote to you about Tolik, who comes to our services with his son. God gave an opportunity to fellowship with him personally and, most importantly, to speak with him about his future. I asked Tolik where he would go when he dies. He responded, "I don't know." I talked with him for a long while about eternal life, about Christ, and about repentance. I suggested that he reconcile with the Lord, and he replied that he would like to do that. He and I prayed, and then, as they say, we gained a new brother in Christ! Tolik has a very difficult life. He is rearing his son with his common-law wife. She doesn't work, and Tolik catches fish at night using a net, as in New Testament times. But in our country, this is not legal and is punishable. I talked with Tolik about this, and he must somehow earn money, but in Smolin there is a lack of jobs, just as in most Ukrainian villages. Sometime after our conversation, when he was doing his nighttime fishing, the fishing inspectors and police caught him at it. There will be a trial, but what the outcome will be is unknown. Please pray about this situation, that God will help Tolik and give him wisdom. After these events, he came to the church construction site to help work, and this is a great blessing for him. We will see whether Tolik will be steadfast in this situation and whether he will trust in God's working in everything.

Also this month, there was another fellow, a young man named Sasha, who has problems with alcohol. He asked for a ride to church. I picked him up, and at the end of the service, when we gave the invitation to repent, Sasha walked forward and said that he would like to pray and be reconciled with the Lord. He, too, has a complicated life. His wife divorced him because of his alcoholism. He has three children, who live with his former wife. Sasha is desperate, seeing the direction he's been going and that every day his life draws closer to destruction. He wants to change. Pray for him.

That is all the news we have to share. Please pray for the following needs:

1. For Tolik and his spiritual growth and that God will give him wisdom and trust in Him.
2. For Sasha and his walk with the Lord, that the Lord will give him strength to resist sin.
3. Concerning the construction of the church building.

Thank you for your participation in ministry for the Lord!

## May

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ! Let me share with you some of the blessings that God has allowed us to experience in this month.

With your assistance, God enabled us to buy packages of food and to visit families who need assistance. I took a list of such people, and we began driving to visit each of them. These were various types of people. Some have disabilities, or they are simply poor people, and some are elderly.

We went to one home where their son, Lyosha, has been disabled from childhood. He is always in bed. We stood there knocking at their door for a long time, and no one opened the door. We were ready to walk away, but, praise God, the father in the family opened the door. We introduced ourselves and said that we would like to pay a visit to their son and get acquainted with them. Lyosha does not speak. Only from time to time does he say one word, "Yes."

We gave a New Testament to the father and explained to him the Good News. When we left, we bumped into the Ira, the boy's mother. When she saw us, she began to cry. We also had the chance to chat with her, for which we praise God! A couple of days later, Ira was talking with one of her acquaintances and told her that we had come to their home and talked to them about God. That acquaintance was quite amazed that they had let us in since these people don't allow anyone into their home and don't want Lyosha to see anyone. This is their pain, and their conclusion is that their lives have turned out this way because their parents had been against their wedding.

In addition, we were in many homes where they were glad to see us and to hear the Gospel. We invited people to church, and one grandmother whom we visited did come to church after this project. Praise God!

This month we poured the cement floor in the prayer house in Smolin, and now we hold services in the auditorium of the prayer house, since it gets extremely hot (107°) in the tent. We don't cease from rejoicing at the opportunity that God has given us to gather inside the prayer house in Smolin. Each of us sees how God loves us and has given us the opportunity to meet in such a prayer house.

Work continues, and the prayer house is taking shape. Praise God, we have such a large family that is concerned and wants Smolin to have a church and that people will find salvation there.

And there is another bit of news. I had asked you to pray for Tolik. He had a trial, and he received a one-year conditional sentence, and if he does anything illegal in this time, then they will lock him in prison. It is good that things have turned out this way, and for Tolik it's a good lesson.

That is how our month was. Thank you for praying and being concerned for our ministry.

Pray for the following needs:

1. That the new church building in Smolin will continue to take shape and that God will fill it with new people.
2. For Tolik, that God will work in him and spiritually mature him.
3. For the summer camps.

## June

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

We'd like to share with you some of the moments that the Lord has led us to experience in this month.

Praise God, during this month we had the opportunity of holding a children's summer day camp on the grounds of the local school. We had 112 children in the camp. This was a blessed camp in which children heard the Gospel and 50 children prayed the prayer of repentance on the final day of camp. Praise God for that!

The public school didn't hold a camp of its own this year. We had the children's full attention. All the same, the teachers came and were with the children, and they heard the Gospel. There were also parents who asked that the camp go for more days, since it's peaceful for them when the children are under our supervision. It's nice to hear that parents trust us with their children, and this is God's work through us. And now, in Smolin, we're experiencing something similar to what we experienced in when we began the ministry in Goncharovsk. We are praying that God will use us to the maximum in ministry for Him.

Also, we praise God for the progress in the new church construction. Heating has been installed in the floors, and water has been connected to the building. Now we will be able to hold services there comfortably in winter. A lot of work lies ahead, but with God's help and with yours, in Smolin we are building a house of prayer where people will be saved!

There is a prayer request from Tolik. The woman who lives with him is not his official wife, and she constantly drinks and makes a scandal of things. This is hard for Tolik and Nazar. Because of this, he is often upset and doesn't know what to do. Please pray for his situation.

Those are the things I wanted to say. Please pray for these needs:

1. For the summer camps.
2. For Tolik and his family.
3. For the future work still needed on the church building in Smolin.
4. Thanks to God for everything that He is doing.

Sasha Petrenko