



The Yurchenkos in Chervona Sloboda, Ukraine

3rd Quarter Report, 2021

August

This month our puppet theater visited Sukharevka. This is a small settlement on the border of the 30-kilometer Chernobyl Zone. We call these places “endangered settlements,” because young people, as a rule, leave them. Only old people and those who for some reason could not leave and begin new lives elsewhere remain in them. But surprisingly, there are children there, and they need attention like nowhere else. In such towns, people drink a lot out of despair. If there is work, then the job pays very poorly. So, families have to survive in such conditions.

Children in such families are often not well-groomed. They are deficient in attention. So, they busy themselves with themselves. The mayor of this town always invites us to come and somehow minister to these children. When we have the opportunity, we are happy to go to Sukharevka and similar settlements. Children here are very grateful, because they are rarely pampered with luxuries like children’s activities. But whenever



there’s something fun to do, their attendance is 100%. These children will definitely not miss an opportunity to have fun. There aren’t many of them, but these are the most grateful children’s hearts. Of course, we cannot visit such children without gifts. We bring them not only a puppet show to watch but also various things they need, such as stationery and toys. Of course, we bring various sweets, too.

Dear friends, we very much ask you to pray for these children and for their parents, who often get drunk. Pray that the Lord would visit such families and they will trust Christ be freed of these bad habits.

We are very grateful to you for your prayers, your financial support, and your love for us. Thanks to you, the work of God is being accomplished here in Ukraine. God bless you!

Sincerely yours,
Vitaly Yurchenko

September



A new family has begun to attend our church. They are people with a very difficult past. The husband, Volodya, was in prison, addicted to alcohol, and he has suffered two strokes. It's very difficult for him to talk and move. His right arm practically does not work. Natasha, Volodya's wife, is also an alcoholic. At the moment, she spends all her energy on caring for Volodya.

Many times, as they walked past the church, Volodya and Natasha felt the urge to come in, but each time they continued past it.

When Volodya had his first stroke, he considered his life but still hesitated to go to church.

When a second stroke occurred, Volodya and Natasha realized they needed help—they needed God. These two started coming to our church, and they don't miss a single meeting. Natasha decided to be reconciled with God. She walked to the front and prayed a prayer of repentance. Volodya is still hesitant to take this step. We pray for them, and we ask you, dear friends, to uphold Volodya and Natasha in prayer.

Two more women have started attending our church. They are very close to accepting Christ. Please pray for them.

This summer I wrote that sister Larissa had also reconciled with God. She was determined to be baptized.



About the same time, the church in Bilogorodka had planned a baptism in September. We decided to hold a combined baptism service for both churches, Bilogorodka and Sloboda. It was a wonderful day. The Lord blessed with favorable weather conditions and everything necessary for a baptism.

Brother Zhenya told how the Lord miraculously blessed the church when, on the eve of their baptism, they were presented with a large pool, in which the baptism was performed. We made it a big holiday—on that day, 8 people followed the Lord in believer's baptism. Sam Slobodian was with us, and we performed this baptism with him. This really was wonderful holiday for all of us.

We are grateful to the Lord for your prayers and for support! Thanks to you, we can continue the work of God here in Ukraine. God bless you!

Sincerely yours,
Vitaly Yurchenko