



## **The Fomichovs in Desna, Ukraine**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report, 2022**

#### **July**

Dear brothers and sisters, July has been a very fruitful month for us with a lot of work on all ministry fronts.

#### **The distribution of humanitarian aid**

We traveled to various villages in Chernihiv region and gave humanitarian aid to different categories of people. A lot of us gave to those who fled the occupation in eastern Ukraine, who had to flee with their children, leaving their homes and belongings to get away from active hostilities. People needed everything from food to clothing, and we tried to assist every family that contacted us. We know that a lot of the humanitarian aid we distributed to people came to us from the BIEM mission, for which people here send all of you a huge thank you. During this month, we gave out a lot of humanitarian aid.

#### **Children's camps**

We held camps in various villages multiple times during the summer. There were villages where we held camps this year for the first time. This was the first year for us to meet and make friends with their children. We told them about God and taught them the importance of prayer, played games, and sang songs. And every village received goodies. We came and cooked dough for the children and adults over the campfire, which brought special joy to the children and their parents. Many were surprised we were not afraid to hold camps for children during the war. Well, many parents were happy that we took the children away from war for a while.

#### **Tournaments and races**

We took part in organizing tournaments for children in table tennis, races for children, plus there were relay races and contests. Of course, we did not do all this without gifts since nothing brings joy to children like sweet treats and gifts.

#### **Hospitals and orphanages**

We have visited hospitals and orphanages, because the war left such institutions in difficult circumstances. They have problems getting food and medicines. There are various reasons for this. The main reason is that, due to the war many businesses have closed and because in many places in Ukraine there is fighting and missile strikes.

I want to thank you very much for your support of the Ukrainian people.

Sincerely,  
Igor Fomichov

## August



Dear brothers and sisters, we thank you for your prayerful support. We feel it very strongly. Many different events are taking place in our country and in our town. Over the past half year, our town has barely survived. They have bombed us with rockets from planes. We live in constant fear because the siren for a missile strike is constantly sounding, and such alarms can happen many times a day. At such moments, life stops; all shops and businesses close and everyone runs away from Desna. Because last time twenty-two missile strikes were made on Desna. This morning many were at home, and when the windows and doors were shaking at home, people simply prayed to God in fear.

Many times, we were holding services when the rocket alarm sounded, and you could see fear in people's eyes. I, as a pastor, had to make decisions whether to end the service or continue. Well, despite all the trials, we continue to conduct various ministries all this time. We conduct rehabilitation for drug addicts and alcoholics, and there is fruit. We hold camps for children, we hold mercy services, we help disabled people and lonely pensioners with food, and we help hospitals and boarding schools for children. We testify of our Savior. And we see how God answers and adds the saved to the church. We were preparing for a baptism, and we had three people baptized this month. For the whole church, this is a great encouragement.

### Vitalik

He came to the rehab center with a great desire to change his life. At the rehab center he began to study the Bible and pray and seek God on his own. God began to work in his heart, and he decided to be baptized. We talked a lot with him on the topic of why he had a desire to be baptized, and to make sure he has an understanding of what God wants from him.

### Natasha

She came to church because her family had a problem with her son. He was a drug addict, and she came to church to beg God to save her son. But God had a plan for her life, and God was working in both her heart and the heart of her son. But the devil did not sleep and began to attack her faith in God through her husband. Her husband began to make accusations and to drink, and he started threatening that he did not want to live and would commit suicide. One day he disappeared and was found drowned in the river, which hit her faith in God hard. She was very discouraged and could not understand why God allowed this in her life. We tried in every way to support her, both in word and deed, but it was hard for her. After all this, she was diagnosed with cancer, and she generally broke down. We prayed a long time for



her, and when she was sick, she said, “Pastor, I want to be baptized.” I told her that when there is an opportunity, I will gladly baptize her. For more than a year she was in the hospital. She had many operations and underwent chemotherapy, and we did not have an opportunity to baptize her. But in August she came home and began to feel a little better. She immediately raised the issue of baptism. But at the end of this month, the weather was so cold, and the water in the river was very cold. I offered her to let her postpone, but she replied, “I have already postponed so many times that I don’t want to.”

### **Danik**

Our son has been raising the issue of baptism for more than a year, and I kept putting it off, because I think he is still young. But during the war he showed himself to be a real man. And he showed his faith in God. And we talked a lot with him about God, and about how much he believes in Jesus Christ and understands the importance of baptism.

Pray with us:

For our country and for our church, that God will bless us.

Sincerely,  
Igor Fomichov

### **September**

**Note: Please do not post this September letter on Facebook or online.**

#### *Food Packages*

Dear brothers and sisters, I want to tell you how God answers your prayers and continues to save the souls of people.

There is one wonderful family that attends our church and is now serving as a great blessing to us. Well, it wasn't always like this. Everything began to happen during the war. At the start of the war Ruslan stood at our checkpoint at the entrance to Desna. We had met many times because he checked my documents many times and inspected my car. We would say hello, but that was the extent of our communication. Due to the war, food shortages in Desna began because logistics were disrupted. Many people ate as best they could to survive. We experienced a big shortage of food and medicine, but thanks to the support of the BIEM mission, we began to help people with food and medicine.

This was not an easy task, because we had to drive to western Ukraine and buy everything there, then transport it back to Desna through many checkpoints and car inspections. People bearing weapons were everywhere. The situation was very difficult. But we were happy to go through all this because we wanted to serve people, to be a support and a blessing. And so we assembled food packages and distributed them to people, the disabled and people who need help.

In each bag we put everything necessary for a person to have food for some time and included our church visiting cards so people would understand this was the church taking care of them. We learned where there were people who need help and went to them. In most cases we visited them at home.



We were told about one disabled woman who was sitting at home. We took her food and a business card of the church, but she felt bad so we could not stay and talk to her. Well, a day later, a girl called me and introduced herself as Larisa. She said, “You brought food assistance to my mother, for which we are grateful. Well, we have another problem. My husband Ruslan goes into drinking bouts, and we don't know how to deal with it. We are already tired. We just don't have the strength. Even today, I was at work and had left him with my mother so he would not get drunk

anywhere. But I came home, and he is already drunk. He is sitting on the couch with a visiting card from your church in his hands and told me I need to call you, that you will help. I asked him where he got it, and he said, ‘Your mom received a bag of groceries, and I decided to check it. I found this business card to call.’” She asked me if could help. I replied we would like to help, and we agreed to meet.

When we talked, we decided that Ruslan should go to the rehab center. There, he repented and immediately began to read the Word of God. God worked with his heart. Three months later, his wife, Larisa, also began attending church and Bible study groups. After a while, his neighbor Katya asked, “Ruslan, where are you going dressed like that?” He replied, “To the church for meetings.” The neighbor saw the changes in the lives of Ruslan and Larisa and caught the desire to attend services. And after a while, this Katya invited her daughter, so now they come to services together. God used humanitarian aid to save people’s souls.

Pray with us:

- 1) First of all, for our country, that God would stop this evil that has fallen upon us.
- 2) Pray for our church, that God would use us, and people would be saved.

Sincerely,  
Igor Fomichov

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