



The Kosyanchuks in Bilgorodka, Ukraine

1st Quarter Report, 2022

January & February

Thank God that some members of the church have recovered from illness and are already attending church services. Thus, although it was cold outside, even unbelievers began to come to the house of prayer for services.

But, unfortunately, now we are concerned about another issue, which at the moment is almost impossible for us—space heating. We used to pay 8 UAH per cubic meter of gas, but by the end of 2021 we were paying 37 griven (and paying this was a great effort), and now the payments for January have come at 56 UAH per cubic meter and we managed to pay 72,000 UAH, which is \$2,570 per month.

We are raising money to pay this account. Thank God that we warned the church in advance that there could be payment difficulties, and some members of the community responded to this need and even back in the spring began to donate to for heating the church. The church building was built from 1995 to 1997 (the main portions), and has been gradually improved. The materials were different in quality and size, and many of them had already been used previously, because there was not enough money. But even so, it was not possible to skimp everywhere.

And praise God, the mission also helped in this construction.

Thus, the building was built. But when winter temperature drops to more than 10 degrees below, the wall begins to freeze in places where there are poor quality bricks or cinder blocks.

God only knows what will happen next, because there are still two months of winter, but the church decided to insulate the auditorium and eventually to replace the gas boiler with a more economical one.

Therefore, we are calculating and announced to the church we're taking an offering for this cause, and we pray that the Lord will help us to solve this critical problem for the church.

We ask you to pray for this need of ours, and we thank you for never forsaking us when it was hard for us.

May the Lord reward you a hundredfold and bless you with His heavenly blessings.

Amen.

March

Thank God that, by His great mercy and love, He saved us and our town, even though fighting is happening quite near to us.

Therefore, from the first days of the war, families with small children (those who did not have root cellars or basements in their homes) moved to the church basement, where they have lived for some time.

We prayed, held church services and Sunday school, and hid from rockets and air raids. It was very scary at first, but the Lord strengthened. We prepared food in the church kitchen, but not only for ourselves (including children, we had 30 souls), but also for those who defended us [soldiers]. Therefore, the kitchen was fully loaded.

But thank God that He strengthens and enables us to endure this adversity and encourages us to help where it is needed. It is impossible to express enough words of gratitude to you, dear brothers and sisters and BIEM mission, for being among the first to respond to our difficult situation in such a time and continue to support us. May the Lord reward you a hundredfold.

When the fighting had nearly reached the outskirts of town, we decided to send families with children to a safer place in western Ukraine. And those who remain continue to work in the kitchen and to provide for those who maintain our defense. This is the contribution we make to the common cause of defending against attackers.

But in addition to misery and sorrow, there are joyful events. About 20 years ago, one man came to our services. He was already over 70 years old. When his wife fell ill, she repented, and we performed the funeral. His son repented and was baptized; his daughter-in-law is a member of our church; yet, he himself could not bring himself to repent.

And so, during these military events, he had his son telephone that he wanted to meet with the ministers and repent. Thank God, we met in the church and he sincerely repented, letting Christ into his heart. He testified that he had been coming for almost 50 years. He read, prayed, and attended services, but the Devil kept him from repenting, and he left church services early so as not to hear calls to repentance.

But, by the grace of God, he has become our brother in Jesus Christ. As it is written in the Bible, "And others save with fear" [Jude 1:23]. We thank you once again for your support, for your prayers. We feel them and your brotherly love. May the Lord bless you.

Amen.

Anatoly Kosyanchuk