



## The Yurchenkos in Ukraine

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

#### July

Sister Lena is very afraid of the cold. When we set the date for the baptism, Lena prayed for good weather and warm water. For sister Tanya, it didn't matter what the weather is; she was



ready to be baptized even in winter. And sister Nina, whom we learned about on a Thursday, was ready to be baptized that coming Sunday on which we had already planned to conduct a baptism. These are such different people, and their fates are so different.

Lena started attending services six months ago. According to her testimony, she had

considered our church a cult, and did not even plan to enter it for the sake of curiosity. Lena lived in a civil marriage with one man, with whom there were often problems. One day, Lena found out that her civil husband used to attend a Protestant church. She thought that maybe the church would help him, so she decided to attend the meeting and talk to the pastor about it. Later, her civil husband came with her to our church once and ostensibly went to repentance. But his life did not change, and he soon died of unknown causes. Yet Lena continued to attend church. Her path of faith was very difficult, there were many questions, misunderstandings, but step by step, Lena grew in faith. She repented on Wednesday, February 23, at a Bible study group. And on Thursday, February 24, the war began. You see, we usually have a group on Thursdays. but Lena had asked to move the group to Wednesday that week, because on Thursday she couldn't come. Surprisingly, the Lord guides us and arranges everything.

Military operations in Sloboda began on the third day of the war. For many days everyone sat in the cellars. Because of the war, we could not hold services. So, God took care of Lena so that she could reconcile with Him.

Sister Tanya had attended our church 15 years ago. She was preparing to be baptized, but her husband was very opposed to this. He even forbade her to attend our church, said that if she wanted to, she could attend the Orthodox Church. As a result, Tanya had not been to church for many years. But she constantly read the Bible and listened to sermons via the Internet. Tanya knows many psalms by heart. When the war began, several houses burned down near her house because they were hit by shells. Russian troops rode tanks down the street. Tanya did not leave the basement those days. One day, Tanya and her husband managed to escape from their village to Chervona Sloboda. There, in a basement, she met with our brothers and sisters. Every day in the basement, our brothers and sisters read the word of God and prayed. When hostilities ended in our region, the church gathered again and began to hold services. Tanya returned to the church with a strong desire to devote her life to God and was baptized. The husband no longer hinders her, only considers her abnormal; but this no longer worries her.



Nina seriously began to think about God, too, while sitting in a cellar and hiding from the bombing. There, she listened to the Gospel, and when the church came out of the basement and services restarted, Nina began to attend meetings. She still does not understand much, and she does not know much, but she has faith and a firm decision to be part of the church.

So, these three sisters have joined us, despite being so different and having such dissimilar destinies.

It was a joyful day for our church. The day on which the church performed a baptism on the bank of a small river. It was raining a little, but everyone was joyful and happy. We are convinced that war does bring grief, but it also brings people closer to God. But it is better that there is no war, and we are constantly praying about this. Pray for us too, dear brothers and sisters, so that the war ends as soon as possible and that people are saved in Sloboda.

Thank you, dear friends, for your prayers, for your sacrifice and material support, for your open and loving hearts! Thanks to you, we can more effectively serve here in Ukraine! God bless you!

Sincerely yours,  
Vitaly Yurchenko

### August



Men of military age, from 18 to 60 years old, do not have the right to leave Ukraine. Such are the laws of wartime. This changed our plans, so to speak, it caused its own adjustments. But what is impossible for people is possible for God; nothing is impossible for Him. We prayed, and God arranged things so that Alena and I were able to visit our mission agency in the USA and also churches that cooperate with our mission and help our ministry in Ukraine. It was an unforgettable journey. To say that everything was fine is to say nothing. It was wonderful and amazing! God has richly blessed us.

One such blessing was a brand-new laptop. A pastor from Grace Baptist Church Madison, Indiana, asked me what I needed personally. I replied that my old MacBook needed to be fixed, and the battery and speakers needed to be replaced. The next day I was given a new MacBook and a Bose speaker. At the same time, he suggested I give the old MacBook to my wife Alena. I am very grateful for such an expensive gift; this is a great blessing for me and my family. Thanks to you, we saved a lot of money from our budget.



We also

had many joyful and pleasant meetings with friends from different churches. We represented the ministry of our mission in Ukraine during the war as well as the ministry of our seminary. This time our daughter Darina and her husband Pasha joined us. Pasha is a talented musician and videographer. They helped us a lot on this trip. We attended churches together, and together we were able to glorify the Lord.



It sometimes seems to us that difficult circumstances are evil for us, not good, and bring us harm and disappointment. But God often turns evil into good. In difficulties, God shows special care for us, and He performs amazing miracles in our lives so that we do not lose heart but glorify Him even more. And such a miracle was our trip to the USA. Glory be to our great Lord God through Jesus Christ!

We want to thank you from our whole family, dear friends, for your prayers for us, for your love for us, for the hospitality and warmth of your hearts, for your help and support, for the brand-new MacBook... Thank you very much! You have been a huge blessing to us on this trip! We love you and pray for you!

Sincerely yours,  
The Yurchenko family



### September - Children's camp, Chervona Sloboda



Unexpectedly, there were more children this year than in previous years. We formed a team of leaders from youth who did not leave the country but remained to serve people. These is a terrific bunch. We made an agreement with them that they would come to us once every two weeks and serve among the youth in our church. The children and teenagers became very attached to the leaders during the camp and look forward to every meeting.

Despite the war and difficult circumstances in our country, the Lord blesses us in the ministry. We usually hold children's camps in other, more favorable conditions. This year we prayed and worried about how we could hold a children's camp. Would there be any children? After all, many families had departed to the West as refugees. It would also be difficult to assemble a team of children's ministry leaders. Yet, the Lord blessed us in all this.





We ask you to pray for the ministry among young people. Air raid alarms often sounded during the camp. In case of an air raid, the secondary school has a basement as a bomb shelter. The director of the school suggested hiding in this basement, but the parents whose children were in the camp asked us to take the children to the church during the air raid. They said they feel safer in our church than in the school basement. For us, this was a good testimony that people trust us and hope in God. Parents, as never before, were favorably disposed to us. They brought

their children and were in no hurry to leave. They talked with us and enjoyed coffee. We became closer to each other. Pray for the parents and children who have started attending church after the children's camp.

We are grateful to you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, dear churches, for your prayers for us and for your invaluable help and support in difficult times for us. Thank you very much! We really appreciate it and are praying for you. God bless you!

Sincerely yours,  
Vitaly Yurchenko