



The Fomichovs in Desna, Ukraine

4th Quarter Report, 2023

October 2023



In our church there is a brother, Sergey, who returned from the war front two weeks ago. We as a church have prayed very hard for Sergey that God would protect him during the war and asked you to pray for him. Sergey had every right not to go to war—he has health problems. But he volunteered on the first day of the war. For almost two years, he was in different combat points of this cruel war. During all this time, he showed himself to be not only a good commander, but also a good Christian. There were various dangerous moments when it was necessary to go and pull the wounded out from under shelling or to pull the wounded from the debris of air bombs. Everyone else refused, but he prayed and went.

There were times when he came under shelling and bombing. Many times, his car was fired upon, but God protected him.

All Sergey's soldiers were very grateful to have such a commander who does not abandon his soldiers, and when he left, they thanked him for being their commander. During this time, he received many awards for his service to the people of Ukraine. The church and many partners of the BIEM mission participated in helping Sergey's soldiers with modern tourniquets that saved people's lives, with warm clothes, with food and other things that were vitally necessary to save lives.

War is a big test for every person. When you are constantly under fire, you are constantly aware of the fragility of life. And when you see people die... Well, Sergey learned to entrust his life to God. For everyone who is in the war, it's important to understand that you're not alone, that God is with you, and the prayers of family and the church play a big role in supporting you. Sergey's example serves as a great encouragement to everyone who knows him, because the hand of God is so clearly visible in his life.

Sergey was under fire many times, but God kept him in his hands. I see how God has changed him for the better. But now he still needs to return to his second life, which is not at the front. Sergey has two daughters who need a father, and they haven't seen each other in two years. We need to restore the relationships in this family again, and Sergey asks that we pray for his family.

Pray with us:

1. For Sergey's family, that God would pour out his grace on this family, that they would have love.
2. For his relationship with his wife Natasha.
3. Concerning his children, that God would give him the opportunity to become very close to them.

The war left a big mark and only God can heal the wound. We see that few people return from those places where Sergey was, but God brought him back and for our church this is a great prayer victory.



Sincerely,
Igor Fomichov

November

Living in the dark



We constantly see people around us whose lives are ruined by sin, and in our hearts, we pity them and want to help, because we know what it's like to live in the dark when there's no relationship with God. Our prayers are for the salvation of perishing people, and it's a great joy for us when a person turns to God through our testimony and his life begins to change. We see the work of God in the ministry that God performs through us.

I want to tell you about the life of one man, how God found him and led him to our church. His name is Vova. He was originally from the Cherkasy region and lived an ordinary life. However, he became addicted to alcohol, and it began to destroy him. He was married and had a daughter, but his wife could not live with him because he could not give up alcohol and drank more and more. The wife could not stand her husband's addiction. She took her daughter and left. Vova began to drink even more and went to live in a brothel, where he met various alcoholics. This is how his life in alcohol passed. Vova was simply killing himself with alcohol. He saw no point in living. But one woman who knew about our rehabilitation center talked to him. She suggested he go to the rehabilitation center in Desna. According to him, he did not fully believe that anything could change in his life, but he decided to try.

When Vova came to us in the center, he was silent and withdrawn. He spoke little but was listening all the time. We asked the minister to establish contact with him, but he was very reserved. When they asked Vova what kind of work he could do, he said he could dig with a shovel. But it turned out that he can perform many construction jobs and is a very hardworking person. At the center, he got acquainted with God and began to pray and study the Bible. Then God began to reveal Himself to Vova and to change his life in amazing ways.

After experiencing the joy of living in a relationship with God, Vova began to call his old acquaintances who had lived with him in a shelter for alcoholics in the city and to witness to them. Eventually, two agreed to come. We were concerned, not wanting the old friends to influence Vova to return to the old life. Well, he said, "When they come to the center, I will testify to them, and they will listen to me carefully."

We were worried, but after praying, we decided to trust God. His two old friends came, and Vova was a good witness to them about how God changes a life. So, two more people came to the rehab center and accepted Christ. We see the changes that God is making through the rehab center's ministry. Now Vova is preparing for baptism and wants to take part in musical ministry. He and his friend Sasha found work on a construction site and present themselves well. One of the men who hired Vova said, "If you live the same way, I want you to work for me permanently. I will even buy you an apartment in Desna." In all this we see how God works in Vova's life, and for him it is good encouragement, knowing that God will take care of him. That's how Vova lived in the dark, not knowing God, but when he met God through the ministry of the rehab center, God changed his life plus the lives of his old friends. After many years, Vova has begun to improve his relationship with his daughter. What a blessing! Please pray for them.

Thank you for supporting our ministry with your prayers. I know that we will see more than one changed life. It takes a lot of effort and time to teach and minister to people like Vova, but when you see the changes, it encourages you, and you understand that this is a miracle of God.

Pray with us:

For the ministry of the rehabilitation center, that through it even more people will be saved.

Sincerely,
Igor Fomichov

(In the photo, Vova is wearing a green jacket. Next to him is his friend Sasha.)