



Name

1st Quarter Report, 2024

January

Greetings, friends, and partners of our ministry!

The beginning of 2024 is very special for me, my family, and our church team. I'll start about myself. Because of the war and the situation in our country, at the very end of 2023 I started having doubts and fears about my personal calling of church planting. On New Year's Eve I was asking God to confirm that starting a new church during such times in our country is the right decision. On January 1, when I was reading the Bible, God talked to me through the words of David to Solomon in 1 Chronicles 28:9 – *“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.”* And 1 Chronicles 28:20, *“David also said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.”* These words encouraged me a lot and assured me that this thing is from God. He has called us to plant a new church. That same day, I called one family of refugees from Eastern Ukraine and suggested that they to join our church team. They agreed, and within a few days we gathered with our whole big team. We have decided to separate from New Life Church and become a fully separate new church in our micro-district in Ternopil.

So, on February 4 New Life church will give us their blessing to become a separate church, and on February 11 we'll have our first Sunday service. That inspires us a lot, as we can clearly see how God is building His church through our team in the Druzhba micro-district. For example, we've prayed to expand our team to 10 people before we start Sunday services, and here we are! Now there are 10 of us, and we are starting our new ministry.

We've also started our Bible study group with new people. Now we are waiting and trying to do something, so we'll have non-believers together with us at these meetings.



Our kids and teens clubs are also doing great. There was a time when we had to cancel our meetings, as our team members got busy with their studies. Then all our kids began texting us, saying they missed us a lot and were waiting for our next meetings.



We plan to resume our meetings with the students in February. We are planning these meetings, trying to figure out the best ways to build relationships with them, so we can share the Gospel with them in the future.

Please, pray for:

- Our Sunday services.
 - Our kids and teens clubs. For opportunities to become friends with all of them and for their repentance.
- For me to have wisdom to manage our church the way God wants to see it.
 - For our apartment repairs. We need a lot of strength, wisdom, and money. We've started an active phase of repairs to be able to move there in summer, so we can host teams that will help us hold camps in Druzhba.
 - For new people of harvest. We ask God to give us new people, so our small church can grow.
 - For wisdom to raise our little girl, for God to use us to make her who He wants her to be. We have no idea how to do it the right way.

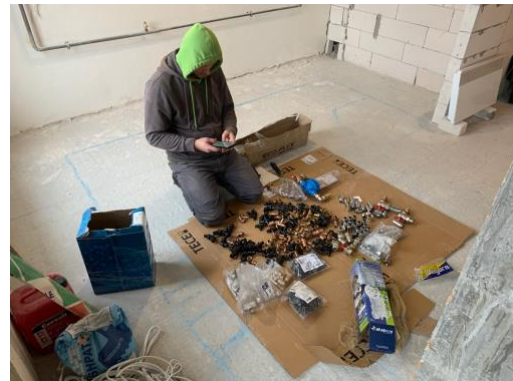


February

Greetings, brothers, and sisters!

February was a long-awaited month for our church. It was very hard, but full of huge blessings from God at the same time.

Our family started a very active phase of our apartment repairs, and we were able to do many things there this month. A close friend of mine arrived from another city to help me make connections such as the water supply system, sewage system, heating, and air conditioning. He is a great engineer, and his labor cost is normally expensive, but for us he did everything for free. He said that he wants to be a blessing for our family and church, as he is confident that this apartment will serve God a lot. That was a huge blessing for us! Now we are in some new stages of repairs, and there are many questions to solve. So, we pray for wisdom concerning all decisions and for finances, since all the work and materials are very



expensive. At the same time, I believe my God is both rich and generous. I know this apartment is from God, so He will provide us with everything we need for it.



I am so happy that God gave us an opportunity to own our own accommodations in the center of our micro district. But what makes me happier is that we had our first Sunday service on February 11th. I was so afraid to start Sunday services, because I worried that not many people would attend our services and it would look sad. We had prayed about this moment for almost two years, and after the new year the whole team decided that it's time to start our Sunday services and to separate from the New Life Church.

We began our first Sunday service, and I was sure many people would come for the first service. And there were more than 30 people that day. I was more concerned about the second Sunday service, because I didn't know how people from our micro district would react, since our Baptist services differ greatly from the Catholic ones. When we were preparing for our second Sunday, I shared all my worries with God, as I didn't know whether any unbelievers would come or not. Well, there were about 20 people on the next Sunday. What is great is that many teenagers and kids from our clubs came.

As we were waiting for people to arrive on Sunday, I was shocked that there were more unbelievers the second week than the first week. Teens who had been at our first Sunday service brought friends for the second one! And they were singing all the songs so loud! Of course, it didn't sound like angels singing. It was even funny, but I was so happy seeing our small Choose Life church. Their voices singing worship songs sounded so awkward, but it inspired me to praise God and to give Him thanks that we have been able to work for God's glory and for the salvation of His people during these two years of war in Ukraine.

During the greeting time, I turned to greet Ludmila, a woman from Berdyansk who was baptized in August of 2023. She looked at me with tears in her eyes and said that it's so cozy and so light. She was so thankful that she is a Christian and can be a part of our small church.



I never expected to say how very happy I am that I decided to stay in Ukraine, where war is still going, instead of moving to Hawaii. I'm very thankful to my wife Karina, who told me then that she felt Hawaii wasn't our place and we need to stay here. She said that she could see how God was calling me here, even though I seriously wanted to move to Hawaii.

Being here now and being used by God for His glory, for saving His people and for planting His church is a great privilege for us. I clearly understand that God could do all these things through someone else, and they could do it all even better. But by His Mercy, He called us. I will never stop giving Him thanks for this fact, as it has become my personal testimony of His power and almightiness. I can talk about this non-stop, but I can't describe all my emotions here. Maybe one day God will give us an opportunity to meet, and I will share about the greatness of God and His work in us and through us.

There were more things going on this month. We continued working with students and had a few meetings at the university and one meeting at our place. When we had the meeting at our facility, I offered to meet as a group once a month to discuss different topics. They asked to



have meetings at least two times a month. I definitely see this as an answer from God and a sign that He is opening these doors for us. And I'm always happy to meet new people and tell them about God.

We also decided to try to hold two of our club meetings in the school gym. I called the school principal to arrange a meeting, and when we entered the school, many teachers started giving us hugs and telling us that they remember how we spent time with the kids in summer and that they like how we do that. We received permission to use their gym for free. That was when I recalled how, the first time I had gone to meet the principal and requested permission to hold our kids camp in their stadium, she wasn't very keen on that idea. Back then, she told me that they are Catholics and don't really like working with Baptists. But now, 2 years later, they accept us and greet us with hugs. That shows us God is incredible. He performs miracles, and He opens people's hearts to us so we can share the Gospel. I'm always amused at how Jesus builds His church through us. He does not do it the way I plan it. He does this in His own way. It's so interesting to observe this and to be a part of this movement.

I understand that I've already written so much. This month was just very special for me, my family, and the church, so I couldn't write less.

Please, pray for:

- Praise God that we are now a separate church and have Sunday services with 20 people each time. That's a miracle, so let's praise God for that!
- For God to make of us the church He wants us to be.
- For God to give us people of harvest He is already working in. For people to repent and be baptized.
- For all our ministries (kids club, teens club, students' meetings, Bible studies, personal evangelism).
- For wisdom to set everything the right way in our church
- For finances for our repairs in the apartment. We would like to host a camp team there in summer.
- For wisdom for me from God to lead the church and to teach it the way we could be the church of Gospel and our main desire is Jesus, not other things.
- For full trust in God concerning mobilization orders. Many guys are being selected for the war, and I'm worried for our small church. I do not want it left without a pastor and other active brothers.

March

Greetings, friends, and partners!

March was pretty stable for us. We've held all the events and services we had planned. I want to pay special attention to our Sunday Services. The atmosphere there is very special,

although there are not more than 23 people every time. I'm always concerned about the amount of people at our Sunday services, especially when someone is sick or is out of town. But every time such things happen, there is always someone else instead of those who are absent.

What is interesting is that I had a fear of no people at our Sunday services before we even started them. But there've never been less than 20 people! It's a sign for me that Jesus is looking after His church. Women-refugees that are part of our church, especially Ludmila from Berdyansk, always share that we've started our Sunday services. She says there is always a very bright and warm atmosphere here, and she is very happy that God led her to this church. This encourages and inspires me, that people like being with us, and they feel here as a part of God's family.

One more interesting fact: we've held 6 student meetings. Three of them were held at the university and 3 in our office. Out of all the students we've gotten to know, only one has started hanging out with us. At first, I was very upset that he is the only one who wants to attend our meetings and there are no other students. But then I gave thanks to God, as this one guy is worth all the effort as this is the soul that will be in Heaven with us. We pray for him a lot now and hope that he'll accept Jesus and will become a Christian in our small church.

This month is also a month of special kids' club meetings. There were many children, and one of them even started attending our Sunday services. What is more, he is always waiting for our next meeting, and



he says that he can't wait to become a team member of any club we do and wants to do something with us in our church!

So, there is one person from each of our ministries that is interested in our church and wants to be with us.

Honestly, my expectations were completely different. I would like to have more and bigger results, but we praise God for the people we have now.

I'm praying about some new branches for our ministry. We want to try to connect to more categories of people. We are thinking of different options, but mostly we pray about all of that as we want God to lead us and to do

only things that are in His plan. We don't want to go through useless motions.

I love watching how God leads us in our apartment work. There was one moment last week... Our front door was installed by the developer, and it is of poor quality. It had broken once, so I fixed it. But when it broke the next time, I couldn't fix it myself, so I asked a professional to do it. He repaired it but said I should replace it with a new, quality door since this one is cheap and ugly. Of course, I got distressed and worried. I prayed about this matter when I came home and told God about it. I said I understand that this matter is very temporary and earthly, but when something breaks, I get very upset and would like to exchange this door for a new, more expensive one. I told Him that I would not tell anyone about this, so if He would bless us with money to buy this door, I'd be very grateful.

The next day, a man came to see us and gave us money for our renovations. This money is enough to buy a new door. We even have an amount leftover for other apartment work! This inspired my wife and me because she didn't know about my prayer. I told her the next day that I had been praying and asking God to send us money for the door, and He encouraged people to give us this money!

I'm so thrilled at how loving, generous, and good our God is to us! We may think that He is not interested in our earthly problems and needs, but He always hears us and loves to bless us. I love when God is answering my prayers so clearly. It shows me that He is with us, and He has been leading us with this apartment since the very beginning. I believe that He has His own plan, and His name will be glorified in this apartment and people will hear the Gospel there.

Please, pray for:

- For all the branches of our ministry, for God to bless us with the people of harvest from all the branches we have.
- For our summer projects. We pray and plan to hold 3 camps (kids, teens, family)
- For wisdom to teach all the people we have now. I want to teach them the Gospel the right way.
- For our apartment works. We are in the active phase now.
- For my pastoring. I'm learning to be a pastor for my church. It is my weak side now, as I'm a leader and manager more than a pastor. But I really want to be a pastor who loves people and takes care of them.
- For our family. To plan our time wisely and for the wisdom to raise our daughter.



Sincerely,

Sergiy Koop