



Baptist International Evangelistic Ministries

P.O. Box 707, Danville, IN 46122 · 317-718-1633

Testimony of Sergei Kostin

(transcribed from a recording)

I feel thankful for being here today. This is a privilege for me. I have friends here with me who had been to our home. I am very happy to see them. So nice. I want to combine the Word of God with testimonies. But first, let me apologize. I'm from the south. My strange language is a little Russian, a little Ukrainian. I am trying to learn to speak Ukrainian.

I really like the apostle Paul. I sincerely like his temperament and his spirit. Let's turn to Romans, the first chapter, verses 14, 15, and 16. In verse 15, he says, "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel..." In verse 14, he says, "I am debtor." I think I am also in debt. And, as you know, debts must be paid. Many people from your church came to see us. And you know, we have become very close in the Lord today. I promised that when I come to you, I will speak to you. And this is a great joy for me.

One more thing about the words "as much as in me is." You know, each of us is free to choose what to do. Right? As for me... I'm not saying as much as in you is. But speaking about myself, I was from the city. It was sometime in 1977. When I came from the army, I was still young. I had a choice: either go to the city, where there were a lot of young people, or to go serve the Lord in a village. And you know, when we enter the water during baptism, we say, "Lord, I promise to serve You," but God specifically asks, "How will you serve Me?" We need to think well here.

I remember the words of a poem we had to memorize in school. It was strangely interesting, about a boy Pomagai ["Helper"]. Do you remember? "Through the field, through the grove..." I didn't want to be that Helper boy [who showed up to help when all the work was about done]. I wanted to do something specific for the Lord. I said, "Lord, I will serve You on earth." Somehow my heart was leaning toward the city. There were many young people. But God led me to serve in a village. Paul says, "I am a debtor to You; I will serve You."

It's been a long time. God has done a lot of His work in my life. Praise God for that. I rejoice and thank God. But I will talk a little about these recent events. I will talk about the war that has come. When I was preaching in the last years before this war, I understood somewhere inside that if the Lord came back, the church was not ready for the Rapture. Well, that's how

I saw it. Everything was going smoothly—you came to a service, sang beautiful songs, prayed, and read the Word of God. You know, it is beautiful on the surface, but inside you feel that something is missing. And I said, “Lord, how can this be?” But we already understood that war was coming.

And when that time came... You know, when you watched the news, the troops left Crimea. First, it was Kherson region, the south. And no one stopped those convoys. So, they just went in convoy after convoy. And the last thing I could see was Velyka Oleksandrivka (it's not far from us). As I was watching videos on the Internet, there was a convoy. Such a big convoy. No one stopped it. And they were driving toward us. They were about 50 km away.

And you know, as I was watching all this, I got greatly upset. People began to flee. People were leaving. I didn't know what to do, to be honest, because somewhere inside I started getting really anxious. But there is that first thought; it is very big. I decided so for myself, if I also leave like the rest, I will never preach again from that time onward. Why? Because I don't want to be a liar. I used to say, “People, God is mighty. He will help. He will save us.” And how after that could I get into my car and flee? I owned two cars; I had children with me. And you know, we could've gotten into our vehicles and left with everyone else, but I told my wife that I would stay. My children said, “Papa, we will leave if you do. Or we will stay with you if you decide to stay.” I wanted to send the children away. And yet, we were so tightly bound together as a family. For some reason, I remembered a passage from the Bible; I looked at those heroes who overcame by faith. I felt sorry for the children. I understood that this is war; this is horror. War was already happening, and I knew they were coming toward us. The heart was troubled. But we had to decide what to do.

We used to pray every evening before the war. Family prayer is a great thing. Thank God for it. This altar should be burning all the time. So, we would get together with the children. I have a 6-year-old granddaughter. And before we prayed I always asked her, Marynochka, what are we going to pray for? What shall we ask Jesus for? And the first thing she said, even months before, was, “Grandpa, let's pray for uncle Vova [Zelensky], the president.” I did not understand that. Well, Uncle Vova so be it, Uncle Vova. We would pray for Uncle Vova, the President. I think we usually tend to pray more for church members or other dear people, but why for Uncle Vova the President?

A little later I understood why we prayed for Uncle Vova the President—when the enemy came, and people started leaving the country. Unfortunately... I don't want to judge. The most important thing is not to condemn anyone, because I read the Word of God, which says, “as much as in me is.” Today, everyone makes decisions for themselves. Now we have 3 churches there, and not a single pastor is left. Everyone left. If the president also left, what would happen to the country? If we did not gather here for prayer, the enemy would already be here. I'm telling you, “they” would be here. It's terrible what “they” did there in the south of Ukraine. And it would be the same in the west of the country... But when we prayed, when we asked the Lord...

There was a crucial moment. I will tell you a story. When I testify and tell my brothers to come to Myrogailiv, I am not recounting a movie; I am sharing from experience. I'm going

through what you went through. I'm sharing from what my family went through, what my children went through, my granddaughter. Our streets were emptying, and people were leaving. My street is about 800 meters long, and half of the residents were already gone. My house is located where the street starts. One day I saw a BMPeshka [kind of tank] drive by. The enemy was coming in. We all grew terribly worried. We didn't know what would happen next. They jumped out of the vehicle. Everyone was running around from one house to another, searching for something. We went through that.

So, we went to meet them and get acquainted with them. And you know, they said very politely, very nicely in Ukrainian, "We are on your side. We are from Donetsk." They did it to calm us down. And we went on our way. And so, they settled in the first house in front of me and the house behind me. They dug a trench around my gate and made themselves a check point. We were hostages of it all. But it continued. Heavy shelling began. As a family, we continued to pray to the Lord.

I kept saying, "Lord, I'm glad I stayed," because people were afraid. People were panicking. I went to the people. They gathered in the streets. Bombs were exploding everywhere, and our street had been bypassed. I gathered the villagers and said, "Let's pray." They said, "We don't know how." I said, "Let's ask the Lord, because there is nothing else that can help us. In our own words. Join us every night. God will help. Only God can save our country. The Lord can save us, our village."

One day, as I came outside, I saw people gathering because they were worried. Peace disappears in a situation like ours. And at that moment, as they were standing out in the street, a bomb struck beside that group of people. It penetrated the ground, and a big pillar of white smoke gushed out. People started asking what it was. I said it was our death, but God did not allow us to be blown apart. The bomb penetrated the ground and burned in the ground, and the smoke came out.

Soon after that, harder times began. This commander came to me. They had this old system that moved them. They said, we have come to help you. We want to take you back to the Soviet Union. Was it bad there? I said that it was not bad for us, but it wasn't that good for many either. True or not? They say, You should come with us to collect the people's cellphones. I knew that going with them was not a great idea. You understand what can happen. I replied that they could go without me. They said they could do it without me, but there were two "no's"— "If we go by ourselves, we will take the phones and we will keep them with us. And secondly, if we knock and they don't open, we will start shooting at the house." This is the front zone. I knew that there were many children and many large families. People there were very scared. Imagine 6 men coming with machine guns knocking on your door and you don't open it. They will shoot at the house. So, I said I will go. I realized that there could have been many more terrible happenings otherwise.

And we went. Before this all started, I told many people to wait a little more, and "ours" will come. They will liberate us, and we will be fine. People listened to me. And so, we went [around to people's houses], and I led the way. We knocked; people looked out the window. I waved; they came out shaking. I knew they were all scared. And the soldiers said we are

taking your phones away because you are calling, shells are coming at us, we are being killed. The commander gave the order to pick your phones up.

When I started walking down the street, the first thing that struck me was that I saw so many traitors. I walked down the street, they were happy for me, they kissed my hands. I told them not to be afraid, everything will be fine. We approached a small house, and here the woman jumped out, crying saying, Don't shoot me; I'm just as he is. I go to his church. He is a good man. I'm standing there, and he [the commander] is looking at me. He knew that I was the pastor of the church. We went on a little, and he says, Look Serhii, you have been betrayed. If not today, then tomorrow. Does it really matter? I said, Even if you will win the war, let the woman live.

We went to another place. A young woman came out. She and her husband and had taken 5 children from the orphanage and were raising them. And she jumped out straight toward the machine gun, saying, Shoot me. But don't touch the children. It was very difficult to watch all this. I caught her and said this is not what they came for. We just came to collect the cell phones.

Every day was like that. There was such tension. Our believers who went to Poland and Germany had been calling, asking, Serhiy, go feed our father and mother. When "they" entered the village, the first thing they did was they destroyed the hospital, pharmacies, and stores with tanks. They took everything. The power plant and gas stations were destroyed too. No light, no gas. Nothing. And people were not ready for this.

You know what else I saw? How important it is to see what God is doing. God always informs us of His plans. A year before this all happened, a group of Mennonites brought us some food packages. We lived in a village. I was surprised. Every month they were bringing more. I didn't think we were starving there. It would be better to give food to people in cities, where they must buy it from the market. We had plenty in the village. There were chickens, fresh fruit, and vegetables from the garden. There was always something to eat. On New Year's I said, Brothers and sisters, this was not accidental. We know our God does not give away without a reason. He doesn't just throw things away. God is the One who protects everything. He fed 5,000 people and said, Go collect the remainder. I said it is for a reason.

I brought my food parcels home. People took out the stew and ate it and that was it. But I kept my share and just collected those food boxes. I don't know why, but when this situation came, when everything had been stolen and there was nothing, people were left without a store. Formerly, when you needed food, you went to the store and bought your groceries there. That was how we lived. But suddenly here we were, left with nothing. All we had in storage ran out quickly. I said, God, I thank You very much because You knew in advance how it would be. I started taking out those food boxes. I opened one and there was flour and other food. And praise God, we were cooking and distributing what we had among the people. That's how we helped and fed them a little. That's how we all survived.

Every evening, we prayed. And one time everyone got a little tired under constant shelling. I said, Marinochka, what are we going to ask Jesus for? Why do I still mention this child?

Because the story of her life is the key one here. I remember 2 Kings. Do you remember the story of Naaman? When Naaman was sick with leprosy. The convoys of enemies went to Samaria and took the girl. And only because of the testimony of this girl's faith, Naaman was healed. And what did he say? I will no longer worship these gods. But who will I worship? The God of Israel. I look and see what a great work the Lord has done in my life. Everyone has their own faith, their own way of life, and I said, Lord, I see how You speak through the child. Why? When I asked what we should pray for this time, I was not ready for her answer. She said, Grandpa, let's ask Jesus to preserve the lives of these uncles and let them go home, because they also have children at home. My soul was hurting. I was thinking, God, we want to tear them apart, hang them, and burn them, but this child realized how hard it was to live without parents.

I went outside and a soldier saw standing by my gate. I said, Come here. Do you see that little girl running? Every evening as we pray with the family, I ask her what we should pray for. And I told him what happened that night when we prayed for the "uncles" to go home to their children. He really had tears in his eyes and rolling down his cheeks. He said, I also have 2 children, and I will never see them again. Because I came out of the mine, they grabbed me and brought me here (he was a "DNRovets" [person from Donetsk People's Republic]), and I know that we will never return home. I said to him, "I want you to know that there is no hatred in the child's heart." As I was thinking, Lord, are we ready to forgive like that today, not wishing death for them? Our people have become very hateful and hard-hearted towards Russians today.

Easter came. Several soldiers came to me and said, "Why is your church closed?" "I didn't understand," I said. "Why is the church closed today on Easter?" Why is the church closed, brothers and sisters? If 70 soldiers came to you and the church was closed? They said, "We want to hear the Word of God." Maybe they were Orthodox; maybe they were taught that way. I didn't know what to say, but I said this to justify myself. I said, "Men don't go to church with guns in their hands. I could come to you tonight and read the Word of God to you if you want me to." They knew that I was the pastor of the local church. I said, "I go to church." He started asking such questions. They caught people like me [pastors] and threw them into a basement. In their house there was a cellar where they put people caught on the street. We were scared to walk from street to street. They drove through the streets, grabbed whoever they saw, and then threw them into the basement to "interrogate" them, and so on. He told me that his wife goes to Jehovah's Witnesses. "Well, I don't approve of it," he said. I said, "They still know their Bible, whether correctly or not."

Some time has passed. I will not tell everything. But I will mention only some key points here. In May, the first explosive hit our house, then another one. Only 5 of them total. We usually prayed in a corner. Then the shelling began. We fell on our knees and prayed. The roof was blown from the neighboring house behind ours. All the windows in our house were blown out. We jumped. The children jumped into the small hallway. An explosive came right into the bathroom and exploded near our feet. There were 8 of us standing there. A cloud of dust went up. I bent down, and the first thing I saw was my granddaughter's leg. It was not there. It been blasted off. And what could I do? I put pressure above the knee. Everything

was blurred. My son ran and grabbed a towel. We bandaged her leg. Everything around us was on fire. Everything was exploding. I jumped out thinking that if I leave by car now, I will be shot. I ran to find their commander. I said, "Don't shoot us, we need to get out of here." When we were driving along the road, they were shooting at us at other checkpoints, but we did not stop.

What struck me so much was when they had already moved towards Zelenodolsk. We were going in the direction where "ours" [Ukrainian line] were. Ours also started shooting at us. Well, the car was driving crazy fast. They fired at the slope but did not hit us. That round flew by the engine. I stopped. And the [Ukrainian] commander hurried up to me and said, "What are you doing here?" I said, "We have wounded here in my car." I really thank God. This soldier took out his backpack and pulled out a painkiller injection he kept for himself. He gave it to the child. Because the girl was to be saved first. He gave us his tourniquet, tightened it above the wound so we could get to the post. Her leg was dangling just by skin below the knee. An ambulance had already come our way to meet us. They took her to Kryvyi Rih. My daughter was operated on as well. Her legs were broken. They were not able to save Marynka's leg (my granddaughter's). As for my daughter's, doctors also wanted to amputate her leg but after a series of surgeries, they saved it. However, it is hard for her to walk now.

Why did God allow that? Well, that's how it all was. We had to go through that. And God was telling me, "Are you ready to go on?" I always remembered Job with his many more trials. Step by step, Job went through a lot. I decided to stay. Many non-believers understood why this was happening. Believers said to me, "You are so foolish. Why didn't you take the children out?" The children did not want to leave their father alone. Somehow, you know, we got used to being together. We know that we had to go through all this together. And the Lord has His plans. We have our plans, our vision, and God has His.

They sent two ambulances to Kryvyi Rih. They said, "It will be better if you leave. You need to take your granddaughter to Okhmatdyt in Kyiv." We were going to Kyiv. And many correspondents came too. Well, she was the first child from Kherson who was admitted to the hospital with an amputation. They asked many questions. They also wanted to do something pleasant for the child. They found out that her birthday was coming in two weeks. They asked her, "Marynochka, what would you like for your birthday?" Here she said something wonderful, "I want the president to come to see me." A 6-year-old girl's wish! And they asked, "Marynka, why do you want the president to come?" And she says, "Because I pray for him." They sent the request to the president. He mentioned us in his evening speech that day. He said, "I understand that it is hard. Yet I am very glad that there is at least that one child brought from Kherson whose leg remained in prosthetics, but she is praying for me."

I went to see her after her surgery. She was in intensive care. But the first thing she did when she woke up was she looked at the blanket she was covered with and saw that one leg was shorter than the other one. And she said, "Grandpa, don't I have a leg?" She realized that life would not be the same... Well, what should have I said to her? She liked to run, play

soccer with her grandpa. She was so cheerful. Now I looked at her—one leg was missing... I said, “No, Marynochka, you don’t have a leg. But Jesus will give you a new leg.” And you know, two days later she saw it all. How do children react to all this! I came in and she told me, “Grandpa, I will recover very quickly.” I said, “I know, but how do you know?” And she said, “Because you won’t leave me.” And she still thinks that she lives like that. But she realized that she did not have a leg, that she was handicapped. Thus, she couldn’t help us in any way. I could see it worried her so much.

Our spiritual life is just like that. Jesus did not abandon us. I can also tell that Jesus is with Ukraine today. I look at where we live, how hard it was for us, but He did not abandon us. I said, “Lord, thank You for being with us today. You did not abandon us.” And indeed, when her birthday came later, the president congratulated her. He told her, “Marynochka, I can’t now but I will definitely come to see you.”

Many other events followed that. They wanted to send us all abroad. Because prosthetics is quite a complex thing to make for children. Especially at her age. But we said, “No, we won’t go.” Mom wasn’t ready. She also had a hard time with her legs. Marynka could not go by herself. And yet, what is a foreign country? She also said, “I will not go there.”

Blinken, the secretary of America, was coming to Ukraine just about this time. And he came to see Marynka in the hospital. Somehow he looked at her and said, “Marynochka, let me take you to America. We’ve the best doctors there. They will make you the best leg, prosthesis. You will be very comfortable. I will help you with housing. Everything will be very good there.” She looked at him and said, “No, I won’t go.” He said, “Why?” She said, “I am Ukrainian.” I thought of how many pastors, how many ministers had just left! And this little child said “NO” so easily. Because she was the first to stay there, all the equipment was brought to her unit. And she got her prosthetics at Okhmatdyt.

However, when the time to get the prosthetics came, I didn’t know what to do. I said, “Lord, I know this is so expensive.” I asked the doctor how much the prosthesis would cost. When I was told the price, I knew one thing: she would be on crutches forever. Because a prosthesis for a child cost \$3,500 at that time. Listen, when the house is ruined, when you have nothing! I came in having a shirt and house slippers on. My clothes were bloodied. I went to collect humanitarian aid. I couldn’t go back there [home]. Only I, my daughter and granddaughter could get into the car. My son and wife were under the occupation. The son was also about to be shot. One second and he wouldn’t have been with us. But thank God for saving his life.

And when the brothers found out about us, they invited me to one mission in Kyiv. Eric, an American, was coming. I told this story. I saw that he was very moved because he has a lot of grandchildren of his own. I remember he was crying. But he said, “Sergei, can I go to see your children there in Okhmatdyt?” I said, “Yes, please.” And I see how God works in my life. He came. He saw them and he said, “How much will this prosthesis cost?” I said, “Eric, it is extremely expensive.” “Well, he says, how much?” I said, “\$3500.” And he said, “What about a good, a better one?” I said, “I can’t even dream about a better one.” He said, “Well, you promised your granddaughter something better.” I had said that Jesus would give a better

leg. So, I found out that the better one was \$5000. He said, "Here you go." When we are faithful before God, when we walk in His way, I think God rewards us.

One day Natasha (my daughter) and Marynka were in the ward together. And suddenly Marynka said, "Mama, mama, where is Uncle Oleg (the commander who was there) because of whom I lost my leg?" Well, Natasha looked a little distressed at her daughter. Why would she ask such a thing? And she said, "Marynochka, why are you asking about that uncle? What do you mean?" And little girl said, "You know, I forgive him." I think, brothers, we can forgive our friend for some wrong word. That girl already realized that she would never get her leg back. She realized that she would remain disabled for the rest of her life. But the child! The child forgave the enemy. She forgave them. I look at her and think, "God, how much energy she has."

The director of the Institute of Prosthetics said to me one day, "Sergei, may I go to your children?" I said, "Yes, you may surely go in." After her visit she called me and said, "I didn't sleep all night. I didn't know what I could say to the child, how I could make her happy. They are there in the hospital. There is no home of any kind for them. There is nowhere to return to. There is nothing. I did not know how to find the right words. Although I am the director of the institute, how could I pick the right words? When I came in, I wanted to cheer them up, but they cheered me up. How much energy, kindness, and light are in those eyes."

Do you know what I want to say today, brothers and sisters? We understand that when we walk before the Lord, when we trust Him with our life, when we really love Him, as Marynka used to say, "I love Jesus so much that everything is shaking inside. I love Jesus." And you know, these are really the words of a child. And this year on the 6th, the president came to us in Okhmatdyt, as he promised. There were many children there. Everyone worked out on simulators. And he asked Marynka, "What do you want?" The president came, you know, he can give everything. A 15-year-old child turned to him and said that she wants an apartment in Kyiv. The president said, "Aww, this is not your wish; it's some adult's." And he didn't say anything. He asked Marynka, "What would you like?" Very nice of him, of course. She didn't ask for money, nor a house. Even though she didn't have either of those. She didn't ask for anything. The little girl said this, "I would like you to come to visit me at home." That's a lot of respect for a person, isn't it? How often we ask the Lord for a lot. "Lord, give this, give that." But just to say, "Lord, come visit me in my life." He did not expect this. He simply stood up and said, "Marynochka, I will definitely come when the war is over."

I would like so much that the Lord could tell me and you, when this journey ends, "I will come to you. I will definitely pick you up. I will not leave you. I will take you from this land." He promised. What the president promised is good, but what Jesus promised! Good or not? Today I see God through children as through that little girl who told Naaman that there was salvation.

When Marynka came to the institute [Okhmatdyt], there were a lot of our soldiers [Ukrainian soldiers] who were undergoing rehabilitation with missing limbs. Well, you know they are different. They have a lot of negative emotions; they curse the war and everything

that came upon them. They'd had some plans for life, but now they're disabled. What can you plan anymore? And Natasha (my daughter) told us that when they came in, when those soldiers saw this 6-year-old girl come in and start running with a prosthesis, everyone fell silent. Oh, this child had a thirst for life. They could relate. So, they were silent. They all fell in love with her. Every time she came in... I sent her some candy. I gave the little I had to my children. So, I sent them some candy. She took that candy and went to the institute, where all these soldiers were standing. So, she went and gave them all a piece of candy. One soldier, however, took his candy and cried. He came up and said, "Dear child, I'm sorry that we couldn't save you." I think, brothers and sisters, who else can we save? We have our children. What are we investing in? We can win territories for them today, right? We can give them a lot of food. We can do a lot in their life. But the best we could do is to protect them from this world that surrounds them.

Marynka went to Kryvyi Rih, where she had her first surgery. She went to her doctors. She took them gifts. I remember when friends started bringing us humanitarian aid and everyone wanted to take it to the villages and distribute it to the people who suffered. And that was good. But when I said, "Let's take it to the hospital." They said, "We don't need to go to the hospital. The hospital is self-sufficient. Let's go to the villages." They don't realize that those same children in the hospital had just been brought from the villages our friends wanted to go to. But they didn't count them. The kids were not injured. They just had their dad dead... or mom... Children were in hospitals.

Marynka picked her dolls and her clothes, and we went in. And she gave all that to the children... How nice it was when the children wore her clothes. And they had nothing. The brothers who were there saw that everything got burned. The house burned down. The clothes burned down. There was nothing left. Only the walls were standing. The hospital staff said, "We don't have any funds to buy clothes for these children."

One time when we were in the hospital a boy entered the ward. Doctors also needed to do major surgery on his leg. He yelled. He kicked out all the doctors. They said, "We don't know what to do with him. He urgently needs a surgery." Marynka said, "Can I go in to him?" So, she went in. The boy saw her coming in with a prosthesis. She said, "Don't be afraid. Everything will be fine. Look, she said; I'm alive." And how do we support people who are grieving today? I will tell you one thing — the war is not over yet. It is still going. We don't know if it will end at all. If we think that we are safe, that it is only in our areas... God only knows how it will go, right? How ready are we? Do you remember the city from the Holy Scriptures? Every person must be tested. And look at who is building and how. Who builds on stone, on straw, on sand? The time will come, and all houses will be tested. We all have our trials to pass. If we have passed such tests, some other people may be going through other tests. But are we ready to meet Jesus? The Lord is coming.

I thank God so much. I remember the first days. A correspondent from CNN came to see me. He asked me if he could interview me. I said, "Yes, you can." When I told him this whole story, he said, "Sergei, can I come to you when the war ends and when you serve the Lord together with your granddaughter?" I said, "It would be very good." He said he wanted to write a continuation of all this story.

This Sunday in Novovorontsivka, where I serve, Marynka and I were at the service. Today it is easy for me to preach, easy to talk. Because we went along this difficult path, all those trials. And many would like to ask me some provocative questions, but they cannot. Do you know why? Because I suffered. Because today many say if you went through this, if it happened in your life... It did. It did and is today. We believe and say today that there in Heaven the Lord has prepared a place for everyone. I want to thank you. You know, you can't tell everything. It can be told but it is difficult to experience it. But I want to pray with you. I want to thank you for your continued prayerful support. You pray for the south, for the east of Ukraine. As I was leaving to come to see you yesterday, I saw that many Ukrainian soldiers had come into the city. It's so hard but it will be even harder. So, keep praying. It is very dangerous to go to our place now. Many vehicles get hit and people die today.

We are going through difficult times, but I believe that they are blessed in our Lord. Please do not forget us in your prayers. Thank you for visiting us. Thank you for everything you bring us. Thank you for helping us. Being in this place, we would like to invite those people who are ready to serve the Lord. We don't have enough people who would share testimonies. The brothers who come to you probably tell that when you testify about the Lord to people, they stand and cry.

There are many problems with children today. There is no one to work with children. This is how I see our region through Marynka. "Uncle, she says, let's go for a walk with me." He says, "There is no time, the house must be rebuilt." "Mama", she says, "come for a walk with me." And mom says, "I have to clean." "Grandpa, the child says, go for a walk with me." I say, "Marynochka, I can't. You see, I'm helping this man to do something." And suddenly she says such a big, deep thing, "Nobody wants me." So true, our children are right. No one needs them. Because there is a war. Adults think about how to cook something, do something. So, if you have an opportunity, please do come to us. We will be very grateful. And now I would like to pray together with you. Let's thank the Lord that we are still alive, that we can have such an opportunity to gather. You have such a nice, clean, beautiful church. We don't have that. Unfortunately, not yet. But the most important thing here is not the church [building] but the people who sit here. Therefore, may the Lord bless us. Amen.