



## TERNOPIL, UKRAINE 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2012 Report

### October

Peace be with you, dear workers in the common cause of the Gospel. With this letter, I wanted to share the blessings of the past celebrations of the church.

Thanksgiving for the harvest was the main event of the month of October. Every year, many Christians celebrate this holiday. I had already begun to think: That's not interesting, spending a day in thanksgiving. We had similar holidays in the past year. Then God sent a thought: But I bless you from year to year. Indeed, this *is* a very important service.



Already in this festival there were certain traditions. I am sure that God would hear a prayer of thanksgiving even without a festive arch laden with fruits and vegetables, with no festive decorations. But all of this has created a good, cheerful atmosphere. The youth of the church took responsibility to prepare our little room for celebration. I must say that they did a great job. They used fruits and vegetables to make a clock. It was symbolic. When we looked at the arch, it reminded us of the importance of time. We said that the use of time is important. Just as wasted time is detrimental to crops, the same is true in the work of God.

Many vegetables are grown for exhibition at the rehabilitation center. It was very nice to look at the large pumpkin grown by children. But best of all, it seems they were glad when they saw that the works of their hands are in the church.

The children and young people prepared a program for the holiday service. A few weeks before the holiday, we began to invite our friends and acquaintances to this celebration. We long earlier decided that we should use such services for evangelism. Giving thanks for the harvest is the platform from which each of us can evangelize friends and relatives. Of course, we cannot say we had a lot of visitors, but some came. At any rate, this gave us the opportunity to call some and meet with them.



The worship service was held in a very festive atmosphere. After the service we spent a lot of time together. Immediately afterward we held a whole photo shoot. All our photos were taken: children, family, groups ministries like the children's ministry, youth work, rehab, home groups. I noticed that many got to be photographed in several different groups, because they are involved in multiple ministries. Thus, the Lord reminded me that we need to pray for more workers for His reaping. Even in

our new, small church there is so much work. The workers often get tired. Sometimes it affects the quality of the work - but I'm grateful to God for our people, that they serve as they can and where they can.

At the same time, we have a great need for ministers. We need a leader of young people with the gift of an evangelism who could lead our young people. We need a minister to work with the addicts. We need leaders to be involved in teaching English with the youth with the goal of sharing the Gospel. We need leaders for the home group to work with children. The list goes on and on....

Pray with us, please, about workers (leaders).

## November/December

Peace to you, dear friends!

It's very nice to know we are part of a large team of employees in a common ministry. Here in Ternopil, for us it is especially important. The region has very few Christians who are Baptists. When the church service has 50 people, that is a huge amount for us. I moved to Ternopil from the small town of Dubno. Our church was small by the standards of that city. But even a small church has 150-170 people. I wrote this to say thank you so much for being there. The whole church feels your support. We all feel your participation in our ministry. Your prayers, your greetings, your congratulations, your financial support -- all that is important to us! In this we see and feel a great church family. It's been months since I visited many of your churches in the U.S., but the warmth of your hearts and smiles and financial support still warms us.

With this letter I would like to share our news, challenges, and dreams of a rehabilitation center.

Like I wrote to you earlier, the ministry to addicts is not the central ministry of our church, but at the same time we do not want it to get neglected. This balance is difficult to maintain because of the fact that the church is small; our human and financial resources for this ministry is very limited. We have long understood that we need to expand our home for this ministry, but there could be no question of expanding, because we are financially limited. We were trying to see how and where we can spend less money. We revised our budget, it was impossible to save anything. Reduce support ministers

[of the rehab center]? But there is no support. Two people receive 500 UAH (\$62.50) and one 400 UAH (\$50). And these people have families. We pray for the opportunity to increase their support for the ministry. For food we have very little money. Finances for transport can't be reduced. They come only for worship and Bible study. For bus service back and forth for 8-10 rehabilitants is 150 UAH. For a month that is 1350 UAH (\$167). In short, our efforts did not succeed. We prayed, we prayed.

When I was in America, about the end of August, a friend of my sister from Ukraine wrote me a letter. She asked me what we need for the rehab. She had told some acquaintances about our rehabilitation center and they wanted to help. I shared with her our dream of expanding the building. Thus, we have donated money to build an extension to the kitchen of the rehabilitation center. This





extension will allow us to take not just 6-7 men for rehabilitation, but 10 or 12. For now, this amount of money (19000UAH = \$2375) is enough to buy the basic building materials, a few years ago someone gave us doors and windows (they are not new, but in good condition). One brother from my church in Dubno promised that he will build us a wood stove for cooking. And we have a wooded lot. For us, it's free fuel. We may collect in the woods, next to the rehab center, all the wood that lays on the ground.

That's how we began to expand. We have not yet completed the addition, but it's started. We laid the foundation, partially finished the walls and a roof. Now we need the electric wiring, insulation for the walls, and to have the oven built.

We pray more about the utensils and items needed to equip the kitchen. (In a kitchen, you need a refrigerator, a large kettle ...)

I noticed an interesting thing. At the rehab center, as soon as we began to build something, the ministry of the rehabilitation center began to revive. The leaders took heart themselves, and the rehabilitants began looking at the center afresh. The fact that something is changing, becoming better served as an encouragement to all of us.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Please pray for ministers to work with addicted people.

Your co-worker in the expansion of His Kingdom,  
Vitaly Bilyak