



DESNA, UKRAINE

3rd Quarter 2015 Report

July ~Tent Camp



The long-awaited tent camp, which we hold for youth from various areas—Desna, Goncharova, Chernigov.

We hold this camp on the bank of the Desna River, where we live in tents with young people for five days and have opportunities to talk to them about the Bible. We try to use this time to the maximum, in order to call them to Christ and to call them to repent. Together we cook over the fire, and together we pray before meals. We play, too, but the most important is that we share and give the teams assignments to fulfill, which draw us together for the evening sermon. That is how we conducted this camp, in which 47 people participated.

After the camp, we asked that the participants share their testimonies, how did the camp go for them? How did it change their lives?

Dennis

I am a student in a military college. I graduated this year, and for the first time I'm in this camp. For a long time I will recall these evenings around the campfire, where we sang songs with a guitar, discussed important topics that touch upon our lives.

Dasha and Varya

This is our first time in this camp, and we really liked it. Here, no one curses, everyone is friendly, and everything is like in a fairytale.

Maksim (from Desna)

I liked everything. I would like to come back next year. I enjoyed the time around the bonfire, where we sang songs.

Lyosha Savchuk

I walked around and interviewed many of our campers, and then I saw Lyosha and walked over to him asked, «Lyosha, what do you think—is there any point in holding such tent camps for young people?» Lyosha replied, «Igor, as long as we can preach the Gospel here, there is a point for holding such camps. For me, this was such a good reply. Our goal is to evangelize, and here we have the opportunity to evangelize, so we need to preach and to seize every opportunity.

I see that these very camps draw us together and we have a lot of time to talk to the young people about God, and pray for them. I invite them to pray with us. On the first day, when we suggested praying before meals, then some of the guys could not hold back their emotions and wondered what the sense was in praying. Others did not even understand what we were talking about. Yet, on the last day, when we called them to repent, some 15 people raised their hands to pray.

I'm sincerely grateful to everyone who helps us to hold such camps, grateful to all those who pray for the ministry in Chernigov Oblast.

In September we want to hold a get-together for everyone who was in the camp and present them with Bible, and to invite them to Bible groups. Pray for this, that we would be able to get them together and that there will be fruit.

August

«Can you be a believer and serve in the army?»

That is the question that a soldier brought to me three years ago, when he came to our church. I'd like to tell you about this fellow, whose name is Vova.



One Sunday evening we were at the church and preparing to each, when somebody knocked at the door. On the porch stood a young man and a woman. They said, «We would like to fellowship with believers.» We invited them to supper, and thus began our friendship. I learned that Vika had been attending church for a long while, but it was Vova's first time to meet with believers. Vika had come to Desna for several weeks for training as a sergeant, but Vova serves here [in the military]. I invited them to come to a service, and from that time onward, Vova began to attend services. Vova was interested in the question, How could a person be a believer and serve in the army, how to behave correctly. He had very many questions. He wanted to build a military career but at the same time wanted to be with God. I did not

press him and always strove to hear him out and understand him. One evening he called and asked me to talk to his girlfriend. I agreed. We conversed for a long while, and in the conversation I suggested that they get right with God. They agreed, and we prayed. My joy knew no bounds. But the more Vova grew in the Lord, the more questions he had. But, seeing all that happens in the army, he was bothered by the question of how to serve in the army as a believer. And then they sent him to war in the east; there he definitely saw the hand of God. God preserved him and sent into his life another genuine believer, who read the Bible with him during wartime. And much else that happened helped him to know God more and more. When he returned from the war he said, Pastor I have gone through many trials in my life, but I saw in everything the hand of God and I understood that a person can be a believer in the army. He asked me to baptize him, and I gladly agreed. I planned on a September baptism, but he asked me to move it up sooner, since he could be sent back to war at any time. As a church, we gladly agreed to baptize our brother.



P.S After Vova's baptism, God blessed him such that he applied to a military academy, and Vika agreed to marry him. That's how marvelously God is working in his life. We can believe that when a young couple knocked at our door, God had a wonderful plan.

September



Every year we wonder about the matter, how best to advertise in order to invite children to our Sunday school. This year was no exception as we pondered this a long while, and God gave us an interesting idea. We found a Mickey Mouse costume and walked around Desna handing out invitations, which sparked interest among both parents and children and brought smiles to their faces. Everyone asked to take photos with Mickey, and everyone received the invitations to Sunday school. In Desna people responded warmly, and this was a bazaar day, and there were many people outside and this worked as a wonderful advertisement for our

church, because not one person was apathetic to these events. Outside the church is a square where we've played games with children. There we held a Bible lesson, where we could talk about the Savior. Since then, many kids have come to our Sunday school.

Pray with us for the Sunday school ministry:

- 1) That God will touch these children while they are young,
- 2) That, through the children, the parents will hear about God.

Respectfully,
Igor Fomichov

