



## DESNA, UKRAINE 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2015 Report

### April

We have had several evangelistic projects this month, which I would like to tell you about.

It is a part of our culture to dye or decorate eggs for Easter holidays, and this tradition is rooted very deeply in the minds of our people. We decided to use this tradition to tell the Gospel to the children. We made an announcement in Desna that on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. we were going to have an egg hunt in the area around our church. We had 35 children come; many had their parents with them. After the egg hunt we shared the Gospel news with the children and their parents. We gave presents to the children and invited them to our Sunday school -- and their parents to our services.

Also, together with Lyosha Savchuk we decided to organize on the territory of our church a picnic and a game day for young people from Chernihiv. This way we could get to know them better and share our faith with them. We spent a lot of time with them playing, eating, and talking about different subjects. We also shared our testimonies with them. But what really encouraged me was what happened when we were about to see the Chernihiv group off. The guys had hired a bus to get them from Chernihiv to Desna. The bus driver was watching us during the whole time of our fellowship. It even seemed to me, at times, that he was not quite happy that he had brought them here. But, when we were about to say our farewells the driver walked up to me and said, "This is a great work that you are doing. These guys really need this." Then he told me a sad story about his own son who got lost in this sinful world. He also said that he was glad that he had gotten to spend time with us and was very impressed with what he saw, and how we should continue our work. Our conversation with him might have lasted for a long while, but then the boys came and he got shy and changed the subject. I understood that there is no such thing as a chance (accident) for God, but it is always about His plan. Brother Lyosha brought many guys with him that have never been to a church before, and from my conversation with them I saw that they did not know what to expect. They stayed reserved for a long while, but by the end of our time with them all of them were freely participating in the fellowship.

### May



Dear brothers and sisters, please, pray about our church, for God to give us wisdom to minister to the people that are called into the Army to join in the war.

Many men are being called these days to join the army. They come to Desna to get basic military training from different cities and villages from all over Ukraine. There are quite a few of them who are Christians or those who are seeking the Lord. There are others that had been so shocked with the fact that they were called to join the army in the war that it made them turn to God. Many of them would come to our church these days and we did our best to minister to

them from all of our hearts. We get to hear many amazing stories inside of the walls of our church during these days.

## Andrew

His story began many years ago; he grew up in a dysfunctional home and bound his life up with sin. But, after 12 years spent in prison he came out just to find out that he had no siblings left – his mother had died from drinking alcohol, his brother got burned along with the house. He looked at his life and realized that there was nothing he could do to change it. Around this time God knocked at the door of his heart, and he accepted Jesus but then started “to cool down.” Watching the news on TV had awoken a strong sense of patriotism in him and he volunteered to be sent to war. While in Desna, he was pondering over his life. Being one day on his way to a military bathhouse, which is located next to our church, he saw a cross on the building of our church and decided to come in. We had many conversations with him about God, faith, his life, and that the true salvation can be found in God only.



There were many other soldiers who came to our church during this time. What’s really interesting – they were from different denominations. Just recently we had a guy who had been attending a Catholic church while at home. We are happy to welcome everybody who comes to our church and try to serve them with our words and our deeds



We served them by arranging meals for them to share the love of the Lord with them and to leave warm memories of our church in their hearts. I noticed that these guys are a lot more open to hearing about the Lord than some of the others in our community that we have been ministering to. It is, surely, a great opportunity for us to share Christ with them.

These are some of their comments about our church:

### **Koliya**

Praise God for this church being here at this place. This is the right location for your church. There is a great need for you to be here.

## Andrew

You accepted me as if I were one of your own families. I thank God for you. I felt at home in your church



### **Sergey**

For a long time, I kept asking God why He allowed that I would be called into the army to go to war, and only when I ended up here did I understand why. I hardly ever thought about God while at home – not like when I am here. I am very glad that there is a church in this place. I would have felt very lonely without the church.

Pray about the ministry of our church, that God would use us for His glory.

## June



Here in Desna, we held our camp right after the camp in Goncharovsk. Of course, there was a big contrast. In Desna we had fewer children than we had expected. The camp began with team leaders walking around town and distributing invitations to children, and then among their acquaintances. In camp we held Bible lessons, and the kids still recall those lessons. It was an unforgettable time, both for the children and for us. We tried to lead the children to the Savior, so that even from childhood they might turn to Him.

## **Ilyusha**

There was a particular boy who came to our camp. I noticed him right away and started to chat with him. Seeing that he was not from a well-to-do family, we gave him a tee shirt as a prize. Later, after camp, I bumped into Ilyusha and his mother, and it seemed to me that I know her. He said, «Mom, this is Uncle Igor, the one that I told you about.» They came over to me, and we started to talk. She said that her son had come home from camp so happy and that she was so thankful for our having showed so much attention to her son. I told her that we have services for adults and invited her. She knows how the Lord changed my life. I see how God is knocking at their family, and now, when we see each other in town we always talk, and she says, «I want to come; well, everything as it comes out.» After camp, Ilyusha and I have remained friends and we always say hello on the street.



## **Nika**

Nika came to us for camp. I know her. Her grandmother used to come to our services back when we met in the House of Officers. But then she somehow drifted away, and here was her granddaughter coming to our camp. One day we kept the kids overtime as they worked on their handicrafts, and when the grandmother got worried, she came to see what was happening. While she waited, we talked much about the Lord and about the church, and this gave a good opportunity to invite her to church.

## **Pray with us:**

- For the children's ministry in Desna.
- For the Sunday school.

Respectfully,

Pastor of the church  
Igor Fomichov