



DESNA, UKRAINE 3rd Quarter 2014 Report

July

Dear brothers and sisters, I want to tell about an evangelistic camp, which we held in tents on the River Desna.



In this camp there were campers from multiple locations-- Chernihiv, Desna, Goncharovske and a few guys from Lugansk. In all, the camp had 46 people.

We tried to do everything possible to steer their thinking toward the fact that there is a God. Second, we emphasized that they needed to turn to Him, and to this end we held discussions on themes from the Bible. Around the campfire we sang Christian hymns, talked about the gospel, we shared personal experiences of coming to the Lord, and how He supports and helps us. All of our program were designed so that we all became friends, and after the camp could continue to stay in

touch. We did not want there to be any barriers that would keep them from attending the groups and the youth meetings.

To do this, we divided into three teams with leaders to work on a common task with his team. And by the end of the camp many built very trusting relationships. Each task was different, but required the work of the whole team. We were trying to do everything to make their team one.

For about a week we had a very good time in the camp. For many it was an unforgettable time. And we in this camp decided to take extra measures so that everyone would leave with good memories, and that these young people could return home and tell their parents and friends. We invited two girls from Chernihiv, so that they could participate in the program and perform a light show. But in this plan, too, I saw the hand of our Lord, for one girl who came to do the presentation (her name is Dasha) was already in our camp last year. But Lyosha had told me that in the past year her interest has cooled and she had lost interest in Christian activities. I was upset, but when she arrived in the camp and talked with all the youth, I'm sure she felt the Christian atmosphere. And when I walked over and asked if she would go, she said, «I do not want to leave here.» That made me smile, and I hope that God touched her. There were also youth who came to the camp in order to start a new life. Vasya was a guy who asked if he could come to the camp, and had an urge for a new life. We talked a lot with him and prayed. At camp he stopped smoking and decided to live a new life. Pray that he will remain firm in his decision. We hope that he will attend the meetings in Chernigiv.



One more thing that was bothering us was that many parents in Desna were afraid to let their children go for different reasons, some due to the stability in the country, others because of rumors that we are cultists. One guy's mother let him go only with great difficulty, and she was so worried she called me several times a day. I hope that after this camp she will change her attitude concerning our church.

One more thing that was bothering us was that many parents in Desna were afraid to let their children go for different reasons, some due to the stability in the country, others because of rumors that we are cultists. One guy's mother let him go only with great difficulty, and she was so worried she called me several times a day. I hope that after this camp she will change her attitude concerning our church.

Pray with us:

- 1) That God would touch these young people and they will come to God.
- 2) Pray for the children, that after the camp they will attend kids' groups and services.

August

Day Camp in Desna



To kick off our children's camp, we started with a public presentation that uses soap bubbles. We invited children and their parents to the church to watch. About 80 children and 15 adults parents came to see this show. The presentation with soap bubbles reaped a lot of positive emotions, not only in the children but also among their parents, although heard more from the parents. Everyone was thankful that, during such a hard time in our country, we set aside time to do something for the good of the children. After the bubble show, we passed out a hundred invitations to our children's camp. In the camp, the children and leaders created handcrafts, learned poems, but the most important thing is that we gave them the good news, the

Gospel.

It's a great joy for me that the church team is growing and wants to serve in children's ministry. Some team members requested time off from work in order to serve the children's camp.

During the camp the children went to the Lord with prayers that God would forgive them for their sins, and they also prayed for their parents to be saved.

Pray with us:

- 1) That these kids from an early age will come to the Lord.
- 2) That the parents will allow their children to attend Sunday school.
- 3) For our Sunday school teachers, that God will give them a love for children.

September

A Wedding

I can't hold back from writing about this amazing life story. One sister contacted our church. In the beginning she wrote letters to us from prison, about her faith and her life with God, and later wrote about the ministry, which she conducted in prison and about how it would be when she was released. Her mother went to prison to visit her, and there the mother turned to God. When I spoke with her brother Aleksei, he told me that he was afraid to visit Lesya in jail because his mother came back from seeing her and suddenly stopped smoking and drinking and started going to church. Then they released Lesya. She came to our church, and we talked a lot, and for us it was a great blessing. She told us that before she was put in prison, she had been married, but while in prison, she divorced her husband. Later, as she matured in the Lord, she realized that he was her husband and that divorce is not correct, and that she should try to restore her relationship with him. But there was a problem: her ex-husband was an alcoholic. In Desna people knew him as a man who drinks a lot, and few believed that he could change. But Lesya believed it was possible, even though her mom and all who knew her ex-husband Victor did not believe he could possibly change. Lesya told him how God had changed her life. She declared God could change his too, and she suggested that he go back to Kharkov with her and enter the rehabilitation center. He said, Okay, but did not dare. But she did not lose hope but went back to



Kharkov alone. She called, talked to him on the phone, and when she came to Desna the second time he did not mind going. But everyone thought he would simply change his mind again when it came time to go. (Now I want to describe what happened with Victor at this time).

Victor shared his side of the story:

When Lesya came the first time, I was not myself, and I was worried about that first meeting. But the meeting went smoothly. I was not ready to go to a rehab center, but simply said I would go. But before the second time Lesya came, God had already begun to work in me. One morning I walked to a stall where they sell alcoholic drinks, and everyone who drinks gathers there. I saw that my friend was already there at 8.00 am and was already drunk. I thought to myself, do I look like him? After that incident, I began to see myself from the outside and began to think about my life, how I would lose if I tried to change my own life, and how it would be if I were ready to go to rehab when Lesya came.

In the rehabilitation center Victor turned to God and forsook his harmful habits, and began to work to change his life. It's been half a year, and Victor returned to Desna and began attending our church. Lesya arrived from Kharkov a month later. But they now had to solve the problem of what to do next. They wanted to restore a destroyed marriage and live as a Christian family.

They appealed to our church, asking that the church give their blessing to their reunion. They wanted to proceed with the Lord's blessing. After many conversations, I agreed to bless them. The church approved joyfully. At a Sunday service, we prayed for them, that God would bless them. We have become witnesses of how the Devil once destroyed their lives, but God rebuilt them. And for many people this has become a great testimony. Once again we saw God creating His Kingdom.

Their non-believer friends came to the wedding, and clearly it was not an easy step for them, because some of them live very sinful lifestyles. But afterward we had a small banquet and a friend of Vitya's came to me and said he was not accustomed to all of this, but that it had been a very pleasant service and fellowship. Brother Lyosha Savchuk preached the main sermon, and he explained everything so clearly. Later some of Vitya's friends repeated to me some things they heard and declared it had been interesting. These companions said they are happy for Victor and Lesya.

So, God took that which Satan had ruined and repaired it.

I do not know about you, but I was inspired by this true life story, and I want to say, «Thank God!»

Igor Fomichov