



## DESNA, UKRAINE

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2014 Report

#### March

Dear brothers and sisters, thank you for your prayers during this difficult time. We have needed prayer support as never before. I wanted so much to write to you and tell you how we have been pressed, but could not find the strength to write. For we Ukrainians this is a difficult time. They want to pull our country into a military conflict. Provocations occur and new victims. In Desna, during this time we have seen many changes. Right from the beginning of his power, Yanukovych started to reduce the military in Desna and transfer forces to other cities. People had to leave. When the conflict started in Crimea, the military began to return to Desna again, but it was not for long. After a few weeks, full military readiness sent forces to the border. They began calling up people from ages 18 – 45 to serve in the army. Everyone is worried about what will happen.... It is a very difficult time to live in this area. People just talk about war and provocations that happen, and no matter how much we want not to think about it, that is hard to do, because it touches our relatives and friends.

P.S. Pray for our country, for Ukraine, that God would help us, and that at this time we will have great boldness to preach.

#### April

Spring is in full swing, and we feel it is so, although much that is still not clear is happening in our country. But, we continue to work for our Lord. This month, despite everything going on, we found the strength to hold an Easter evangelistic service for children. We invited a Christian puppet theater to come from Kiev. We invited children from our village, and the kids enthusiastically came, and many parents too. The children sang Christian songs, played some games, and had a lot of different competitions where the parents participated with their children. Before the performance of the puppet theater, we had prepared a skit with the Sunday school children and a few songs, and for many parents it was a good indication that their children are involved in the program. We also had a chat with parents while their children were



in the puppet theater. We made coffee and tea, and could get acquainted and chat. At first the parents were shy, but then they gladly talked.

Over the past several months, a lot of new teenagers have begun to come attend Sunday school. At first they came just to play various board games, but now some are involved and help in Sunday school. They participate in the skits and help to conduct the games. But some difficult children also come, and with them it is hard to find an approach.



#### Stas, age 13

His plight is hard: his father hanged himself, and a year later his mother sat in jail for murder. He was raised by his grandmother. He is a very difficult child. But something draws him to the church. I don't know, maybe it is

just the games, but I know that things do not simply happen for no reason. I'm trying to find some common ground with him, but he does not want the contact; he keeps me at a distance. Pray for Stas that that the Lord will touch his heart.

### **Diana and Sasha (Sisters)**

Very open girls; they want to fellowship. They help. Pray that God will save them.

### **May**

Dear brothers and sisters, I ask you to pray for our ministry in Desna. A lot of changes are going on. Now the one topic on everyone's lips is the military conflict taking place in Ukraine. But we try to be wise and to properly support the people and the many different people who have moved to Desna. And then there are different events occurring that keep people from living in peace. A lot of my friends from Desna have been called up for military service.

Various people come to Desna. And due to where the church is located, near the place where the military has to wash, we have the opportunity to talk with some of them. So I wanted to make a request to you concerning one man I met a few days ago. He walked to the military bath and saw that there our building with a cross on it. He realized that it is a church. So he asked his superiors for permission to come to a service, where he could worship God before leaving for the defense of Lugansk. After the service, we talked a lot with him, and he told me that he had been drafted into the army. He told me that he talks a lot about God, and the soldiers listened attentively about God. When it was just he and I talking together, he said, «I want to tell you how I came to God.» And he told me that when he came under fire and bombs were falling, he saw how the shells were coming closer and closer. He ran into a dugout. The shells continued to hit closer and closer, and he began to pray and begged God, «Save me!» And 10 seconds later, he ran out of the dugout, and he saw an unexploded shell lying there. He had not run far before it exploded. And he said, «How could I not believe in God after that?» Only God can save man, and this man found it true based on his own experience.

Pray with us:

- 1) Pray for peace in our country; now all the churches in Ukraine are praying.
- 2) Pray with us that people would repent and turn to God.
- 3) Pray that would God softened the hearts of the people, that they would become better.
- 4) Pray that God would give me wisdom, what to tell people in this difficult time for us.

### **June**

Dear friends! I want to apologize for delaying so long since I wrote about our ministry. It's just that in these past days, a lot of what is going wrong in our country, as well as our ministry, are connected with the military and their families. Because of this we have had much praying and many concerns. And out of those



people here, many have been called up for the army, some to guard the border, some to the war in Lugansk and Donetsk. We did not know how to start a camp for children, because there were almost no children on the streets. We prayed and decided that, no matter what, we will hold a children's camp in Goncharovskiy. We invited some acquaintances who put on a presentation with soap bubbles. To our surprise, and

for God's glory, a lot of children of different ages came. We were very pleased, and at this show we distributed 180 invitations to children's camp. But many adults also attended, and it was good because we



could chat with many and talked about God. Many people were deeply impressed that even during this difficult time someone could still think about children. At camp, 72 children came, and it was an unforgettable camp. The kids listened so attentively to stories of our God.



A very interesting thing happened with one boy in our group, Vanya. I asked him if he liked the camp, and he said «Very much». And when I asked him what his parents thought about him going to camp, he replied that his mother was against it. «What is she against?» I asked. He said, «She goes to the Orthodox Church, and she says that you are not telling the truth about God, but I do not think so unless it is possible to talk about God not tell the truth». I was so surprised that this boy thinks in such an interesting way. After our conversation, I began to watch him and saw that he very clearly understands the gospel. He answered all the questions concerning our Lord. He understood everything so clearly.

Pray with us:

- 1) In our country terrible things happen; pray for Ukraine.
- 2) Pray that people would open their hearts to the Lord. (Many are now looking death in the face.)
- 3) Pray for the ministry in Goncharovski and Desna.

Sincerely,

Igor Fomichov