



DESNA, UKRAINE 3rd Quarter 2013 Report

July

The camp in tents



A campground is a very good opportunity to evangelize young people. Our team has a good opportunity to talk to children about our Lord and Savior for 6 days and to call them to repentance. Every year we experience new blessings. This year, one of the blessings is related to my family. On the third day of camp, I found my daughter Anya very upset. This was before the evening meetings. She sat there and cried. I got a fright and asked what had happened, and she told me, Papa, I want to be like you. I do not want to go to hell. I'm scared. I'm afraid I will not get to Heaven, I want to be like all the believers. I asked, Did somebody say something to you? Why are you thinking about this? And what she told me surprised and pleased me at the same time. She said no one had talked to

her about this. She had simply sat and listened to the sermons, and that spoke to her heart. I thought, That's how the Holy Spirit knocks at hearts, and if my daughter who always hears preaching and exhortations in this camp felt the touch of the Holy Spirit, then with the same power God is knocking at the hearts of these young people. It encouraged me in preaching. That evening I talked with Anya, and she prayed the prayer of repentance. After that prayer, she stopped crying. I asked her, Where will you go now? She said, Papa, to Heaven of course. I called my wife and told her this news. For us it this was a great joy.

In the camp, there were many situations in which God showed that He is alive, and the youth could see the power of prayer. One situation was the weather. We had bad weather, it's not the most pleasant thing in tents when the rain comes in. The tents cannot withstand more rain and get wet and everything inside gets wet and everyone is freezing because they are soaked to the skin. And this time we got caught in a downpour. The rain totally soaked some of the tents to the point that you couldn't even sleep in them. The whole day was overcast. We were trying to dry things over the fire, and that worked. That evening parents called and said the weather forecast was for more rainfall than yesterday. We all began to think about how we didn't want to endure a second night like that. In the distance we saw black clouds, lightning, and heard thunder. We saw it with our own eyes. We all began to pray, Lord, please don't send a second night like the one we just had. There was a heavy wind, and before our eyes, the wind blew the clouds passed our camp. Everyone shouted, God heard us; He answered our prayers. People were talking all around camp, and I prayed and I prayed. Someone started to say that God heard me. Well, we were looking for a miracle, and we rejoiced that God gave an example that showed the young people the power of prayer, that God helps. For many of them, that lesson will be remembered for a lifetime. It was a living example. God protected us from the rain.

After that incident, we had great boldness to preach about our almighty God.



There's nothing like food cooked over the fire, and time with the kids when we could teach by the example of the Christian life.

Pasha 31, years old.

Pasha went to the camp in order to change his life. After camp, Pasha became more devoted to the pursuit of spiritual growth and a changed life.

Sasha.

Every day he personally read the Bible.

At the evening meeting, we encouraged the young people to turn to the Lord in prayer, and 18 agreed to pray.

August

A puppet theater came to us



This year, we decided to hold a children's camp in late August. We chose this time for the reason that it would end right before the resumption of Sunday school. We prepared a good advertisement for the start of camp: we invited a Christian children's puppet theater. We personally walked through the village and handed out invitations to children and their parents. Children learned about the puppet theater and with great joy received the news. The parents asked different questions about the program. And that made it possible to talk about our church and Sunday School ministry. We arranged everything, and it was not a work day, so many children came with their parents. After the puppet show, we gave the children a children's Bible. And then

they could take part in different competitions and earn gifts. It was a great joy for us as children filled the room and the parents had nowhere to sit and they looked from the doorway. Around one hundred children attended the puppet theater, and everyone received a children's Bible. After that, we spent three days in camp ministry, where children of an early age could learn about our Savior Jesus Christ.

Mama (Lena) has two children.

She arrived late for the puppet theater, and parents of other children showed her the Bibles, which we had given them. I held a contest for children and watched it all. She came to me and said, my younger son was asleep and we were late. Can we get a Children's Bible. I said, «What language do you want? We have both Russian and Ukrainian.» She answered, «Ukrainian. I want to read to my children.» Many parents said they would read to their children.

Afterward, in the camp, we asked who had read their Children's Bible, which was given after the puppet theater. Many of the children said that they have read it, or their parents had read it to them.



After conducting the puppet theater, we held a children's camp, where we could get acquainted with children and acquainted them with our Savior, Jesus Christ and His words. To do this, the program of the camp was prepared in such a way to help them remember the Bible stories and Bible verses. We played various types of games, where we could all become friends. Children were assigned different team tasks that would help them even more to remember about our God. One of these

tasks was to use cones to spell out "God is light." The children did these with such joy. We rehearsed songs about God with them. The kids love to sing, and they began to have favorite Christian songs. For the most part, the craft time was the creating of greeting cards. And on each card were verses from the Bible. We instructed

them to give these cards to someone, for instance, to their parents or grandparents. We wanted the presence of the children in the Christian camp to affect their parents, and to have these handcrafts constantly reminding of Sunday school and the Word of our God.

Ira 12 years.

«I have already read almost all of the children's Bible you gave me.»

Veronika 10 years.

When we asked her , do you know why Jesus Christ came to earth? She said, To die for my sins.

Of course , there were also not-such-good answers . One boy, Slavik, when we asked him how to get to heaven, said that a person should take a rocket and fly there.



Prayer requests :

- 1) We have distributed about one hundred Children's Bibles. The parents of many children have been reading to the children at bedtime. Pray that God would touch their hearts, that they would think about salvation.
- 2) Pray for the children and for the ministry of Sunday School.
- 3) For the Sunday school ministry, that children would come to God from a young age.
- 4) That God would prompt their interest in learning about Him.
- 5) Pray for parents, that they would let their children attend Sunday school.

September

I wish to thank you all sincerely for prayer support, and participation in the service of Desna. After we had a puppet theater and a children's camp, we jumped into the ministry of the Sunday school. God answered our prayers and every Sunday more new children come. We started using all the resources we have in our church, including the game room. And this is very effective. In addition, the church holds classes in the English language. Children who attend the English class do not go to Sunday school for various reasons. Some don't want to, and some parents do not allow it. Once we started using the gameroom, then some children started to come on Sunday. Even parents who come to pick up their children after the English language lesson see the game room and strike up conversations with me, and ask about the church and what we do. And this is a good testimony for many people. We see how God blesses the children's ministry.

We conducted a picnic for children. We asked that they tell their parents that they will linger at the church because they will grill sausages. The kids were so impressed that they could take part in the preparation of sausages. During this time, we became good friends with the children. They, too, became drawn to the church because they like that we spend time with them. Throughout the week children call and ask if they can come to the church. But the most important thing we want to convey is how much God loves them.

Pray with us :

- 1) For the children who attend Sunday school to come to know the Lord as their Savior at an early age.
- 2) Pray for the parents, that God will get ahold of their hearts, and that they won't prevent children from attending Sunday school.
- 3) Please Pray for our Sunday school teachers, that God will give them strength and love for children.

P.S. I want to once again express my gratitude to all the brothers and sisters who pray for the ministry in Desna. One year, I asked that you would pray for Alyona and Vova. In that year, they began to help in the ministry of Sunday School. Today Alyona conducts lessons, not only for children but also adults who listen with an open mouth. And Vova helps with the games, and the kids love it. I say, I'm just happy and I thank God that He raised them up to help. They are now in the church and actively involved. Pray for their family, that God would bless them and use them.

Sincerely,
Pastor Igor