



DESNA, UKRAINE 3rd Quarter 2012 Report

July 2012

“God saved me.”

Dear friends, I want you to rejoice with us in concerning the miracles that God has done in the tent camp. On Sunday, a guy named Dima volunteered go with us and help put up tents for the camp. I accepted his offer with pleasure for two reasons: the first is that this would be helpful, and the second was that so he could get better acquainted with believers. After the coming of the Americans, he began to come to church often. In the evening I saw Dima speaking sister Irina at the campfire.

She walked over to me and said, “Dima wants to get saved.” I said, “Praise God. But what’s the problem? You and Sasha [her husband] can pray with him.

“He still wants to talk with you first.”

I was delighted and went to Dima. “You say you want to repent?”

He said, “Yes.” He said that back when the Americans visited he started to think about how we sat and sang and songs, and he heard my testimony of how I came to God. He thought, if God has changed my life so much, then He can change his life. But he was afraid and even that day he was struggling with fear, but he wanted to repent before God. He said that he believes that



God came to this earth in order to die for his sins. He believed that God would change his life. He told me how his parents divorced and that his father drank a lot. And a large part of his life he lived with his mother, and he said, “I hope that my dad would come to church.”

We talked a little more, and then I asked him to pray with me a prayer of repentance. We prayed, and he repeated after me. Then he said, “May, I pray in your own words”

“Yes, that’s good.”

We congratulated him and I thought, “Not a bad start for camp—someone repenting on the first day.” Throughout the duration of camp, Dima borrowed my Bible to read. He read ten chapters a day. It was evident that he was on fire, and God has touched. On Sunday at the church service we gave Dima a Bible.

Pray for Dima, for his spiritual growth, and for his father. His father said he, too, will come to the church, but something is still holding him back.

August 2012

Dear friends! We are thankful to the Lord that this summer several groups from America came to help us in ministry. One such group traveled to Chernihiv, but they also expressed a desire to stay a few days in Desna. Always for many people it is a great testimony when brethren come from America and

help in construction, etc. For many people this is a great testimony, and a lot of people ask questions to which we can talk about the church, our faith, share the Gospel with people, and many times after these conversations, I personally invite people to church.

We spent an unforgettable time in fellowship with our brothers and sisters, and in serving our Lord. We prayed and thought about how to use this time productively, that would glorify our Lord. It was very very hot. All the people were at the beach. In Desna there was hardly anyone in town since they were all resting, and in addition it was a weekend. We decided to go to the riverbank and play volleyball. When we arrived, there was already stretched a volleyball net. We had twenty-three people. We started playing, and unsaved people wanted to play with us. We divided up into teams. Then something amazing happened. Local people who had come to the beach started coming to us Ukrainians, and asked questions: Who are these visitors? What are they were doing here? And we answered, trying to tell them about the Lord and the Church. I never got to play because I was approached by different people who wanted to talk. One of those people with whom I spoke was a guy named Kolya. He came up and asked who these foreigners were and talked for a long time. And then he said, «You know, I have many times wanted to talk with you. I cannot live like this anymore. My life is falling apart, and I do not see a way out. I want to come to God, but something is holding me back. At one time, it was my friends. Now I'm just a slave to alcohol and in a vacuum. I want to ask you to pray for me. I'm stretched two ways and don't know how to win.» He said that his sister wants to come to God, but something will not let her.

Another talk was with a family who vacationed at the beach; they asked a lot of questions. I invited them to church, and they said they will come.

With us in the volleyball game was a girl named Natasha. She liked it so much she even came in the evenings when the Americans were there. She said she would come to the church, but her parents were not happy about her new acquaintances, and she did not come.

Prayer requests:

- 1) Pray for Kolya, and his sister Lena, that God will save them.
- 2) Pray for the ministry in Desna.
- 3) For the Sunday school, which will restart in September.
- 4) Pray for the people in Desna with whom we talked about the Lord.
- 5) Pray for Natasha, that her desires will be toward the Lord, and that her parents will change their minds about the church.

September 2012

Dear friends! I want to tell you about a great joy, which occurred this month. In the summer I wrote to you about a guy by the name of Dima, who turned to God in camp. We prayed for Dima and wished that his life would be changed, which would be a great testimony for all of his friends. We didn't want his prayer to God to last only as long as camp, but for all life. And on September 16, Dima came to the service with a friend by the name of Ira. It was her first time in a Baptist church, she told me. After the meeting, she came up to me and said that she wanted to repent, and that a week before coming to the church she had thought about it. She said her family is very religious, and that she had visited the Orthodox Church since childhood. But in talking with Dima, she said that she wanted to be Dima, that whatever happened to him, she wanted that to happen to her. We talked about Christ and salvation and eternal life. Even though she tried to show that she was enlightened by knowledge of the Bible, it was clear that she did not understand the Gospel. We talked, me explaining the Gospel, and it was evident that God opened her understanding of the Gospel. Brother Lyosha and I shared with her our faith and

how God saved us. She fixed her eyes on us and eagerly absorbed everything like a sponge. I suggested that she pray if she hadn't changed her mind. She repeated that all week she had thought about it and still wanted to repent. We bowed in prayer. She repeated a prayer of repentance after me, and then said that she would like to pray in her own words. She prayed so sincerely and simply. After praying, we talked a long while about the fact that it is important to continue to pray, and read the Bible, and attend church, and about how the angels in heaven rejoice when one sinner repents. We gave her a Bible, and she happily received it into her hand, so often looking at it.

Please pray for Ira. I'm sure it won't be easy for her when her parents learn of her decision because her parents attend the Orthodox Church. In many Orthodox churches they talk about Baptists, and not very well.

Pray with us:

- 1) For the Sunday school ministry
- 2) for the teen ministry
- 3) For the music ministry. Soon brother Lyosha will leave us for ministry, and it will not be easy.

Sincerely,
Igor Fomichev
Pastor of the Church