



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Planting in Chervona Sloboda

1st Quarter 2015

January

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ! The new year has only begun, and already is rich with blessings. At the end of this month there took place an all-Ukraine teen conference, at which young people from



various corners of our country gathered. The goal of the conference was to bring to these youth the roles of men and women in this world, and what God wants them to be.

At this conference, young people considered the question «With whom do I identify?» The general theme of the conference was «Identification.»

Teens from our church in Chervona Sloboda also attended the conference. Vitaly Bilyak, a BIEM missionary, preached at the conference. I joined several other pastors in organizing the

conference. The youth were quite happy; everything pleased them, and they learned a lot. At the end of the first day there was an invitation to repent. All the pastors went forward for prayer with the youth. One after another, young people went forward and dedicated their lives to the Lord. They prayed the prayer of repentance and dedication. God blessed our church. One girl, Katya, also received Jesus into her heart. Katya had recently begun to visit the Sunday school of our church, and she very actively takes part in studies, studying the Bible and asking many questions. In recent days, Katya has participated in our puppet theater. When the first day of the conference was over, my wife and I brought the whole group from Chervona Sloboda to our home for the night. We fellowshiped a lot, had supper together, and prayed. Everyone rejoiced for Katya and congratulated her. Such is our happy news.



Praise the Lord for this conference, and for the many salvation decisions among the youth! Please pray for all our teens, that they remain dedicated Christians, that God will preserve them from the influences of this world.

I am very thankful to all of you dear brothers and sisters for your prayers and your concern for us. Thanks to your prayers and offerings, we can minister here in Ukraine. May God bless you!

February

I wrote recently about the puppet theater, in which children of our Sunday school play roles. We put on a Christmas show for children for kindergarten and elementary school. The Lord has blessed this ministry, and recently, we agreed with the principal of a secondary school to do a presentation in his school. The principal

authorized us to do so and even more: he agreed to allow us to conduct Bible classes using the Bible school program "Emmaus," but on one condition—that the parents of pupils give written permission for their children's to take part.

We are now preparing a letter to the parents and plan to deliver it to all parents to get permission from them.

We are very pleased that the children are actively participating in the ministry of the theater group. This group meets on Wednesdays before the whole church Bible study. Between these meetings there is a break in which we fellowship and eat together. This fellowship time is very useful; it brings together children and adults.



Please pray about the possibility of holding these Bible lessons. It all depends on the parents' permission, whether we teach their children the Word of God. Pray that the Lord will work out everything according to His will.

May God bless all of you Lord!

March



The month of March was unusual for my Alyona and me. We spent all of that month together in America. It's not the first time we've been in that country, but it was the first time we served together there in ministry for BIEM. Before leaving, we left our children in the care of Alyona's parents, which they were happy to do. Thanks to Skype and Viber, we had daily opportunities not only to hear our children, but also to see them. This helped us to endure the time away from our loved ones.

During our time in America we visited many churches, met many brothers and sisters in Christ, got acquainted with interesting and wonderful people, drove a thousand miles, and visited homes in a number of states. The trip was interesting. We enjoyed many blessings.

We want to thank all the friends who received us in their homes, who fed us. We thank you for your hospitality and care. We felt very comfortable with you. We thank those churches and all the pastors for your receptivity and the opportunity to be in your churches. Once more it was confirmed to us that we are one family, part of one large family of God. In your faces we saw friends—our brothers and sisters—ready to sacrifice and to love. Your prayers and material support are very important to us in Ukraine. Without you, ministry would be very difficult to perform, and at times simply not possible. I ask you to continue praying for us and for the ministry in Ukraine. I thank God for you. May the Lord bless you!

Sincerely yours,
Vitaly and Alyona Yurchenko