



## ***GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH***

### **Church Planting in Chervona Sloboda**

*1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2013*

#### **January**

“Children are our heritage,” as they say, and the Bible says, “Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” Ps.127: 3.

We understand that the things we build into today’s children forms their worldview, and will later direct their lives. We pray for our children, the children who attend Sunday school, that God would give wisdom as we pour into their minds the Word of God, so that they will follow it all their lives. As wise Solomon wrote:

- <sup>1</sup> My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;
- <sup>2</sup> So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;
- <sup>3</sup> Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;
- <sup>4</sup> If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;
- <sup>5</sup> Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.
- <sup>6</sup> For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.
- <sup>7</sup> He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.
- <sup>8</sup> He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.
- <sup>9</sup> Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.
- <sup>10</sup> When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;
- <sup>11</sup> Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:
- <sup>12</sup> To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;
- <sup>13</sup> Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;
- <sup>14</sup> Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;
- <sup>15</sup> Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths....

In our church, we don’t have a great many Sunday school children, but we are doing our best to instill those children whom God has given us good preparation for adult life and to make them true Christians. At Christmas, our Sunday school puts on a program for children who do not attend Sunday school. We invited children from our village to the church for the Christmas meeting. At Christmas, there were not a lot of kids, but everyone who came was very pleased. Our children prepared skits, songs, poems for all who came to share the celebration. As usual, we invited children to attend Sunday school and urged parents to consider the future of their children and to bring their children to church. Of course, all those children who came received gifts, which also made them very happy.

We plan in the near future to hold a festive performance in the kindergarten. We already have an

agreement with the Director for such an event, invited the puppet theater of a fellow church in Kiev. We ask that you pray for this ministry for young children, that God will be working in the hearts of children and parents who come with their children for the holiday.

Pray for revival in the village and that God will send people thirst to hear His Word and will set their hearts to repent and accept Jesus Christ.

I am very grateful to you, dear brothers and sisters, for your prayers and sacrificial heart. Thanks to you, the Lord's work is being done here, too, in Ukraine. God bless you and reward you a hundredfold!

## **February**

We recently met with a Christian family. Anatoly and Ludmila are living in a neighboring village, Yuriv. They recently moved from the village to Kiev. Anatoly and Ludmila organized a puppet show and held services in orphanages and in homes for disabled children. It so happened that Christmas gifts came to us too late; we got them recently. We decided to remind those children about Christmas, which was recently celebrated and which children love so much, especially since kids love getting gifts at any time.

We decided to hold an evangelistic meeting for children. Anatoly and Ludmila were kind enough to help us. In school, we made an announcement, posted a message in the village, invited children to the club where we have not been for a long while. That is where we started Bible studies with children, when we still did not have a house of worship. And so, yesterday, in the club gathered 70 children and their parents. The children heard the story of Jesus Christ, how He was born, how He served people and how He died for our sins. The children of our Sunday school sang songs and recited poems. Everything went very well. The children received gifts, and once again we invited them to attend Sunday school at our church.

After the Christmas presentation, we were invited to the house of Anatoly and Ludmila for a Bible study in their home. So we struck up a friendship with the believers from the neighboring village. God has blessed this ministry. We rejoiced when they heard the children answering questions. They know a lot about Jesus Christ and therefore, our work was not in vain. We believe that seed of God's Word sown in the children's heart is sure to bring fruit for eternal life. We pray for the children of our village, and we ask you to pray for them.

I am very grateful to all our staff at the mission BIEM, for your prayers and support, I thank all the brothers and sisters who constantly pray for us and support us financially. God bless you! Thank you for everything! We pray for you and ask that you do not cease to pray for us.

## **March**

For us, the month March turned out to be very busy and productive. Given the fact that this month we [Eugene Buyko and I] were in the U.S., Sam Slobodian did everything possible to make sure Eugene and I felt busy. We visited a lot of churches that support our mission, met many friends whom we love and who are always giving us great hospitality and attention, made new friends who have become very friendly. In the U.S., we felt at home, and thanks to new technologies, every day we could see our families via Skype. Time flew by very quickly. As we sat on the airplane, which was heading to

Ukraine via Amsterdam, it was a little sad to leave the friends in America, the churches to which we got acquainted. It feels as if we are leaving home, but all the same our home sweet home was waiting beyond the ocean.

I would like to send greetings to all our friends in the United States, and say, "We love you very much. You are in our hearts. I cannot list all of you friends, I'm afraid of leaving someone out. But even if I took several pages to do it, not all the names would fit. Dear friends, this is for everyone who knows us, and with whom we fellowshiped in America, who took us home and fed us and sacrificed for us time and your finances, or who simply shook our hands. Thank you, dear friends. Thank you from our family, thank you for your love, your prayers, thank you for your attention and your friendship. God bless you!

Sincerely,  
Vitaly Yurchenko