



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Planting in Chervona Sloboda 4th Quarter 2012 Report

October



On the 1st of October in Ukraine we observe Elderly Citizens Day. Our sister Olga works in social service care for older people. More than once our church has helped the lonely elderly ladies Olga looks over. Olga recently appealed to the church to offer give greetings to these ladies on that day, to visit them and give small food packages. We had the opportunity not only to help support these grandmother materially, but also gave Christian gospel literature and various brochures.

One day we loaded my car with groceries, the Gospels, brochures, and went to visit these old people.

Before that, we went to the store to pick up the food. At the store, there was one woman, an employee from the distillery. She works in bookkeeping at the factory. The woman asked why we needed so many products. Olga told her that the church had decided to pay special attention to elderly people living alone and wish them a happy Elderly Citizens Day. We noticed the factory worker was confused. She blushed. There was a reason for this: many old people in the community are former employees of the distillery, but the



plant's management

has forgot about them when they retired. We thank God for the fact that the church has served as a good example to the villagers and distillery to take care of senior citizens.

When we visited the senior women, they were very happy. Many of them were crying and did not want to let us go, because they get so little attention. One grandmother was very attentive to the Gospel. I asked her



to pray and invite Jesus into her life. This grandmother prayed with tears, asking God for forgiveness for her sins. We left her a New Testament and brochures and promised to visit her more often. So the day passed, and we returned home with joy in our hearts, that this day in a special way we served God and glorified His name.

When I made my request to Sam Slobodian for help to take care for older people, Sam has blessed us in this matter and supported the project financially. From our church, we want to thank Sam and mission BIEM for your prayers and financial support. God bless you for your work!

Pray for the older folks in our village, that the Lord will save them in their old age. Pray for our church, so that we can further serve God in Sloboda.



November

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

God’s Church is called to pray for all people. God gave us the Great Commission not only to preach the Gospel to all people, but also to pray for them. The church in Chervona Sloboda has existed for 10 years, during which time all the people there have learned about God, have received multiple invitations to attend worship services and other events sponsored by the church. Many prayers were made by believers for the inhabitants of the village. And we have experienced many blessings from the Lord during this time. We constantly pray for people

And we think of how to bring the villagers to Christ. Recently, at a service, we listened to a sermon that we are called to preach the gospel to the world. Inspired by the preaching, the brothers and sisters decided not only to bear witness to Christ at every opportunity, but to pray more for those to whom we repeatedly spoke of God. Each one took a piece of paper and wrote on it the names of the people for whom we have pledged to pray daily. So church agreed that, daily at 7:00 am, we would offer prayers for our loved ones, neighbors, coworkers and villagers. In addition, each believer was to try each week to visit at least one person about whom he has prayed and talk about faith in God.

Last week, based on this decision, I visited three elderly women from Sloboda. I testified to them about God. One of them with tears prayed a prayer of repentance. I gave this elderly sister a Gospel of John with a large font and asked her to read every day and write any questions that are not clear from reading. I promised that soon I will come again to talk to her and pray. The lady was very pleased with the meeting. She said she wanted to know more about God. Once again, I was convinced that people need God, but they do not have time to go to church. Often for them it is simply not part of their routine to go to church. Well, then we'll go to them and, who knows? Maybe someone will be saved because of our visits and prayers.

At each service, we made time for testimonies about the people we were visiting with the preaching of the Gospel. Pray that there is growing evidence that people listen to God's word and accept it.

I ask you to pray for the people of Sloboda, our visits to these people, that the Lord would open their hearts to accept Jesus Christ and salvation.

Thank you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for your prayers and donations. Thanks to you, the work of God is being done in Ukraine and Chervona Sloboda. God bless you!

December

Olga graduated from seminary to be a Sunday school teacher. She has taught Sunday school before coming to learn, but Olga felt that she needed to raise the professional level of teachers, so God brought Olga to us. In the seminary Olga met with Alyona (she is the Sunday school teacher at our church). The two became friends.

Olga lives in Rovno, in the west of Ukraine. At the invitation of our church, this year Olga brought their children from Sunday school to our church. They sang, testified of what the Lord has done in their lives. Someone preached the Word of God. Then we had a meeting with the young people from our village. It was a great opportunity to witness to the young generation for Christ.

Olga recently visited our church with her husband, Valery. Valery is director of Sunday school at the church in Rovno. Our friends were guests in our church. Valery, a former soldier, went through a lot before he became a believer. Valery had many conversations with Sergei (the husband of Alyona), who needs support and growth in faith since he is a babe in Christ. Sergei perked up after such discussions. The meeting served as a blessing and spiritually enriched Sergei.

We listened to the sermon from Valery that we are called to preach the Word to a perishing world. Valery called upon the church not to give up when we do not see results from the seed of the Word, saying that in time we will reap rewards. Olga gave a testimony from her life. She did not know God; her family was just a grandmother who prayed for her, and God heard her prayers. Olga encouraged us through her testimony and urged everyone to pray unceasingly for their relatives, friends and co-workers. "Because the Lord heard the prayers of my grandmother and they were not in vain, therefore, God hears our prayers and will answer them."

I sat and thought about how mysterious are the ways of God. The Lord works miracles in our lives. He both hears and answers our prayers and He loves us. I thanked God for our seminary, in which we not only gain knowledge, but gain new friends, and it serves to strengthen our faith. I thank God that He has created a church in Chervona Sloboda in which saved people rejoice that their names are written in the Book of Life, that they are freed from sin and restored to their families and their children and now know God. Glory to God!

I am very grateful to God for the opportunity to serve Him. I thank God for you, my brothers and sisters, for your love, prayers and financial support. Because of you, God's work continues in Ukraine. God bless you! We pray for you. Pray for us, the seminary, and the church in Sloboda. May the Lord prosper all of our ministries.

Sincerely,

Vitaly Yurchenko