

Hello, dear brothers, sisters and friends.

It's the second week that I have been in Gorlovka, from where I'm writing you this report. This month seemed to me very long, due to the abundance of events that took place during it. You can see the most significant of them by reading my report.

#### 1. Ministry in Gorlovka.

I thank God that just before my arrival in my hometown, a so-called "grain" truce was established between the conflict parties. Its purpose is to enable agricultural workers to gather cereals without risk to life. I hope that when I go back, the truce will still be in effect.

This calm does not apply to the lives of believers in our region, which in time only become more complicated. Our brothers and sisters in Christ constantly face the problem of pressure and religious oppression. The expression "as on a powder keg" very well describes their life in the unrecognized republic.

Thus, last Sunday, one of the congregations of the churches of Christ in Donetsk faced a great trouble. As a result of denunciation they underwent a serious check. This along with requests for prayers was reported by the brothers in Facebook. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, we have been praying intensely for them all this time.

Since the very beginning of the war the situation in Gorlovka for God's children was particularly unfavorable and dangerous. Only hope in the Lord and confidence in His love and care do not let Gorlovka Christians fall into despair.

Praise the Lord that in times of persecution there are people in Gorlovka who want to study the Word of God and build their lives on it. For several months I distantly conducted Bible lessons with a woman named Irina. Upon my arrival in Gorlovka, I conducted several more classes with her, after which she decided to be baptized. When I asked her if she understood that being a Christian in our region was not easy, Irina answered that she had already suffered many shocks and losses. And that now the only thing that matters to her is to be with the Lord and live according to His will. On July 28 I baptized her. For all members of our congregation her birth from above has become a great joy and encouragement.



In Gorlovka I have already held two services, many Bible studies and meetings. On the eve of my arrival in Gorlovka, my father was diagnosed with cancer – unfortunately, already at a late stage. He underwent a complicated surgery, and now he is helpless and needs constant care. Therefore, during this visit, at night I am next to him, and in the daytime I do church work. Physically, this is very hard, but the Lord provides both strength and opportunities.



## 2. Ministry in Brovary.

From 12 to 14 July we conducted a campaign aimed at attracting young people from Brovary to weekly youth classes in the church. Two brothers from Lviv, graduates of the Bear Valley Bible Institute, as well as young brother and sister in Christ from the United States came to help us in our campaign. Preparing for the campaign, we have been distributing invitations to young people in the streets for several days. As a result, 12 young people came to the classes during the campaign. They had opportunity to hear the Word of God, learn more about the culture and traditions of the American society, communicate, participate in games and quizzes, etc. What is very important is that some of these young people who came to us during campaign expressed their desire to attend classes in the church after the end of the campaign. We are extremely grateful to all those who put forth their strength and sacrificed time to help us carry out this work.





Now in Brovary we have planned meetings and Bible lessons for every day: worship services, two classes on the New and Old Testaments, a class where we discuss doctrinal issues, a youth class, classes for new converts and for those who have not yet become Christians.



While in Brovary, I call Gorlovka Christians every day. Now every day I keep in touch with both Christians and our guests from Brovary. They say that they miss me and are looking forward to seeing me, and besides there are people whom I need to continue to teach and prepare for baptism. My plans are to stay in Gorlovka until the end of this week, and then I will return to Brovary, where God now provides many opportunities for church growth.

The fact that many more people began to attend our services in Brovary pleases not only us, but also the owners of the premises that we rent. They decided that this is a good reason to raise the rent cost for us. I look at this situation differently, and so I agreed to discuss this issue with them upon my return from Gorlovka. I hope that the Lord will dispose their hearts and they will agree not to raise the rent cost for us.



### 3. Christian camp “Amerikraine”.

The participation in the Christian camp “Amerikraine” near Dnieper from 2 to 7 July was a great blessing for us. More than 400 people were present this year. These days were filled with many wonderful Bible lessons. Each of them considered different facets of the doctrine of Christ concerning the fact that Christians are a light for this world. I am grateful to the organizers for giving me the opportunity to share the word of instruction with a group of men. In addition to edification, we had wonderful living conditions, communication, pastime, food, encouraging meetings with Christians whom we have not seen for a long time, and meeting new people.



I want to thank Jeff Abrams, the team of Christians from America who came to serve in the camp, the organizers and all those who participated in raising funds for this remarkable project, so important for Ukrainian Christians, from the bottom of my heart.

My special gratitude is for the Christians from Gorlovka, who were given the opportunity to enjoy the program of the camp this year and, at least for a while, to forget the horrors of military operations and the oppressive situation of their occupied region.

I thank God that He gives growth in the congregations where I work, or which I assist in their work, and that in recent months there were baptisms in each of them: in Brovary, Gorlovka and Ilovaisk. And also for the fact, that with His help, my every trip to the occupied region ends safely. I thank my brothers and sisters from the Bear Valley congregation for their love, care and support. I thank those who raised funds to help Gorlovka Christians, who are now in the extreme need.

Your brother in the Lord,

Andrew.