



General report 2019

Ruslan Stropysh and his wife, God's Love Church, Lviv, Ukraine (48)



Greetings!

As 2019 has come to an end, it is a perfect time for us to stop on our tracks and look back at everything that has been done and everything that God has blessed our church with. With His wise guidance and your kind support, we have managed to overcome many difficulties throughout the year and successfully carry out the ministry that is of utmost importance to our community.

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About a year ago, our pastor, Ruslan Stropysh, underwent knee surgery. The after-surgery rehabilitation took about 3 months, so there is no wonder that for quite some time he was not able to participate in the ministry of our church. Praise God for bringing people together and helping them to take full responsibility for running the church. God has led us along this path and gave us strength on our way. Pastor Ruslan said: "I am deeply convinced that, as a pastor, it is my full responsibility to prepare the team for the ministry. But it is also due to this team's enthusiasm that we have managed not to lose our ministry, not to stop fulfilling God's will, but rather move forward."



For the 7th year in an row, our church has been holding summer camps. The camp we held this year was the first one for many teenagers, so it was special for them. We are honored to create this unforgettable experience for young people, to show them the high standards that our camps meet, as well as provide them with a friendly environment, where they are always accepted,



Also, since we had renewed our church's outdoor equipment, including tents and sleeping bags, we were able to keep the doors open for all the

teenagers we worked with throughout the year and anyone who wanted to join us, regardless of their financial status (unfortunately, many of the teenagers we work with come from single-parent families or live in families where one parent suffers from alcohol addiction, so a sum of about 80 \$ per 10 days of a camp is not affordable for them).

As much as we enjoy organizing camps, our relations with teenagers are not limited to this field only. Many are very active attending youth meetings that we hold every Saturday at "Dovzhenko cinema". As long as our ministry develops and grows, we rejoice more and more in our hearts. Besides, God has given us a wonderful youth leader. In addition to holding meetings on Saturdays, he always looks for opportunities to have additional mentoring meetings with the guys who attend the youth club. He dreams of including these teens in his team and that they would help him organize great evangelistic projects to reach out to even more young souls in our area.



An American worship band that included musicians from California, Washington and Colorado visited our church in October. Together with them, we had an opportunity to visit three schools in Lviv (for which we obtained a formal approval by the Ministry of Education and Culture) to organize English lessons for the kids



as well as an evening English club where the children were able to get to know our team and practice their English. On the fourth day, we organized a big concert at Dovzhenko Palace, where we could also tell people the Good News about Jesus and invite them for further meetings. About 50 - 80 people attended the concert. This time was also special because we invited the teenagers from the camp to join and help us organize the event, thus being able to build closer relationships with them.

We have also started several training courses in our church. These include IT ministry, small group training, and a leadership building course. In September, a member of our church initiated the creation of a group of young people who would like to study programming and English in order to potentially qualify as Information Technology Specialists. The courses are free of charge, and include 4 weekly lectures, homework tutoring and Bible lessons. The students take a Bible course on the topic of "How People Change" led by the pastor and attend church regularly. In addition to that, students along with the teachers went on a hike trip to Mount Parasca in November, developing a bond of friendship and building good relationships with each other.



We began to work more with the youth ministry leaders in October. Our church has chosen a new youth leader and we are doing our best to make sure that he and two of his assistants learn fast how to carry out the ministry. The course we are currently undergoing is themed "The Fundamentals of Ministry". During our meetings, we have the opportunity to look over the priorities of our ministry and compare them with the life of Jesus. Prayer, relationships, the Word of God, love and vision were His tools of accomplishing His earthly mission and are certainly good examples for us to carry out ours. We plan to have 7 more classes and continue the training courses until at least the beginning of February. And in the midst of all these activities, dreams and plans, we realized that we are already 10 years old and recently celebrated our 10th anniversary as a church!



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please, pray for the family ministry development;
- Also, pray for successful organization of future summer camps;
- We would appreciate your prayers for the spiritual growth of the church;
- Pray for the development of youth ministries.



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