

Looking back at the month of October and recalling what took place at Fimiam Church with God's participation makes our hearts are eager to glorify Him over and over.

The regular meetings for young people with disabilities bring them so much joy and their reaction encourages the team to do this ministry with even more passion. The meetings were held on October 1 and 15. Children, teenagers and their parents gather in small groups at each meeting to reflect on a Biblical truth. Later, the participants have the opportunity to learn new skills in the different studios, sing Christian songs, play games and enjoy something delicious together.



On October 9, “Skelia” (Rock) teenager’s club held a meeting titled “Live to the Fullest.” About 40 young people came to spend time together in Christian fellowship. They glorified God through song with the “Skelia Music” group, played games and enjoyed delicious cakes. They discussed how people around us live their lives to the fullest and pondered the question, “How should Christians live their lives to the fullest?”



On the same day, a team from Fimiam returned after a long summer break to the boarding school for orphans. The new academic year began recently, so the team members did not see the oldest students that they knew previously. We realized that our impact on their lives through the Christian programs stopped because they had graduated from the school. The time is short and valuable and should be used appropriately. Alongside games, competitions, and sweets, each meeting with these children includes a Biblical topic. We try to show God's love to the residents of the school and to let them know the Lord is a Father to those without parents or those whose parents do not perform their function.



On October 24-26, "Kid's Games" took place for the youngest students of the local school. About 70 children participated in the event, which had the general topic of "A Present." The leaders tried to convey to the children the idea that the best present in our lives is Jesus Christ. There were four studios each day: "The Superbook" where children heard interesting and true stories from the Bible; "A Merry Note" where the participants sang songs for the Lord's glory; "A Sport Life" which included various relays and games and "Craft" which provided the children with opportunities to make different handicrafts. The participants of the "Kid's Games" heard the Good News, developed friendships and experienced many positive emotions.





On October 22, the “New Opportunities” Club held their first meeting after the long summer break. This time it took place at “The Agape House.” About 40 of the 80 participants were people with disabilities. We are always glad to see our friends and to meet new people who join these meetings. There was a chance to become acquainted with the new participants in the beginning and then a video was shown about the summer retreat for people with disabilities. This video brought back good memories of the time spent at the retreat. Later there were games and Christian songs followed by a message that Jesus Christ is close to everyone. At the end of the meeting, the participants enjoyed a festive dinner together.





The end of October brought strategic planning for the next year at Fimiam Church. Over 50 key leaders from the church went to the Retreat Center to spend 3 days analyzing and giving thanks to God for the events of 2016, developing plans for 2017 (if the Lord permits to fulfil them) and compiling a working calendar.





The Practical English School (PES) continues to take place each Thursday. There are now about 120 students in regular attendance. We help them to learn English and to study Mark's Gospel, using the course "Christianity Explored." In the beginning, people were not open to the discussion, they are becoming more open with each meeting. Every other Sunday we have PES Movie-Nights to watch Christian movies in English. We plan to have two semesters of 10 weeks of PES per year.





Here are a few short testimonies from people at PES:

1. One of our PES students invited her friend Valya who was not our student. Valya had lost her mother recently and was quite depressed. Her friend invited her to spend the evening at PES, telling her that she will find comfort there. So, Valya came and she gladly listened about Jesus and by the end of the meeting she asked, "Are there any other meetings here where I can find out more about God?"
2. Sasha, a young man registered for PES, was very cautious about everything he heard about Jesus for the first few weeks. But then he started to ask many questions and now he attends one of our home churches.

There are more and more similar stories, where we see God reaching people.

We also plan a winter retreat for our students February 2-5. It will be another great opportunity for fellowship and ministry to our students. We have several prayer requests related to this special event:

- Pray for God's work in the students' hearts. Pray for their openness, acceptance of the Gospel and firm decision to follow Jesus.
 - Pray for God's work in the hearts of our teachers and helpers, so they will be ready for every good work Jesus has set for us.
 - Pray that we have a team of native speakers for this retreat.
 - Pray for the funds to make this retreat affordable for all of our students. The Ukrainian economy is declining and we are afraid that many students will refuse to go to the retreat due to a lack of money.
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