

Zhenia Bondarenko



Zhenia lives in Tchaplinka, Ukraine, with his wife Natasha and 10 year old daughter Olga. He is a 2000 graduate of TCI. He is currently pastoring Tchaplinka House of Prayer and overseeing six additional village churches. In addition, he is a part-time English teacher in the public elementary school system.

A typical weekly schedule as a pastor is as follows:

Tuesdays – meets with and conducts training for the leaders from the 7 churches in the region.

Wednesday - small group Bible study in Tchaplinka.

Thursday - small family group (for young families).

Sunday - two worship services (one in Tchaplinka and the other one in a village church).

In addition to the scheduled activities Zhenia is involved in many other activities in the lives of each of the seven churches.

Recently a schedule was implemented to free Zhenia to more easily visit the other 6 churches. Sasha Kobzar, youth leader, and a deacon will each preach one Sunday a month. This new schedule works to keep the Tchaplinka leadership more involved. In the process Zhenia has the freedom to spend more time at the other churches

Using the moped purchased by BCC, Zhenia can now visit the 6 other churches he leads. The churches are spread over a wide area with one located 80 miles from Tchaplinka. The visits to the villages serve to encourage the saints.

Zhenia and the leadership of the church in Tchaplinka feel it is God's will to keep their primary focus on children. Typically in the Ukraine it is more effective to minister to the children. This is done through Sunday school classes and puppet ministries given in public schools, kindergartens and orphanages throughout the region.

Children are often on their own and will follow the one who wins them. "We want to let them know the One which is worthy to follow", says Zhenia. Using the puppets has enabled his ministry to reach more children and adults from non-Christian backgrounds.

Zhenia feels blessed to be involved in a full time ministry with the church in Tchaplinka and the 6 other church plants in the region. He considers his part time position as an English teacher an added blessing to his ministry. "To be saved, to pass on this message of love, to be freed from my sins, to know the way not only for me but for my family is the greatest blessing in my life" he says.

Please pray...

... to find ways to connect and assist more people.

... that the Gospel can be brought to every child in the region.

... the local church leadership will grow and be able to assume greater responsibility for the ministry.

... for more workers.

... for spiritual growth.

... for a better means of transportation. His moped does not allow him to take others with him. During the winter this means of transportation can not be used effectively.

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