

Juozas Puodziukaitis, Vilnius Church of Christ

Report for September, 2011

“Worshiping God with Joy”

Schedule

We made a schedule for September, printed it and put on the board in Church building. This will help every member to be aware of thing and meetings which are coming.

We put on it every meeting (Bible group, Youth Night, Chess Tournament, who will preach on Sunday and etc.) Also, we ask members to feel free to fill some empty days with invitations and to organize meetings by themselves.

We named September as month of “Worshiping God with Joy”. Joy was the main theme of this month. Sermons, retreat and lessons were connected to this theme and let joy fills us in worship.

We are planning to have a theme and schedule for every month. We hope that it will help us to concentrate more on some important things and grow spiritually and in our personal relationship with God and with one another.

Retreat

September 23th and 24th we had a wonderful weekend by spending it together in joy. We organized a retreat “Voices of Joy” in camp Ruta (same place as we have for children summer camps). We rented couple cabins (one for ladies and one for men).

We arrived to the camp on Friday night. Right after we take care of supper, because everybody was hungry after their jobs. Tomas with help of others prepared very delicious tortilla; we asked God to bless a food and enjoyed our meal. After good supper we sang songs and had a lesson/discussion led by Ilja. Some (including myself) stayed till 4 a.m. by talking and sharing joy.

On Saturday God blessed us with nice weather and good time together. Ilja led a lesson/discussion in the morning. The theme of lesson was “If you will plant a joy you will reap a joy”. Also we sang songs and prayed together. After lunch I led a lesson. I talked about singing for God, how we need to do it, do we really mean what we are singing and what we are thinking about when we are singing. After lesson we had some free time to walk around and spent time together by playing games and sitting by the lake.

After supper we gathered together for our closing fellowship. We sang songs, prayed and I finished our retreat by presenting a summary of everything what we shared and learned in this retreat.

We spend really good weekend this God. The Voices of Joy reached us and we left this camp with a smile on our face and comfort in our hearts.

Special thanks for Matt Bell for supporting this retreat and helping us financially. God bless you brother.

Bible Group

In September, after summer break, we renewed our Bible Group in my flat. Every Tuesday we are gathering together for Bible lesson.

We are studying epistle to Ephesians verse by verse. Ilja is leading lessons and gives us a lot of interesting facts and thoughts about this wonderful message from God.

Every time we have around 10 people in our circle. My family, Ilja and Daiva, Tomas and Milda, Rimas, Roberta, Igor and Lera are regular visitors.

I would like to mention Lera in my report. She is 15 years old. She was in several summer camps. This year she made a big step toward God and I can see her desire to get to know God personally and I believe that one day she will accept Jesus as her Savior and Lord. She regularly attends Sundays worship and Youth Meetings, and now she joined us in Bible group. I'm planning to meet her this week and will offer her personal Bible lessons. Please, pray for Lera and ask God for guidance and wisdom.

Chess Tournament

We organized a chess tournament in Church office.

We invited all "gifted" chess players to participate and win the title of Vilnius Church of Christ Chess Tournament best player. 😊

The 6 players were participated in this tournament – 4 members and two visitors. Members: I, Ilja, Sergei and Vladimir. Visitors: Ilja's cousin Dima and my friend and ex. translator Deimantas. Every player needed to play 5 games with every opponent. One point were given for every win and zero for loss. Player who has most points will be declared as the Champion.

Ilja prepared almost professional and good looking diplomas for first, second and third places. The tournament started at 2 p.m. and around 6 p.m. all games were finished and we needed to count results.

The third place – Ilja

The second place – Sergei

The winner – Deimantas

After announcement we had a picture of all participators and published it on Facebook.

It was good day for "smart" people to spend together and fellowship. We ordered pizza, played chess and fellowshiped about life 😊

Nijole

We "lost" one member. My mother in law Nijole moved to England for about a year. She will babysit with her grandson Adomas (Viktorija's son).

It was hard for her to find job in Vilnius and she decided to go back to England and help her daughter. We still keep in touch and pray for her.

Movie Night

On September 30th I organized movie night.

We bought some snacks and refreshments and were watching a good movie, named "To Save a Life".

This movie has very good moral and is good to watch for youth and young adult. Christianity, God, faith, friendship, prayer is dominating in that movie.

We spend very good Friday night together and get good lesson from movie characters.

Next Year Camp Dates

We have dates for next year summer camps.

First session for 8-13 years old kids – June 25th – July 1st

Second session for youth 14-18 years old – July 16th – 22nd

Everybody who wants to be involved is welcome.

Please make plans for those days and ask God for providence.

Sermons

- I preached two times in September (on 11th and 25th)
- Theme of sermon:
 - September 11th - "On the Side" (Mk 4:35)
 - September 25th - "Be fruitful" (Mk 11:13-14)

Prayer requests

- Please, pray for our congregation's grow.
- Pray for our youth and their spiritual grow.
- Pray for Lera and her steps toward God.
- Keep pray for Gintare's studies and ask God to help her to find a job in order to sustain herself.
- Pray for our member Dainora husband Andrius. He is not a Christian and has difficulties with depression and purpose in life.

Thank you all for your loving hearts and helping hands.

God bless you all

Juozas Puodziukaitis
Vilnius Church of Christ