

## **Festival of Families Celebrated in Bashkiria village**

*Verkhneyarkeyevo, Bashkiria, Russia, July 7, 2019*

*By Ilsiyyar Pavlova*



In the Russian Republic of Bashkortostan, members from the Ural region held a Festival of Happy Families on July 7 in the central square of the village of Verkhneyarkeyevo in Ilishevsky District. This event was part of a district celebration dedicated to the Day of Family, Love and Fidelity.

There were many experiences until we received permission to put up our tent. For the success of the festival, we set a condition for 7 minutes of prayer and 21 bows. And the brothers and sisters from the city of Ufa supported us in this too.

In the end, everything went well. A family lent us a tent without even asking anything about us, just knowing what it was for. The weather in the morning— rainy, overcast and windy—was replaced by sunny and calm weather.

We set a goal to bless 21 couples, and we ended up blessing 34 couples. However, if we had been better prepared, we could have blessed many more. There were a lot of people on the square that day. The administration held a concert for strong families, inviting 25 couples and giving them presents. Then immediately after that, there was a concert by a famous singer, Aidar Galimov, and a car rally held by M-Gas.

We didn't even invite much; the people themselves approached and asked. It would have been possible to bless a lot more couples if we had been better prepared (with more juice, glasses, vows). We blessed until we had no more glasses, but the last couple didn't even get vows, and we promised to send the vows to them later.

All the couples who received the Blessing were very pleased.

We thank God, the spiritual world and all the brothers and sisters from Bashkiriya for their support. Special thanks to Rustem Abuzarov and Volodya Syrotyag, who came and helped in everything, Nadia Yakovleva for the beautiful boutonnières that inspired all the women, Ole Molokovich for printing wonderful booklets, and Lyuda Lapikina who made these booklets on the computer. Thank you all so much for your advice, prayers and financial support. I also want to mention our Imam Rustem Hazrat, who donated 3,000 rubles to the festival, as well as to the last festival, without being asked. We really hope that we can somehow hold a Blessing in the mosque.

This festival on the street in a tent was a good experience for us and a lesson that we should look through the eyes of God, setting goals and not limiting His possibilities

