

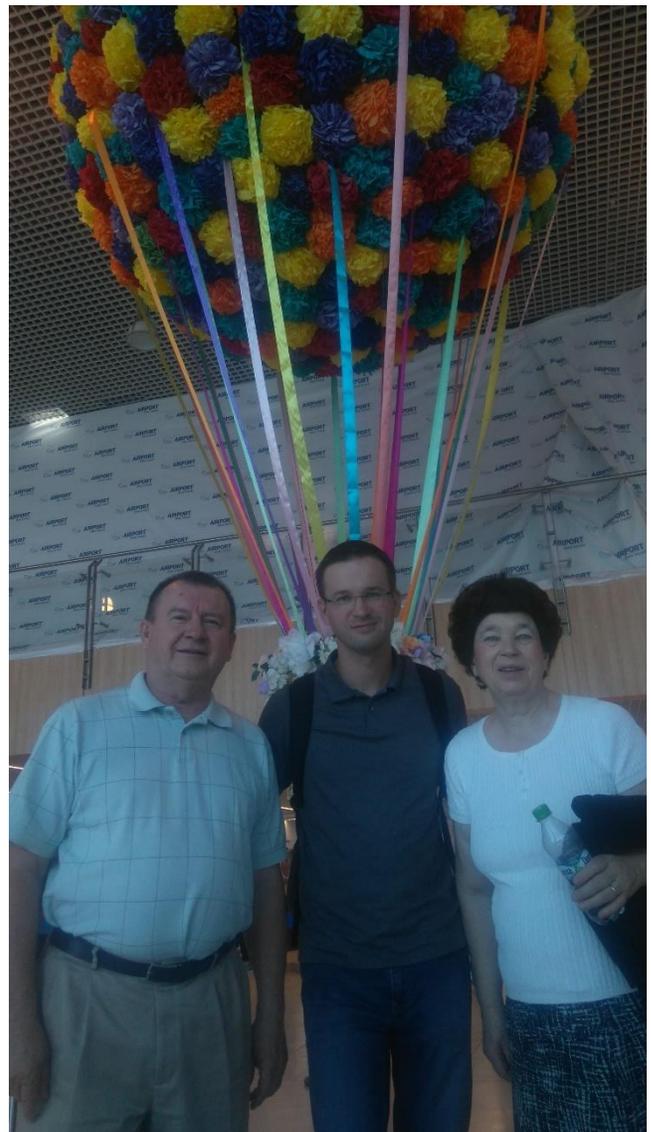


August 31, 2017.

Grace and peace to you, dear friends! I am glad to welcome you again in the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

One more month of our service in Moldova has come to an end. August crowns the summer and with its end also comes the end of vacations and missionary trips. Looking back on the past month, we can say that for us it was no less intense and no less eventful than all the previous months. Still, a lot of time was spent working with books and on the computer in preparing for the fall semester. Also, other events took place that I wanted to share with you about.

**On August 4**, our son Benjamin flew home to Los Angeles. As I wrote to you earlier, he came to Chisinau for 5 weeks to teach English at the Center for Foreign Languages. For him, it was a good experience both in terms of teaching (he liked working in the Center and liked the staff and students of the Center), and personally—he survived living with his parents for five weeks! Many years ago, he left his parents' home and now he had the opportunity to live with his parents, eat mom's cooking and talk with his parents every day. Needless to say, this was especially pleasant for Nina and me. This partially mitigated the feeling of our nostalgia for seeing our children and grandchildren.



On day of departure, at the airport of Chisinau.



On Sunday, **August 6**, for the first time I preached a sermon in the church *Light of the World*. This is one of the churches formed after the collapse of the Soviet Union. One of the important directions in the ministry of this church is social work, specifically among adolescents and victims of sexual

violence and human trafficking. Great activity is carried out by the leadership of this church led by the main pastor, Vladimir Ubeyvolk. I was glad to have been given the opportunity to share the Word of God with the visitors of this church.



On **August 8**, Tuesday evening, we met our youngest son, John with his wife Korina. They flew from Fresno, California, to visit us. For almost nine months we had not seen each other and were very pleased with their arrival. They spent two weeks with us. During the first week, we introduced them to our life in Chisinau, showed them the University where I work, and gave them a tour of the city. We also introduced them to the suburbs of Chisinau and gave them the opportunity to appreciate the

beauty and richness of this picturesque region.



On August 13, Sunday, we took John and Korina to our church, *Bethany*. I took part in the preaching of the Word of God, and our children had an opportunity to get acquainted with the church that received us warmly and in which we serve.

One of John's desires was to show his wife Korina Riga, Latvia, the city where he was born. For this reason, on the 14th of August we flew to Riga. For me and Nina, this trip was also welcome, since we have not been in Riga for 13 years. We spent several days in Riga, from the 14th to the 18th of August.





During this time we showed our children Old Riga, as well as places related to our life in this city in the 70s and 80s of the last century. We showed the place where our marriage took place with Nina 40 years ago, the place where we lived as a family, as well as the church in which we worshiped the Lord.





Also, as we passed through the city, we saw a building in which the KGB office was located in Soviet times. In this building, I was interrogated when I was arrested in 1980 for getting the Bible from Western tourists. Now this building is a museum of KGB history. Unhappy memories are connected with this place by a lot of people.



In addition to seeing the sights, we met some of our old friends who had worked in the church with us, living in Riga. One of them is Viktor Petrenko. Today he is the Director of the Latvian Bible Center. This is a Christian higher education institution, designed to train workers for churches and other Christian organizations. Four and a half years ago, the Lord prompted

Victor to begin the restoration of the building, which was once built by brother William Fetler. Before the Second World War, this building housed a Baptist seminary. With the advent of Soviet power in Latvia, this building was taken away from believers and used for various purposes and eventually came to a state of complete ruin. Now, under the guidance of Victor Petrenko, a great work has been accomplished. The building is restored and will be open at the end of September. Victor showed us this "Vettel House" and we were amazed both by the scope of the work and its quality. This building will soon again serve its original purposes—training leaders in service.



We also visited the so-called *Brotherly House*. This is a rehabilitation center for drug addicts and alcoholics. Seventeen men live in this house, enduring a difficult process of liberation from sinful dependence. Yuri Larionov leads this ministry. For him, his wife Leah and their children, this is a very heavy financial burden, but they carry it hoping on the Lord, sacrificially and consecrated.

Fellowship at the Brotherly House at time of our visit



Particularly touching for us was the visit to the church building in which we served for eight years before the emigration. This is the building of the *Lutheran Church of the Cross*. As a Baptist congregation, we rented this space. Visiting this building, where we have not been with Nina for the last 28 years, stirred in our hearts a lot of memories of the events of those years and those blessings that we experienced serving the Lord in the difficult time of the 1980s.



On **August 18**, we returned to Chisinau, and on the 21st, John and Korina flew back to California. Nina and I were left alone again. The time of John's and Korina's stay with us was for us a kind of vacation. I did little work during this time; instead, we spent most of the time talking and enjoying each others' company. With their departure, everything returned to its former routine. The intensity of my work has increased because the beginning of classes is rapidly approaching.



**On August 27**, I again preached in our church *Bethany*. It was a good service, but the next day, on **August 28th**, we received very sad news. In the family of our new friends from Chisinau, Provoroniy, trouble came. Some time ago, their eldest son, Anton (30 years old), together with his wife and daughter of about 2 years, left for Samara, Russia with the intention of remaining there permanently. However, for some reason they decided to return to Moldova. And so,

when on Monday they went by taxi to the airport to fly from Samara to Chisinau, there was a car accident. Anton died on the spot; his wife and child were hospitalized. This news shocked not only the parents, but all those who knew Anton. He was an amazing person – a sincere Christian, modest, very attentive to people. He had higher education. He preached and taught the Bible in the church. He had an unusual gift for an oral translation. He was fluent in Russian, Romanian and English, which he learned independently. He was an excellent interpreter for these three languages. When I listened to him, I was amazed at his ability to translate. He seemed to be reading the thoughts of the one whose speech he was translating. And now he is not with us. It is very difficult to come to terms with this reality. Our prayer is for his wife, daughter, brothers, and parents, for whom this loss is irreplaceable. The funeral will be held on September 3rd. Our sincere prayer is for the Lord to comfort Anton's wife and family, especially as they help care for his little daughter.



The end of August means the beginning of the academic year in many educational institutions of Moldova. At the University where I serve, the school year began with a three-day trip, beginning on August 30, for all students, teachers and staff to

*Hope Camp* in the village of Vatici, about an hour outside of Chisinau.

This is a yearly tradition. However, this time this trip was marked by a special event. In the summer of this year, the camp was donated to the University by the American organization, which had owned it



for many years. This is a great blessing for this institution. The camp is located on over 18 acres of land. It has several two- and three-story buildings, a lovely dining room, and a lake.



Early morning exercise

There is a football field, a volleyball court, and a basketball court. All surrounded by a forest and clean air. We are grateful to God for the opportunity that He provided to the University.



During these days in the camp, students and staff of the University attended a seminar on prayer. In five parts of this seminar, very important topics related to prayer were touched upon. This seminar was conducted by one of the staff of *See Jesus in America*. In addition, the students shared their missionary journeys during the summer. They told about their ministry in Turkey, Bulgaria, Jordan,

Lebanon, Belarus, Ukraine and other countries. It was very touching to hear about what the Lord was doing through the students of our University in these countries.

As I conclude, I wanted to share with you that in addition to teaching two new subjects during the fall semester, I received another load in the ministry. I was offered to be a class leader of one of the second year groups of the missionary major. There are 18 people in the group. I will need to meet them regularly as a group and individually, show concern for them, delve into their spiritual and other needs,



Here is a group of students I am assigned to be a mentor



and help in solving various kinds of problems that they may face during their studies. I will need to become a kind of father for these students. This guardianship should last for two years, until their graduation. Although this will bring additional stress to me, all the same I am glad of this opportunity to take a more active part in the life of these young people who are preparing to become workers in the field of the Lord.



Faculty and staff of the University with their spouses

Once again, I want to thank all those who pray for us. In response to your prayers, we clearly see the blessing of God in our ministry here. We ask you to continue to pray for spiritual and physical strength, and for the successful implementation of teaching work. Also pray for students of the University, for their intellectual development and spiritual growth. And, please, pray that by this guidance role I could have a beneficial effect on every student of the group entrusted to me.

May God bless each one of you!

I wish to leave you the following text of Scripture: ***"But, brethren, rejoice, be perfected, be comforted, be of one mind, be peaceful, and the God of love and peace will be with you"*** (2 Cor 13:11).

With love and gratitude,

Your co-workers on God's field in Moldova,

Vyacheslav and Nina Tsvirinko



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There are few pictures of flowers taken at the camp. I love flowers.



