



July 31, 2017

I cordially greet you, dear friends! May peace and grace be multiplied to you! I hope that each of you are doing well.

With the month of July behind us, the Moldovan summer has crossed the midpoint. So far, it has not been very difficult in terms of weather. Hot days gave way to warm ones. The bright sun in the sky was sometimes covered with rain clouds, or even with storm clouds. We hope that the upcoming month will not bring big surprises in the weather.

For me, this month was marked by an intensive work preparing for courses that I am going to teach in the fall at the University. Many hours were spent every day at the computer and with books. Along with this there were a number of events that I would like to share.



Summer is a hot season for those who work with children. There are camps and other activities for children. Our local church "Bethany" is no exception. In early July, on the territory of the church—both in the courtyard and inside of the sanctuary—there was a so-called "playground". Within five days, children living in multi-story buildings around the church gathered in the church in the morning and spent almost the whole day playing various games, studying

the Bible, and learning Christian hymns. For children, it is a great joy to break out of stuffy apartments and spend a well-planned and organized time in the circle of peers. For organizers, it is hard work. Up to 100 children gathered on the "playground". It was not easy for young brothers and sisters from the church to cope with all of them. However, at the end of this event, all the participants testified to the blessing they had experienced. I heard information from many churches in Moldova that they had such events. This is often done with the help and participation of believers from America, both Slavs and the American-born. This is one of the most common methods of evangelizing children these days.

As I wrote earlier, in September the Congress of the Union of Baptists of Moldova will take place. In this regard, all the regions of the country are taking measures to nominate candidates to the leadership of the Unions. **On July 13**, such an event took place in Chisinau. Representatives of churches in the Chisinau region (four people from each church) gathered in the biggest church in the city, "Jesus the Savior", to listen to reports from those who carried regional service during the last four years and to elect new leadership. I attended this meeting on behalf of the church "Bethany". This meeting was held in a businesslike brotherly atmosphere.



One of the brightest events of this month for me and Nina was a visit on the July 15<sup>th</sup> to a



camp which was conducted by believers from Chisinau churches for children with leukemia. About 80 children together with one of the parents were gathered in a picturesque place near the city of Kalarash. Children from 8 to 14 years. All of them are in a state of remission. In the camp for children, an interesting program was prepared from games and various activities (walking in the woods, needlework, swimming in the pool,

etc.). For parents, Bible lessons were conducted. Virtually all of the parents and children were



from non-Baptist families. After experiencing deep stress due to the illness of their children, these fathers and mothers are very open to conversations about God and eternity. This camp has been conducted for 10 years already. More than 500 children went through it and heard the message of salvation in Christ.



Popular game - "Metlobal"

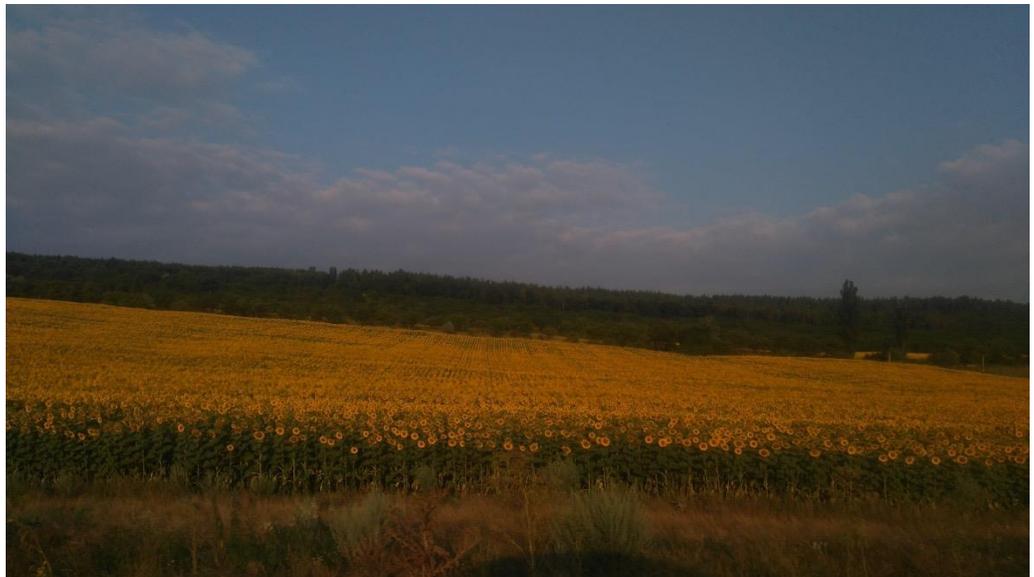
On the **16th of July** we were in our church "Bethany" and I participated in the service by preaching the Word of God.



Next Sunday, **July 23rd**, at the invitation of the pastor, we visited a church in Vulcănești, which is located in the south of Moldova, 200 km from Chisinau. It is an autonomous republic of Gagauzia, which is part of Moldova (Gagauz - Turkish-speaking people). In order to get to the service by 10:00, we had to leave at 6:00 in the morning.

One of the Chisinau brothers, Sergei

Tsaregratsky (holds Ph.D. in radio electronics, but currently working as a programmer) generously agreed to take us to this city. All the way, we admired the beautiful scenery of Moldova. It's an amazing land. The huge fields of golden-headed sunflowers alternated with emerald-colored vineyards. The spreading walnut trees along the road accompanied us almost all the way. On the road, you could meet a wide variety of vehicles, such as huge trucks, expensive cars (Mercedes, BMW, Volvo), old Moskvich and Zhiguli. But the most impressive was to see the donkeys pulling the cart with the driver sitting on it. Often it was possible to see flocks of sheep along the road.



However, the idyll

of our journey was interrupted by the state of the road in the last 12km. It was as if the road had survived a bombing. Large funnels were sometimes located directly in the middle of the road. Our driver worked really hard to get through all the pits and bumps to keep the car from damage and get to the target. As it was explained to us, the reason for this state of the road is the numerous large trucks on the track.



In the church, we were received with warmth. Because of the distance from Chisinau, guests do not visit this church often. Therefore, I was offered to say two of the three sermons, which are usually pronounced during the service. I had to divide my sermon into two parts. During the service hymns were heard both in Russian and Gagauz languages. The community, consisting of about 250 members, has a good prayer house. The main problem here, as in other places in Moldova, is that many people leave for work or for permanent residence in other countries. Nevertheless, the youth choir and a small orchestra participated in the service. After the service, we had a pleasant chat at the table in the pastor's house and then set off on a long journey back. It was a hard, but blessed trip.





As I wrote earlier, this month our son, Benjamin, who lives in Los Angeles, is our guest. He came to Chisinau to teach English in the center for teaching foreign languages. His desire was, while he was in Chisinau, to see the city in which his father spent his youth. This city is Odessa. To satisfy his desire, we spent the weekend, July 28-30, in Odessa.

We had to travel through Transnistria. This means that you need to cross the border twice—Moldova / Transnistria and Transnistria / Ukraine. It takes a long time and so we got to Odessa only on Friday evening. Here Sergey Viktorovich Sannikov greeted us warmly and kindly devoted his precious time to serving us for the next two days. This made our trip to Odessa not only pleasant, but also extremely cognitive. Sergey Viktorovich—a wonderful guide!

On Saturday, we visited the *Odessa Higher Nautical School of Engineers* (now the *National Maritime Academy*), where I studied while living in Odessa, and also saw the sights of the city and once again was convinced of the unique beauty of this city.





On Sunday morning, we visited the First Baptist Church in Odessa. The men's choir sang. I took part in the ministry by preaching the Word of God.

After lunch, we went home to Kishinev.





On July 31, we, together with Nina and Benjamin, attended the opening of the conference on the study of Holy Scripture using an inductive method. More than 300 young people gathered in a camp near Chisinau to study in detail the Second Letter of Peter. This conference is organized by *Precept Ministry International*, whose goal is to prepare disciples of Christ through the study of Holy Scripture through an inductive method. Kay Arthur, who founded this organization with her husband

Jack Arthur, were present and participated in this conference and. It was interesting to hear her impressive testimony, which she shared during the evening service. Despite her age (83 years), she continues to work actively, participating in conferences and creating new manuals on the study of Scripture. She wrote 275 books. The manuals for the inductive study of Scripture are available already on all the books of the Bible except for five books. Kay is a good example to follow in terms of sacrificial and dedicated service to the Lord.

On this note, I want to finish this newsletter. I want to sincerely thank everyone who remembers us in their prayers. We feel the presence of God in our life and ministry in Moldova. We really want to do as much as possible for the Lord. Therefore, we ask you to continue praying for us, for our physical health, for wisdom and for the power of the Holy Spirit in ministry.

May the grace of God be in each of you!

***"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."*** (1 Corinthians 16: 13-14)

Your co-workers in the field of the Lord,  
*Vyacheslav and Nina Tsvirinko*



