



June 30, 2017

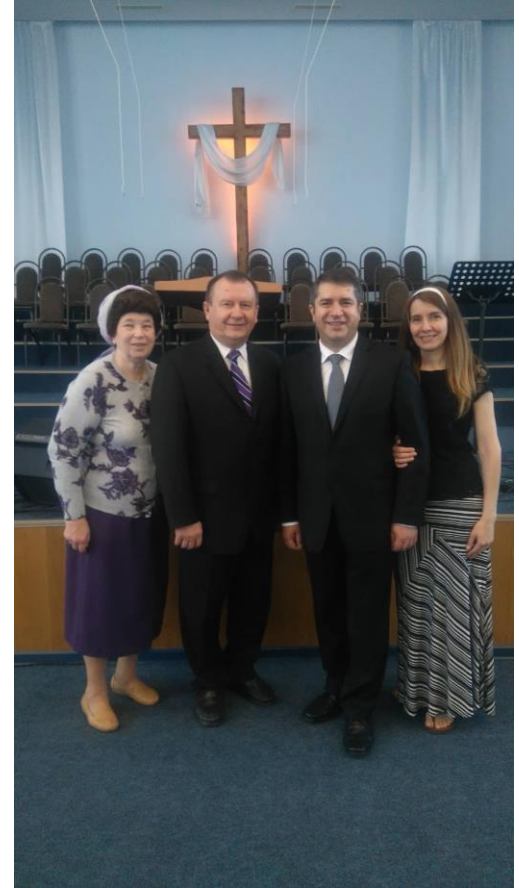
Peace be upon you, dear friends!

The end of June marks the end of the first half of the year. For us, these six months passed very quickly. June was marked by a number of interesting events in our life and ministry.



On Sunday, **June 4**, our local church, *Bethany*, celebrated Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, and communion was observed. Alexander Gyrbu delivered an inspirational sermon on the Pentecost as it is revealed to us in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. He is one of the presbyters of the local church and also a professor at the Christian University. Pastor Alexander is a very gifted speaker. He serves with his gift not only to people in Moldova, but also across the ocean. He frequently visits immigrant churches in the United States, holding seminars and conferences, and currently is in America.

That Pentecost service at the church was marked by the repentance of four people who came forward to commit their lives to Christ. Praise God for the Holy Spirit who continues to work in the hearts of people!





On June 7, graduating students majoring in missions presented their final papers to the examination committee. They presented an overview of their work and answered questions. Ten young men appeared before the examination committee, presenting the fruit of their labor. Obviously, the

atmosphere was tense for the students. However, the teachers were also nervous, as it was a kind of report on their work. After all, the success of a student means the success of his teachers.



On the same day, **June 7**, in the afternoon, I took part in a different kind of event—the funeral of an elderly lady, a member of Bethany Church; I was asked to deliver a sermon at this service.



According to local customs, before taking the body of the deceased to the cemetery, they bring it to where this person lived. This sister lived in a multi-story building. Therefore, the coffin with her body was installed near the entrance to the building. All neighbors and relatives had an

opportunity to come close to the coffin and pay their final tribute to the deceased. A group of believers from Bethany Church gathered there. They sang a few hymns and shared a couple poems. There was a sermon delivered as well. This is a good opportunity to witness about Christ and the eternal life He gives.

From the **9th to the 30th of June**, every Friday evening, Nina and I had meetings with the youth of Bethany Church, starting May 27. In these meetings, I talked about how to prepare yourself for family life and how to make the right choice of a spouse. The theme of marriage is relevant for young people. Therefore, they took an interest in these conversations.



On Saturday, the **10th of June**, the most important event of the school year took place—the graduation service dedicated to awarding diplomas to those who successfully completed their studies at the University. More than 40 students completed their studies. Many of them will return to their homeland, Central Asia and other regions of the former USSR, and there they will

serve the Lord. Many guests from different countries came to this special event. Among them are those who taught throughout the year at the University, as well as those who financially

support the University and make its existence possible. Many cordial wishes were made to address graduates. Also, on the part of those who completed their studies, many warm words were addressed to the teachers and administration of the University.



One of the graduates took advantage of the fact that he was given the opportunity to speak to the audience and invited up a girl, a first-year student whom he liked, stood before her on one knee and invited her to marry him. She, being embarrassed and nervous by so many witnesses, hesitated a little, but agreed. He presented her with an engagement ring. Of

course, this act was not included in the program. However, the audience took this surprise positively. The service lasted 4 hours and ended with a festive dinner for all present.

The president of the University, Mihai Malancha, is to my left and the Academic Dean, Dmitry Sevastian, is to my right. These brothers bear a heavy burden of responsibility for the spiritual, academic and material well-being of this institution.





On Sunday, **June 11**, morning, we visited a Baptist church in the village of Baltsata, which is located 15-20 km from Chisinau. The church building is located on a hill and from its porch opens a beautiful characteristic Moldovan view—hills covered with emerald-colored vineyards and deciduous forests. In

combination with the blue sky, this is an eye-pleasing picture. The congregation to which this beautiful building belongs is small. About 50 people attended the service. As in other suburban communities, the problem this church is facing is that young people move to

Chisinau. There they find work and go to church. Therefore, mostly middle-aged and older people predominate in the congregation. I took part in the ministry by preaching the Word of God.



Whichever church we come to, we are met with the ambassador of the Pacific Coast Slavic Baptist Association—the newspaper *Our Days*. It is known here, read and loved. The family of Chernykh, Mila and Anatoly, are carry out the work of spreading the newspaper in Moldova.





On Saturday, **June 17**, young families from Bethany Church were invited to a one-day retreat, which took place in the *Megapolis* building. This is a huge building in a suburb of Chisinau, built to create conditions for both

recreation and shopping for the city's residents. Participants of the retreat moved tables in the room for eating and had communication there. Nina and I were invited to this meeting so that we could share our experience of family life and raising children. Given that the next day in America was celebrating Father's Day, I turned my main attention to the fathers who were present there. There were many different kinds of questions concerning the family. The question of how to raise children by believers and keep them from the negative influence of the world around them was dominant. And to do this is not easy in the present age of computer technologies and social networks. The fellowship went in an informal, simple atmosphere.

On Monday, **June 19**, classes in the summer missionary school began at the University. This event was held for the first time. The purpose of this school was to help in understanding Islam by those who live and serve in the Muslim context. During two weeks of classes, participants received a lot of very valuable information about the origin, development and basic positions of this religion. The relationship between the Quran and the Bible was shown. The aspects of a successful testimony to Muslims about Christ were covered. The main speaker was an Englishman, Ron George, who devoted more than 50 years of his life to the ministry among Muslims and to the study of Islam. Among the participants were some of the current students of the



University, as well as graduates. There were also those who are currently at risk with their lives serving in Muslim countries. For me personally, participation in this school has become a great blessing. This deepened my understanding of Islam, and also provided me with an opportunity for personal communication with those who carry the Gospel to Muslims today. The program of the missionary school also included a seminar on work with immigrants, which I conducted.



On Sunday, **June 25**, in the morning, I visited *Blagodatj* (Grace) Church, which is located in the most prestigious district of Chisinau, the so-called Telecentre. This is a small Russian-speaking congregation. At the service, there were about 50 people. As the pastor, Sergey Yatsenko

told me, many people leave the city in the summer. Therefore, the attendance of the services at this time is significantly reduced. However, despite the small number of those present, the program was full. There was a lot of singing and poems. Particularly touching was the participation of the singing group *Bartimaeus*, consisting of several blind brothers. Their singing was different from the singing of all the others present—it was full with enthusiasm and inspiration. No

shadow of discouragement or resentment against the Lord due to the presence of such a serious ailment. These brothers are a perfect example of trusting in God and trusting Him in all circumstances. I had the opportunity to say a sermon in that service.





In the evening of the same Sunday, Nina and I were in our Bethany church. A pleasant surprise for us was that guests from the United States took part in the service. A group of 14 young and middle-aged people from Seattle conducted a Christian children's camp in one of the cities of Moldova. And after the end of this service they visited Chisinau and were in our church. Together with them was Sergey Petrovich Marchenko, who for 12 years was Senior pastor of the *Salvation Church* in Seattle. Before immigration, he lived in Bryansk, Russia. We are acquainted with him even in Soviet times. It was very pleasant to see him on Moldovan soil. After the service, we had good fellowship with fellow countrymen over a cup of tea.





On June 27, we gladly met our son Benjamin. He flew to Chisinau from Los Angeles to spend almost a month and a half here, teaching English at the local International Language Training Center. He decided to devote his summer vacation to this cause. For us, of course, it's very nice—to have one of our children with us during the summer.

The object of our intensive prayers for two weeks, from **June 14th to 28th**, was the ministry in Africa of a group of young people from Moldova and America. Under the leadership of Igor and Svetlana Mordvinov, they spent two weeks in Uganda, working among refugees from Southern Sudan. God blessed their work. They were able to carry out several very important projects, both in terms of evangelism and in terms of providing physical assistance to refugees. **On June 28**, they returned safely home. Thank God for the ministry of these young people!





And this is the team of our chefs who serve in the kitchen of the University. Every day of the year, in any weather, they provide both students, teachers, and guests of the University with tasty, healthy and nutritious food.

Before finishing my letter, I would like to share with you the following request. In the April newsletter, I wrote about one of the local churches with an unusual name, the *Church Without Walls*, which literally lost its walls and roof in an unprecedented snowstorm in April. The building was damaged so badly that it had to be demolished. During the summer, the



congregation holds worship services in a large tent. However, winter is not far off and by that time it is necessary to have a building more adapted to cold weather. This requires funds. I share this need with you, first of all, as a request to pray for this church. Secondly, if you personally or your congregation have an opportunity to provide financial assistance to this church, I would very much ask you to do this. The pastor is Alexander

Ivanovich Belev and donations can be sent to the church through mission *Mission Eurasia* (www.missioneurasia.org). On the donation page, select the item *Moldova: Emergency Church Construction*. I hope that this need will find a response in your hearts.

On this I will finish my letter. Thank you very much for your prayers! In response to them, the Lord continues blessing us in serving Him in this part of the world. Please continue to pray that the Lord will give us enough health to accomplish what He has planned for us. I need special help from the Lord in preparing two new courses that I will teach at the University during the fall semester. Also by spring, I need to prepare another new course. In addition, one more course should be prepared for teaching in the TCMII (Training Christians for Ministry International Institute), which is based in Austria. And all this desirably should be

done during a short summer. So please keep us in your prayers.
God bless you all abundantly!

“Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.” (Eph. 6:24)

Your co-workers in Christ’s Kingdom,

Vyacheslav and Nina Tsvirinko

