

December 31, 2016

Peace to you, dear friends!

I am writing you my last letter in 2016. Only a few hours left before the end of this eventful leap year. For each of us it was marked by something special. For our family, of course, this year will be remembered as the year of our move to Moldova. We've been here for a month by now. On the one hand, we are becoming acquainted with more and more people here, learn the traditions, especially the culture of this nation. On the other hand, we are becoming more and more accustomed to a new life. December is a special month marked by celebration of Christmas and New Year. For this reason, Nina and I have participated in various holiday parties during this month. Of course, it will not be this way always (I hope!). After the New Year, I guess, normal life will return to its normal course and feasts will become infrequent.

In this letter, I do not want to bother you with lots of text. Instead, I will share with you a few pictures from our life here and provide some comments to them.



On December 14, we said goodbye at the airport to our son Andrew, who was flying back to US. Two weeks earlier he flew to Chisinau with us to help us to settle here. Of course, his presence with us was a great blessing for us on our move here. We are very grateful to him for all his help.



On December 16, Nina and I visited some of the classes that the University faculty taught. One of the classes we visited was taught by Alexander Girbu. He is working here for many years. He is well known in America as the brilliant speaker at conferences and seminars. We were pleased to stay with him in the classroom. Students are enjoying his lectures very

much.



On Sunday, December 18, we visited the *Light of the World* church. This is one of the churches, planted after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The pastor of this church is Vladimir Ubeyvolk. This church is very much involved in social service in the city.



Later that Sunday, December 18, we were invited to a party of married couples of the *Voice of Truth* church. It was a Christmas party. There were a lot of smiles, kind words, singing and pleasant conversations. This church also has been planted after Soviet time. Most of its members have accepted Christ after the fall of USSR and did not come from Christian families.



This cake was made specially for this Christmas party.



At this party we met with Peter Litnevskaya, who our Church in Fresno and other churches of the Pacific Coast Slavic Baptist Association supported financially when he served as missionary in Pevek for six years together with Slavik Grin. It was a joy to see him with his wife. Now they live in Chisinau.

On December 21, we were again at the University. This photo was taken in front of one of the newest University buildings, that was built in 2016. It houses classrooms, a library and a big hall for conferences and meetings.





This is a dining room of the University. Students and teachers are eating together here. The food here is tasty and nutritious. And what is important - is not expensive!



On December 23, the final chapel of fall semester took place at the University conference hall. During the semester, there is a chapel once a week. The student choir participated at this special service. At the end of the service, the Communion has been served.



Both students and teachers were part of the audience.



At the end of the service, Nina and I were introduced to the University constituency. President of the University, Mikhail Malancha, introduced us in the Romanian language, and teacher Victor Ormanzhi (in blue suit), translated his words into Russian.



On Saturday, December 24, we attended a Christmas service with the participation of children in the *Voice of Truth* church. Hundreds of children have visited the church during these holidays. Most of them were from families of unbelievers. Praise God for giving Christians in Moldova an opportunity to share the Good News with children!



On Sunday evening, December 25, we visited the *Bethany* church. The service was led by the youth. It was conducted in Russian and Romanian. I was asked to preach at that service.



On December 28, we attended a meeting of one of "small groups" of the *Voice of Truth* church. Igor Mordvinov enthusiastically shares with participants of the meeting about his recent missionary trip to Africa, particularly to South Sudan and Uganda. He stayed there for two weeks with a group of brothers. They came back a week ago. That trip was difficult and dangerous. Members of churches of the PCSBA took financial participation in it.



Yesterday, December 30th, at 6:00 pm senior pastors of Baptist Churches of Chisinau that are part of the Baptist Union, together with their wives, gathered together for fellowship and prayer. They always do it at the end of the year. It is a tradition that helps leaders to be closer to each other in ministry. Nina and I were also invited to this gathering.

The first month of our stay in the new country has come to the end. The Lord blessed us richly during this time. And this, of course, because of your prayers for us. Please continue to pray that the Lord would use us for His glory here. Our move here created a lot of surprise and puzzlement in mind of local people. For many people, it looks very strange that we have left a rich America and arrived to one of the poorest countries in Europe. We hope that the Lord sees our act differently.

Again, thank you very much to all of you for your prayers!



Happy New Year to all of you! We wish each of you the abundance of God's blessings in all aspects of your life in the new year!

Yours in Christ,

Vyacheslav and Nina Tsvirinko