

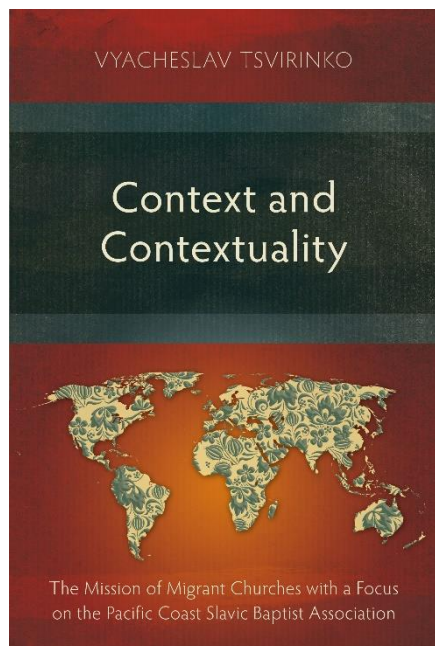
February 28, 2018

Dear co-workers in the field of God, relatives and friends! Peace to you and grace from our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ!



Another month has passed of our life and ministry in Moldova. This is the last winter month on the calendar. However, in real life, everything does not always correspond to the calendar. This is definitely true in Moldova—by the end of February, winter seemed to understand that her days were numbered and began to manifest herself particularly actively. Snow, snowstorm, and severe frost marked the last week of February. But however much the winter raged, it can not resist the spring, the approach of which is indicated by a much longer day. Thanks be to God that not only in nature but also in our lives after the winter of difficulties and tribulation comes the spring of comfort in the Lord.

Here are some of the events that took place during the shortest month of the year.



At the end of January there was an important event in my life—my doctoral dissertation was published, five years after I defended it. The published book can be purchased in paperback online at the following sites:

- Langhamcreative.org
- Amazon.com
- Bookdepository.com
- Barnes & Noble

In electronic format it could be purchased at the following sites:

- Amazon.com
- Apple iBooks
- Barnes & Noble Nook

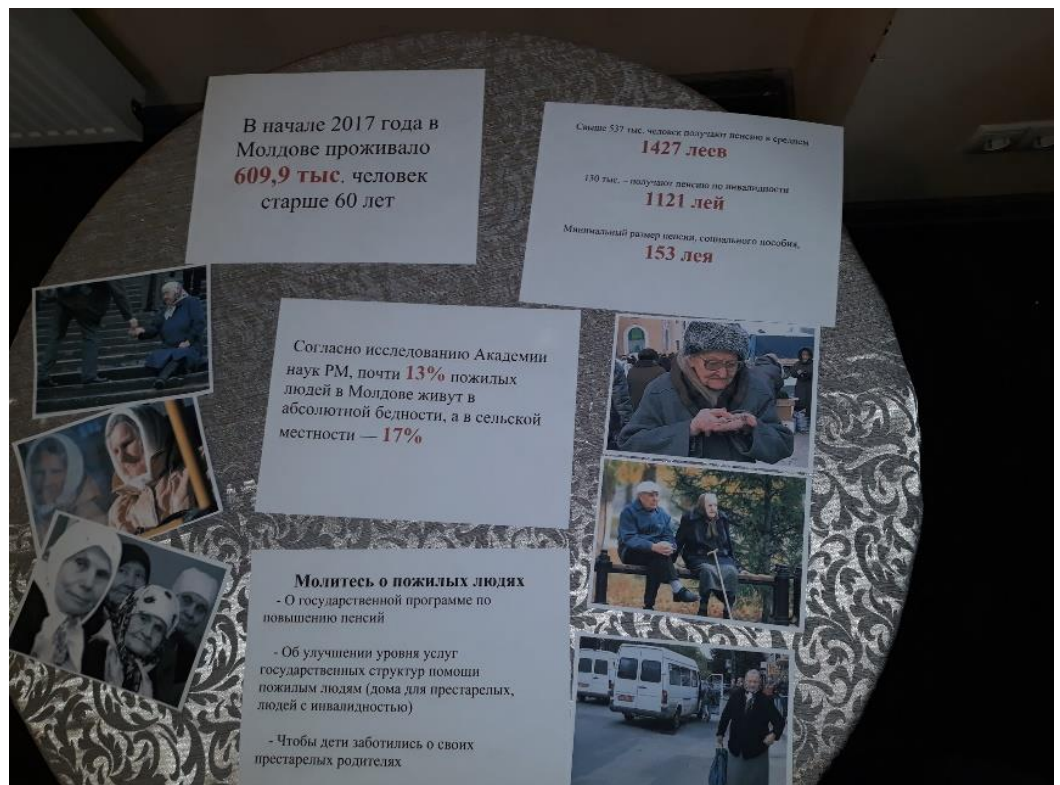
I wholeheartedly thank the Lord for helping me complete this difficult process. True, this book has been published so far only in English. I hope that someday it will be published in Russian as well.



On Saturday morning, **February 3**, 20 pastors gathered for a monthly prayer meeting of the ministers of the city of Chisinau at *Svet Miru* church. The prayer was focused on the people of Chisinau and their needs, the government, orphans (3,300 children live without parental care), youth and young families (in

2017, 20,000 couples were married, 9,000 couples were divorced), pensioners (over 537,000

people in Moldova receive an average pension of 1,427 lei per month, which is 85 dollars). The meeting lasted two hours, which flew very quickly. There was much more time devoted to prayer than for the preaching or reasoning of the brothers. I received a great blessing that meeting.





On February 11, the annual business meeting took place in the church of *Bethany*. Pastor of the church, N.G. Vozian, presented a lengthy and detailed report on the life and ministry of the church in 2017. A panoramic picture of the numerous ministries performed by members of the church (which are now 218) both in the walls of the prayer house and outside of it. The youth is active: they conducted purposeful

evangelistic ministries and various social projects through which the Gospel also reaches people. During the year, 21 people repented in the church, nine were baptized. It's nice to be a part of a church that the Lord uses to testify about His love for people. At the end of the business meeting, the prayer was offered for the leaders of the congregation.

A special blessing for us this month was the visit of our son Andrei, who lives in Visalia, California. He spent several days with us, **February 13-19**. For us it was a joy and encouragement. During his visit, Andrei visited the university, attended my lesson, and also shared a sermon from the Word of God during the regular worship of students.





Students at my class enjoyed hearing Andrei sharing about his life experience in America and about culture shock he is going through when he comes to Moldova.

In February, the leaders of the Union of Churches of the ECB of Moldova hold meetings in different regions of the Union, devoted to the analysis of the ministry of both the churches of this region and the entire union in the past year. **On February 17**, such a meeting was held for the churches in the Chisinau region, where I had the opportunity to attend. According to the

submitted report, the Baptist Union of Moldova now has 339 churches with a total membership of more than 18,000 (for comparison, it should be noted that over the last 25 years more than 15,000 believers left the churches of the Union for the USA). The report noted that in 2017 the number of believers who immigrated to the US was less than in 2016. Last year, more than



600 people were baptized in all the churches of the Union. However, changes in the total number of church members almost did not change. It was noted that in recent years, the social ministry within the union has significantly expanded. More than half of the churches are involved in serving children, pensioners, and disabled people in the community. The development of family-type orphanages has developed greatly. 34 houses have already been built, in each of which 5-8 orphans are being raised. Particular attention was paid to the fact that it is necessary to make every effort to ensure that in each settlement of Moldova a Baptist church is founded.

On February 24, *Bethel* church hosted a conference of the ministry of Mothers in Prayer. More than 450 women from all regions of Moldova gathered for joint worship of the Lord and for mutual edification and encouragement.



The founder of this ministry in Moldova, Olga Fedorovna Moka, continues to actively participate in this very important ministry.



On Sunday, **February 25**, Nina and I visited the church in city of Komrat. The pastor of the church, Joseph Karaseni, invited me to take part in a celebration dedicated to men. Komrat is the capital

of Gagauziya, which is an autonomous region of Moldova. It is located 100 kilometers from Chisinau. Vyacheslav and Alla Verenchuk, who are responsible for ministry among the family members of the Baptist Union, kindly agreed to transport us on this trip. Despite the few members (about 80), the service was full. Children, young people, the older generation—all actively participated in the service with their gifts. In the program, apart from the three sermons, there were poems, singing, and two dramas. The church premises do not correspond to the high activity of the community. It's an old, small building. It was crowded during the Sunday service. To solve this problem, the congregation began building a new house of prayer. At present, the walls are erected and the roof is installed. Much still needs to be done, but there is not enough finances. The church is praying that the Lord places on hearts of brothers and sisters in Christ abroad



to help financially to complete the house of prayer. For us and Nina, it was a great blessing to be in this church. Most of its members accepted the Lord as personal Savior not long ago. The pastor himself, Joseph Karaseni, turned to the Lord after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Soon after believing, he graduated from a missionary school and moved to Komrat in 1993 to found a church. And now, 25 years later, the congregation of the ECB lives and actively works here. Praise God for the dedication of Joseph and other believers who are sacrificially serving the Lord in this region of Moldova.

My daily life at the university proceeds in a normal working rhythm. The learning process entered its ordinary track. Every meeting with students in the class gives me joy. Whenever I hear about their families, who were often unbelievers in the recent past and now serve God, my heart rejoices and thanks the Lord for His mercy. Many students came from Muslim countries and for



them to be a Christian in their homeland means to challenge the surrounding society. This makes them Christians who are serious about their faith in Christ. For me it is a blessing to serve them by teaching at this university.

We sincerely thank each of you for your prayer support. We are very grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to participate in His work in this country. We rejoice, seeing that the Kingdom of God is expanding and many people learn about God through the ministry of believers in Moldova.

God bless every one of you abundantly! As encouragement, take this verse of Scripture: "**We love, because He first loved us**" (1 John 4:19).

With love,

Your co-workers in the field of God,

Vyacheslav and Nina Tsvirinko



