

March 31, 2018

Dear fellow workers in the field of God, relatives and friends,  
We cordially greet you with the precious name of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ!



***Happy Easter! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!***

Well, spring is here! After a few vigorous attempts to hold us under its cold grip, winter has receded. During March, we experienced several sharp turns of cooling and warming. After a few bouts of severe frost and heavy snowfall, here at the end of the month, the snow has completely melted and temperatures are rising.

Earlier this month, on Saturday, March 3, the pastors of the Baptist Churches of Chisinau gathered for joint prayer. This time this meeting took place in the church of *Spiranta*, which means "Hope".



This is a Romanian-speaking church founded in the post-Soviet time of about 150 members. The beautiful building of the church is a former unfinished cinema theater, which the congregation acquired and turned into a prayer house. It is located in the area of several higher educational institutions. This determined the initial vision of the local congregation—to work among students. In the church, under the guidance of three pastors and five presbyters, a number of ministries are performed—children’s, youth, and social. The church supports five missionaries. The gathered pastors prayed for church ministers and their families as well as the projects of this and other churches.



A Pleasant experience for me this month was a meeting with a well-known American missiologist, David Shenk. I have known him for a long time from his many publications in the field of missiology. In his recent visit to the University, together with his wife, I was able to meet and talk with him personally. David Shenk has a rich biography. For many years he was a Mennonite



missionary in Somalia and Kenya. He was actively involved in numerous dialogues with Muslim leaders around the world, seeking ways to peacefully resolve the conflict between Christianity and Islam. Shenk is the author of 15 books. For more than fifteen years, David Shenk regularly visits and teaches at the University of *Davitia Gratia*. Unfortunately, his age and poor health will most likely not allow him to come to Moldova anymore. Therefore, the meeting with him this time was so touching and important. On March 7, during the regular service of the students, the President of the University, Sergei Náměstník, thanked Brother Shenk for his great contribution to the service of the University during these many years and gave him a memorable gift.



Another pleasant meeting for me was with the President of the Baptist Union of Kazakhstan, Franz Thiessen, whom I've known for a long time. A long term worker in the field of the Lord, Brother Thiessen earned deserved respect among the faithful churches of not only Kazakhstan, but also other republics of the former USSR. He is well known also to the Slavic immigrant churches in America. In early March, at the invitation of the Churches of Moldova, Brother Franz visited this region and held a number of seminars in the local churches in northern Moldova. On March 11, Sunday, he was in our church, Bethany, and participated in the service, preaching the Word of God. His preaching touched many hearts and about 10 people repented before God. For some, it was a prayer to renew their relationship with the Lord, for others it was the first time. After the service, we had a friendly conversation with Brother Franz, in which he shared about the life and ministry of believers in Central Asia.



A few weeks ago, second-year missionary students, Shovkat and Manzura, asked me to perform their marriage ceremony, which is scheduled for May 5th. Shovkat came to the University from Uzbekistan, and Manzura from Tajikistan. Here they met, fell in love and decided to marry, without waiting for graduation. Currently, I am conducting premarital counseling meetings with them. I ask you to pray for this young



couple, that the Lord will bless both the upcoming wedding, and their subsequent family life and service to God. They will also be grateful if someone wishes to help them financially in carrying out the wedding. As you know, students are not rich people and their parents live modestly. Therefore, they still do not have enough funds to cover all the costs associated with the upcoming wedding. Please let me know if you have a desire to bless this young couple financially.

A wonderful acquaintance happened for me and Nina this month. During our life here, we have tried to get acquainted, if possible, with our neighbors. We have managed to get to know the neighbors on our floor more recently. In one family, there is a husband, wife, and son, who finishes school this year. It turns out that the husband (Sergei) studied at the same Odessa Higher Nautical School of Engineers which I finished in 1971, and he was also a mechanical engineering major. Although he graduated 16 years after my graduation, a number of teachers who worked at the school with me still worked there even when Sergei was studying. It was very touching for me to meet a man who lived in the same dormitory (called "ekipazh") in which I also lived, ate in the same dining room as I had in my youth, walked the ranks from the dormitory to the academic buildings and back along the same streets of Odessa, listened to the lectures of the same teachers and in the same classrooms as I once did. On Sunday, March 25, after dinner, we invited Sergei and his wife Tatiana to visit us. We talked for a long time, listened to the history of their lives, told about ourselves, talked about God. I presented Sergey a Bible so that he could read on long-haul travels. A few days ago he flew to Singapore and from there went on a trip for 3-4 months. I hope he will read the Bible, being away from family and his homeland. All these years after the completion of the Nautical School in 1987, Sergei has worked on ships. Now he works as a chief mechanic. Pray that the Word of God will do a reviving work in his heart.

Thank you very much for praying for us! God Bless each of you!

In view of these Easter days, be encouraged with the following text of Scripture: "***He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you***" (2 Corinthians 4:14)

With love and prayer,

Your co-workers in the field of God,

Vyacheslav and Nina Tsvirinko

P.S. In Moldova, Easter celebration will take place on April 8<sup>th</sup>.



