

April 30, 2018

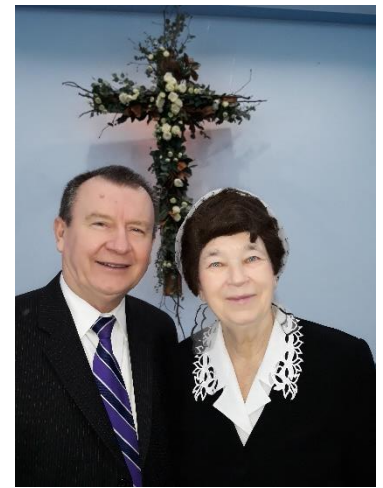
Dear workers in the field of God, relatives and friends! We cordially greet you with the words of the risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: Peace be with you!

We believe that the Easter holidays brought each of you a lot of joy and spiritual encouragement.

In Moldova, April was marked by spring's sudden arrival—literally breaking onto this land. After only a few days of snow at the beginning of the month, it has warmed up and stayed warm consistently. In just a short time, all is blossoming—leaves, gardens, flowers—the air filled with the fragrance of lilac.

Our ministry this month was marked by an abundance of events.

To begin, a monthly meeting of the pastors of Baptist churches of Chisinau was held on **March 31**. I did not write about it in my previous letter, so I'm including it now. This meeting was held at the Church Without Wall, which is led by Alexander I. Belev. This church was founded in 2008 and for a long time gathered in rented venues. For the last few years, services have been held in a room that the community hopes to acquire for themselves. The focus of this community's ministry is youth and young families. The average age of church members is 25-30 years.



A year ago, on April 20, 2017, as a result of heavy snowfall, the roof of the church building collapsed and the church was left without a meeting place. I wrote to you about it in the April 2017 newsletter. In response to prayers and thanks to the donations of many believers from different countries, a new roof was built. A year after that sad event, the church is again gathering in its original place. Although the new structure is considered temporary, it is not inferior to those that are built for permanent use. Those who gathered for prayer this last month were pleasantly surprised with both the quality of work and the pace of construction of this building. Attended by 20 ministers, the morning of prayer and fellowship was blessed.



God continues to surprise us with unexpected meetings. On **April 3**, I met the daughter of Yuri and Maya Sakala, friends from our youth, with whom we lived in Riga 40 years ago and were part of the same church. Both of them believed in Jesus in Riga, where they arrived as young specialists after graduating from the university in the early 1970s. Later they left Riga for Ukraine. And now I accidentally met their daughter Ruth, who works as a nurse in a Christian polyclinic in Chisinau. A few days after this meeting, Nina and I visited her family. We remembered the parents of Ruth, who are both already with the Lord. We shared the way in which God led us through life and brought us to Moldova. For us this meeting was a great encouragement. Now we have another person close to us in Chisinau. ☺.

Although Easter was celebrated in America on April 1, it was celebrated on April 8 in Moldova. Easter holidays began for us with a special service at the university, which was held on **April 4th**. The student choir sang beautifully. The sermon of the Word of God was preached and the Lord's Supper was commemorated.





During the Easter season, the streets are spotted with kiosks selling various Easter cakes. Many people actively celebrate the feast of Easter.

The Easter service in our church, Bethany, on Sunday, **April 8th** was particularly special. Attended by adults and children, who sang and recited poems. I had the honor to preach an Easter sermon.





On the second day of Easter, on the **9th of April**, we attended the evening service at the church of Bethel. This is the community that has become, figuratively speaking, the mother for many baptist churches in Chisinau, which today are many in the city. A city-wide orchestra of more than 50 musicians participated in the service. The performance was simply magnificent. I do not cease to be amazed at the abundance of talented people in the churches of Moldova. At the conclusion of the service, I was given the opportunity to share from the Word of God.





April 11 was a very joyful day for us. Our youngest son John, and his wife Korina, had their first child—Sarah. We are very grateful to the Lord for blessing us with granddaughters— Sarah is now the seventh—along with two grandsons. Unfortunately, we have not yet had the opportunity to hold this little girl in our hands. However, we thank God for Skype. Thanks to this means of communication, we can see both Sarah and our other grandchildren.

On April 13, I had a pleasant opportunity to talk with the youth of the church of Bethany and talk with them about the importance of friendship in the Christian life and how to build relationships with friends and not lose them. As always, a meeting with the youth brings joy and encouragement.



On April 15, Sunday morning, we visited one of the churches of the city, which is called Gethsemane. This is a small community, a little over 100 members. The celebration of Easter still



continues in the churches of Moldova. Therefore, the hymns, verses and sermons were dedicated to the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ. I took part in this ministry by preaching. все еще продолжается в церквях Молдовы.

An important event of this month was the missionary conference "Whoever Is Not You," organized by the Missionary Department of the Union of Churches of the ECB of Moldova. It was held on April 28 in the church of the Voice of Truth. Igor Mordvinov led the meeting which was attended by more than 100. Conference participants heard inspirational sermons and vivid



testimonies of missionaries in Moldova, as well as in Turkey, Southern Sudan, India, and Khakassia (Russia). I was given the opportunity to share a testimony about how the Lord called me and Nina to missionary ministry, and to inspire young brothers and sisters to devote themselves to the mission.



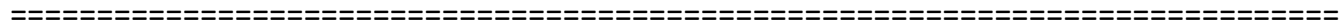
On the 29th of April, Sunday morning, we visited a church located in a picturesque place in the village of Dolinnoe. We visited here before, in the colder time of the year. Now this area is fragrant from the abundance of flowering gardens, chestnut trees, lilacs and many flowers. The community we visited is small—about 50 members—with a beautiful prayer house. This time the service was unusual—two Americans preached. One of them is a resident of Michigan who came to our university to teach a two-week course. And the other was me, a resident of California, but who has been living in Moldova for almost a year and a half. The ministry was also dedicated to the Passover events.

Although my newsletter is mainly devoted to my ministry in the local churches, most of my time and energy is devoted, of course, to the work at the university. Regular meetings with students in the classroom bring me great blessing. During the past three months of the current semester, I met more closely with the students I teach. I do not cease to be surprised at the diversity of life experience that is presented in the life of my students. As I wrote earlier, before each lesson in the Theology of Marriage and Family class, students take turns to tell about their families and pray for them. It is rare that any come from Christian families. There are only a few people. All the rest come from either families in which parents have recently believed, or from families in which only one of the parents is a Christian. It is particularly touching to hear requests from students to pray for their parents who have not yet received Christ. A reminder of the experience of my youth is the stories of some students about how their parents, who are ministers in the church, are harassed by the authorities in Muslim countries. The composition of the students of this university is not so similar to the youth of the churches of Slavic immigrants in America, who for the most part are the heirs of several generations of Christians. I am pleased with this privilege to serve these young people.

The spring semester at the university is coming to an end. In about a month we will graduate yet another class of students. For now, both students and teachers are undergoing the traditional stress at the end of the semester—students getting their homework done; teachers working to check all of that work.

Thank you very much for praying for us! May the Lord bless all of you abundantly, both in your personal life and in His service! As a wish, accept the following text of Scripture: **"And Jesus said unto them, 'I am the bread of life; He that comes to me shall not hunger: and he that believes in me shall never thirst'"** (John 6:35).

With love and prayer, yours in Christ Jesus,
Vyacheslav and Nina Tsvirinko



There are few spring pictures.





