

August 18, 2018

Peace to you, dear fellow workers in the field of the Lord, our relatives and friends! It's been more than a month and a half since you received a newsletter from us. This has been a very busy time for us, so we weren't able to get one out to you earlier.



Let us share some of the events that took place in our lives and ministry during this time.



With Yevgenia after the service on 07/01/18

The month of July began on Sunday, **July 1st**. On this day we were in our church *Bethany*, in Chisinau. We had guests from America, from the state of Alabama. One of them, Pastor Ross Robertson, preached and I translated. Interestingly, we turned to the Lord at the same time—in August 1974. The only the difference is that he was in America and I was in Russia ☺.

At the end of this service, a young woman named Yevgenia, whom we met in January of this year, gave her life to Jesus. For the first time, she visited our church by answering an invitation to come with her daughter to the Christmas Children's Program in December 2017. After that she began to visit the

church regularly and now she accepted the Lord as her personal Savior. We were very happy about this.

On **July 2**, our house was visited by Sergey Viktorovich Sannikov. He came to the University of Chisinau to participate in a meeting of the leadership of the Euro-Asian Accreditation Association. Nina and I were very happy to meet our old friend and co-worker in the field of God. Although the Sannikovs live not far from Chisinau—in Odessa—we see each other not very often. Therefore, for us this meeting was very pleasant.



Another pleasant meeting was held on **July 4th**. This time the guest was from afar—from Sacramento in California. Ivan Nikolaevich Bruyako, the editor of *Our Days* newspaper, visited Moldova, and we were glad to share in conversation in the house of the faithful Moldovan volunteers of this newspaper—Milla and Anatoly Cherny. *Our Days* is a weekly publication of the Pacific Coast Slavic Baptist Association. We were interested to learn news about the life of believers in Sacramento from the person who lives and works there.



The next day, on the morning of **July 5th**, Nina and I flew from Chisinau to Los Angeles (with a transfer in Istanbul, Turkey). After living in Moldova for a year and a half, we finally managed to take such a long journey to America. There is no need to write about the fact that we missed our children very much, and especially our grandchildren (we never even saw one granddaughter because she was born in our absence), as well as other relatives and friends. Therefore, with excitement in our hearts, we left the Moldavian land, anticipating the long-awaited meeting with our relatives.

The flight was normal, without delays and any problems. In the evening of the same day, after 16 hours of travel, we landed in Los Angeles, where we were met by our son, Benjamin. He took us to Fresno. Tired, but joyful, by 11pm we arrived in the city where we lived for 25 years. The following days were filled with joyful encounters with children, grandchildren, relatives and friends. California met us with record heat that persisted throughout our stay. Every day the temperature was above 100 degrees! Truly, the reception for us in California was really hot 😊.

Unfortunately, the joy of the meeting was overshadowed by the sudden death of one of our friends, Timofey Gavrilov, who died of a heart attack several days before our arrival. On Saturday, **July 7th**, we participated in his funeral service.

The next day, on Sunday, **July 8**, we attended a service in our former church, *House of the Gospel*. It was very pleasant to meet old friends with whom we had served the Lord together for many years. Unfortunately, not all of them we were able to meet—about 10 of those whom we left, leaving in 2016, went to the Lord during this time. I participated in that Sunday service by preaching the Word of God.



Prayer for those who are going to lead a Christian children camp the following week.



Naturally, after such a long absence from Fresno, we wanted to meet with many. One such meeting was a visit to the family of the pastor of *House of the Gospel* church, A.S. Sokolovsky. Nina and I spent the evening of **July 12** in conversations with Brother Alexander and sister Lubov, sharing our experiences of one and a half years of separation. Also, with many others we had the opportunity to visit during our stay in Fresno.

A special meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, **July 14th**, at Rancho Cordova. Olga Vladimirovna Avetisova, who carries out information service in the Pacific Coast Slavic Baptist Association, invited us to her home. After a very tasty dinner, prepared by her on the occasion of our visit, Olga Vladimirovna conducted a radio and video interview with us about the ministry in Moldova.



The next day, on Sunday, **July 15**, we visited the morning service of the *Second Slavic Baptist Church* in Sacramento (pastor V.P. Brutsky-Stempkovsky). I took part in the service by preaching the Word of God and sharing about our ministry.

On the evening of the same day, **July 15**, we attended the service of the *First Slavic Baptist Church* of Sacramento (pastor V.P. Kunets). I had the opportunity to tell the church about what the Lord is doing through our ministry in Moldova and to thank them for praying for us.



After evening service with our old friends and coworkers in ministry at the Pacific Coast Slavic Baptist Association – Alexandr and Lubov Gol.

At the house of our friends who used to live in Moldova, Mila and Ilya Gusev, after the evening service at First Slavic Baptist church of Sacramento. Mila is serving as a correspondent for the information department of PCSBA.





On **July 18**, at the invitation of the Mileev family, we visited their house in Fresno. Pastor Mileev is serving as President of Pacific Coast Slavic Baptist Association (PCSBA). During a pleasant meeting with Ivan Vladimirovich and his wife Alena, we spoke about ways of practical implementation of the partnership agreement between PCSBA and the Baptist Union of Moldova signed recently.

While visiting their house I delivered to Pastor Mileev a thank you letter from the Baptist Union of Moldova for PCSBA participation in joined mission projects.

On Saturday, **July 21**, Nina and I visited the house of the Director of the Missionary Division of the Pacific Coast Slavic Baptist Association, Alexei V. Yanovsky. I shared about our ministry in Moldova, and Brother Yanovsky talked about how the missionary ministry in the Association is developing. We also discussed practical steps to implement the partnership agreement between the Association and the Baptist Union of Moldova.



The next day, on Sunday, **July 22nd**, Nina and I visited the largest Russian-speaking Baptist church in the world, located at West Sacramento—the Russian Baptist Church of *Brite* (pastor L.P. Kyoroglo). Before the start of the Sunday service, I shared with the members of the Church council about our ministry. During the service, attended by about two thousand people, I delivered a sermon.



Addressing the Church Council before Sunday service on July 22.



One of many choirs of the Brite Russian Baptist church is participating at Sunday service, on 07/22/18.



An open lesson for kids during evening service at the Rockland Baptist church.

On the same day, **July 22**, in the evening, we visited the Slavic church of *Rocklin Baptist Church* (pastor N.A. Bugriev). During the service, I was given the opportunity to share about our ministry and preach a sermon.

In the afternoon, on Monday, **July 23**, the leading pastor of the *Russian Baptist church of Brite*, L.P. Kyoroglo, met with Nina and I in his church office, and we had a good opportunity to exchange information about what the Lord is doing both in Moldova and in Sacramento.





In the evening of the same day, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Pastoral Council of Baptist Churches in Sacramento, V.V. Zinchenko, I made a presentation about our ministry in Moldova during the regular meeting of the presbyters of the Baptist churches of this city. More than 30 brothers from different churches attended this meeting. I was very pleased with this opportunity to share with

fellow servants of the Lord about how God uses us to serve Him in this small but blessed country.

The month of July ended for us by fellowship for several days with our close relatives that took place on the Pacific coast in Southern California. For more than 20 years, we gather together during the summer to share what the Lord has done in our lives



since our previous meeting and pray for each other. It's also a good time to relax on the ocean during particularly hot weather in California.



On **August 1**, I met with the leading pastor of *Campus Bible Church* in Fresno, brother Jim Cecy. I have known him since 1992. At the meeting, we discussed the possibility of Pastor Cecy's visit to Moldova for leading a conference for the ministers of local churches.

On the **5th of August**, on Sunday, we said goodbye to our former local church *House of the Gospel*. During the morning service, I performed communion, and in the evening service I made a detailed presentation with photos about the ministry in Moldova.



On the **7th of August** we flew from Los Angeles to Chisinau. This was the end of our trip to California.

As you can see, the month of July and the beginning of August were a very busy time for us. It was a time, on the one hand, of meetings with relatives and friends to fill the lack of fellowship with them. On the other hand, it was a time of important meetings and contacts with both church ministers

personally and with their communities, to strengthen the prayer support of our ministry in Moldova. For us and Nina, these meetings served as a source of new strength for the continuation of the ministry.

In conclusion, we wish to thank you all heartily for your prayers. God bless every one of you abundantly! As a wish, accept a verse from the Scripture: "**Behold, God is my salvation: I put my trust in Him, and am not afraid; for the Lord is my strength, and my song is the Lord; and He is my salvation**" (Isaiah 12:2). Let this verse serve each of you as encouragement in those perhaps difficult circumstances in which you are now.

With love and prayer,

Your co-workers in the God's vineyard,

Vyacheslav and Nina Tsvirinko