

April 30, 2019

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Peace and grace to you, dear brothers and sisters, laborers in the field of God, relatives and friends! We cordially greet you in the love of our risen Savior Jesus Christ!



Finally, spring has come to Moldova. The locals say that this a “classic” spring is; meaning, it’s what it used to be before the onset of the so-called “global warming.” After the winter cold and snowfall, warming began gradually. And now Moldova is really warm. Most fruit trees have bloomed and there are flowers growing everywhere. The smell of lilacs fills the air with fragrance. Great time!



During the meeting of the members of the Council of the Union of Baptist Churches of

On **April 4**, members of the Council of the Union of Baptist Churches of Moldova were gathered at Bethel Church in Chisinau. This Council consists of those overseeing churches in one of the nine regions of the country, and members of their regional councils. The bishop of Baptist Union of Moldova, N.G. Voizian, asked me to share from the

Word of God with those assembled. On the one hand, it is a privilege to speak to such a group of responsible ministers. On the other hand, this is a challenge and responsibility—after all, they are all mentors of other ministers in their regions. I was glad to meet all these brothers again—I spoke to them last in March 2017, and shared with them a word of encouragement.

From the **11th to the 15th of April**, Nina and I traveled to Latvia. On the day of arrival to Riga, on the **11th of April**, in the evening, we visited the “Bratskiy Dom” (Brotherhood House) rehabilitation center in the village, Saureshi, not far from the city of Salaspils. The director of the center is brother Yury Larionov. He also performs pastoral ministry in the church, which holds its meetings in the territory of the rehabilitation center. Participants of which have the opportunity to



During the service in the Brotherhood House

regularly attend the services of this church. That evening, the 11th of April, the church was brought together, and I had the opportunity to share from the Word of God with the church members and guests. Nina and I were amazed at the amount of work that is being done in the rehabilitation center. And this despite the fact that this center does not have stable financial support. Please pray for this ministry and its funding.



On April 12 and 13, at the request of the Director of the Latvian Bible Center, Viktor Ivanovich Petrenko, and other church ministers, I conducted a seminar in this educational institution on the topic “*The realities of life in a multicultural society: How we can live together and not hurt each other?*”

The building of the Bible Center has an amazing history. Currently it is a beautiful modern building. However, only a few years ago it was half-ruined and was a sad sight. At one time in the past, this building was occupied by a Bible school founded by the famous evangelist Fetler. Later it came to complete desolation. Under the leadership of V.I. Petrenko this building was restored. It was a lot of work and courage to do this. As a result, continuity in ministry has been maintained. As in the times of Fetler, today the training of Gospel ministers is being carried out in this building.



Church leaders participating at the seminar

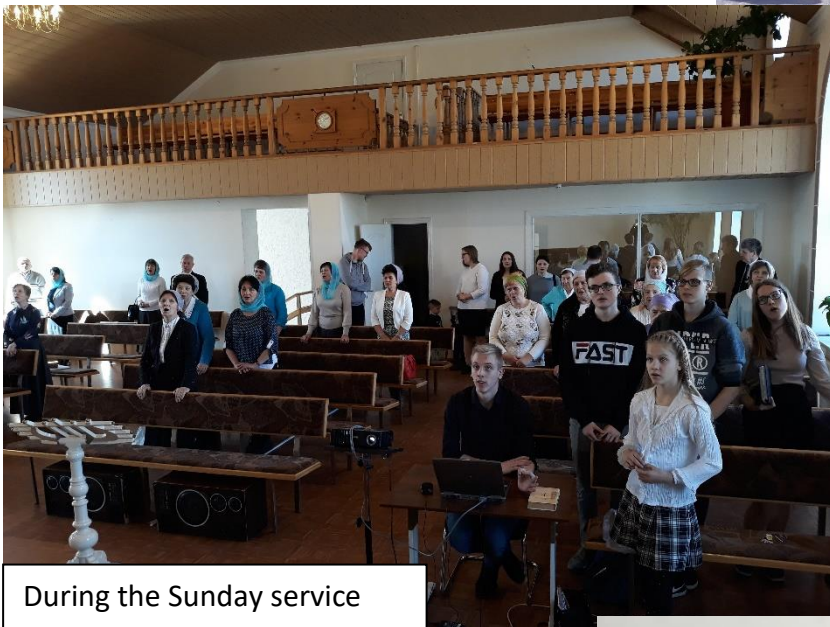


The local sisters in Christ were delighted to meet Nina and hear useful tips on parenting from her.

On Sunday, **April 14th**, we visited the church in city of Jekabpils, which is located 120 km from Riga. On this day in the churches of Latvia remembered the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. We were pleased to celebrate this holiday with the members of this church. I took part in the service by preaching the Word of God.



Church building in Jekabpils



During the Sunday service

A visit to Latvia always awakens special feelings in us. A lot of memories come to mind about what we experienced in our youth, when we lived in this country. We are very grateful to the Lord for giving us the opportunity to visit this region again which is close to our hearts.



After Sunday service, with the pastor of the church Anatoly and his wife, Lubov

On Sunday, **April 21**, we visited a church in the village of Baltsaty, which is located near Chisinau. Considering that in Moldova, as in Ukraine and Russia, the Easter holiday was celebrated this year one week later than in America and Western Europe, the holiday of the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem was celebrated in Moldova, on April 21st. Thus, this year we had the opportunity to celebrate this holiday twice—once in Latvia, another time in Moldova 😊.



Church building in the village of Baltsaty



Children participation in the service

The ministry in the church we attended was festive. The choir sang very nicely. Although the congregation is small - about 60 members, its singing ministry is at a high level. Not only did young people and children participate in the program of the service, but also people in their older years. One of them, a woman older than 80 years, recited by heart a long poem about the holiday. She did it very beautifully. When I asked the local brothers who this

sister was, they explained to me that she was a former Russian language teacher in Soviet times. At that time, she was an opponent of believers and greatly oppressed those students who were from Christian families. However, as time passed, the Lord touched her heart. She repented, was baptized and is now in church. Praise God for His mercy to this soul!

I was given the opportunity in this service to deliver a sermon.



Former school teacher recites a poem during the church service

At the end of the service, a man of about 40 came out in front of the church for repentance. He sincerely prayed for the forgiveness of his sins. His name is Alexander. He has a difficult lot in life. He is forced to raise five children alone. His wife went to work in Western Europe, there she tied her life with another person and divorced Alexander. Our prayer is for the Lord to strengthen Alexander in faith and trust in the Lord. Please remember him in your prayers.



Aleksandr's prayer of repentance

On April 25, on Thursday, at 12:00 pm, a festive service dedicated to the Easter holiday took place at our university. The student choir sang very nicely. It was consisting of representatives from different countries - Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, etc. It was nice to see such an "international" band glorifying the Golgotha passion of Christ, which made such a unity of people of different nationalities possible.



Student Choir glorifies resurrected Christ

On the evening of the same day, **April 25th**, in our church *Bethany* a service dedicated to the last Supper of Christ with the disciples was conducted. I was given the opportunity to preach in this special church meeting.



Church building *Bethel* church in Telenesti

April 28 is the Easter holiday in Moldova. Nina and I celebrated this holiday together with the Bethel Church in the city of Telenesti, 100 km from Chisinau. We left early in the morning to be at the place by 9:00. 22 years ago, the Lord used Brother Jonah Miron to plant this church. Brother Ion is currently serving as the Executive Secretary of the Union of Baptists of Moldova. The Easter service was joyful and intense. Both adults and children participated. A very impressive part of the service was the Easter play, which reflected the events of the last days of Christ's life — from prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane on Thursday night to

His resurrection on the first day of the week.

The performance was very well prepared and executed. It was obvious that in this small church - about 60 members, there are many talented people. At the conclusion of the festive ministry I was given the opportunity to give an Easter sermon.



Congregational singing during the service



With the pastor and his wife after the service

After the service was over, it was nice to talk with church members. Pastor Victor and his wife Galina invited us to their home. During a delicious dinner, they told us about how they accepted the Lord Jesus Christ already being old enough and how God later called them to the ministry.



The torture of Christ by roman warriors



Angel announces to women that Christ has risen from the dead



All participants of the performance after its completion

For students and university professors, the end of April marks the beginning of the closing period in the spring semester. After the current week of Easter holidays, another couple of weeks of studying will pass. After that, there will be exams, and the semester will end at the end of May. Time passed quickly. It is sad to know that in a short time we will part with those students who finish their studies this year. However, this is the meaning of our ministry at the university - to give students the necessary knowledge and skills for work and ministry and let them go into an independent life.

A pleasant event in student life in April was the birth of a daughter by third-year students of Manzura and Shovkat, whom I had the privilege to bless for family life a year ago. God gave them the opportunity not only to get an education at the university, but also to meet each other and get a daughter from the Lord.



On this I will finish this letter. Thank you so much for your prayers for our ministry. Let the words of the Apostle Paul be a farewell for all of us next month: ***“Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead... Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.”*** (Col. 2:12; 3: 1-2, NASB).

May God bless you all abundantly!
Yours in Christ
Vyacheslav and Nina Tsvirinko

