

The Kingdom of God is at hand

Good day dear brothers and sisters! Grace and peace to you according to the riches of God's grace! People have been saying the last few years that the world is going crazy. In the last few months I have heard it said way to many times. To rebel against the Lord was very mad from day one. The history progressed forward, but the world has been spiralling down, that is why it feels like it does. It feel like it is going to pop around the next curve. Exciting! We know that God is in control and He is actually the only restraining factor in the thick of this madness.

ANYWAYS!!

I don't think I had time to write since Christmas. Christmas is great because we get to remind the mad world that there is real reason for real JOY! So, between the western and eastern way of doing things we had multiple gatherings here in Vladimir and had lots of guest to share the joy with. Friends cam from many places - starting with neighbours and continuing with foreign friends. Most certainly the joy was present and the Reason for joy for presented through all of the events. Thus we carry on, thinking about the next time we get together to talk about Jesus' Birth whether we wait till winter or not. Most of the civilised world has celebrated Resurrection of Jesus by now, but we are actually looking at proclaiming it next Sunday - April 8th. *Hopefully I can finish this letter before then.* Please do pray for Spirit filled outreach and for many people drawn to the courts of the Lord. We have good simple plan - to proclaim the truth wherever we can. Our supreme court has just decided that inviting people to church is not a crime and they matter of the 2016 law should not be about this simple act of godly citizens. Praise the Lord! We pray for the council of the ungodly to be broken and for wise councillors to be heard. The Lord He will send His Spirit upon all flesh in the last days. We pray He does on and on.

In January we also had a debut dinosaur camp for kids. It has been simmering on the back burner of my mind for years. Now with the help of few fathers (teaching classes) and our wonderful Sunday school crew we have had the camp and it was a blast. Praising the Lord for that. It is quite colourful, insightful and evangelistic as well. So we may run it for other churches this year as well. Please pray with us for this outreach to kids.

We made a trip to Sochi and Abhazia, visited brethren there. Abhazia in the old time was the very end of Roman Empire. As tradition has it - couple of the apostles made it that far and their lives were ended there. It has been a rough region as long as world exists it seems. But there is a presence of godly people and we pray to join forces with them - to continue shining the light of Jesus Christ in the shadowy region. Lot's of help is needed from above. Also if you hear more specifics about it perhaps you could help in other ways as well. Prayer is always needed and appreciated! **We are looking at putting a team together for some outreach in the second part of May. If the Lord lays it on your heart to help, please do not hesitate to long. Some of our folks are interested in going, but economy for an average fellow in our circles is quite low.

In February a team of brethren boarded a plane and went to Cuba. We have send Olga ahead of the team and she spent there entire 6 weeks preparing the ground for the wonderful work. In

my case it was a little different. I actually spent three weeks in Guatemala Bible College and joined the team in Cuba at the very end. I know that the Lord does not waste His resources. It is mysterious how He does some things... He has all the resources and surely He has a long term plan for all of the things He wants done. I am very thankful to my friends and faithful ministers who reach out their hand at the right time as well. The way the body of Christ works it is surely amazing. Our brethren in Guatemala and Cuba, as well as Mexico, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic are thankful and the name of the Lord is blessed because of the things that were said and done. Praise God all around. I do have to express this once again here in my letter because the readers are the ones that pray and help this little fella and this much we can see as foretaste of the eternal glory. There is just NOTHING else in this world that fulfils the saints like that, as doing God's will. Thank you for all who helped!

As considerable number of us was travelling there were the faithful brethren keeping the fort safe and sound. By God's wisdom and provisions, as well as His wonderful grace all things were taken care of in the best possible way. When spots are free it seems that the Spirit brings new people to fill them up. Maybe this language sounds weird, but I find it to be true quite a few times. This Winter we actually had a ceremony of anointing three faithful leaders with oil and appointing them to be the pastors in the Vladimir church. We don't give out titles easily like the civilised world does, so it's been many years of faithful ministry on our brothers' part. All the other leaders have confirmed the call and the church has received it very well. God's time. Praise the Lord!!!

March has come and gone to fast - I feel like slingshot shot me through the calendar page. I celebrated my BD in Guatemala on the first day of this month and just a couple days ago my son turned 20 (at the end of the month). Ouch! Where did the time go?! I smell collusion! It is very suspicious!! Show of hands everybody!! Who's got the time?!

Anyways, shortly after a long trip I had to jump the horse and go on another important trip. 1k kilometres away our help was needed at a small conference. Two pastors, my self, kids' ministry and couple more folks (full van) took off for a weekend and ministered away from home once again. A young Calvary and few other guests joined and spent a great time in the studies of 1Timothy. Children had a Noah camp. Low end budget, but very blessed of the Lord - everything. The Lord kept us safe and inspired from the time we left to the time we came back. On the horizon of very scarce Christian activity in this country we know God does some genuine things in small circles. Many things are very hard to compare because history is so different. I can't even go there. My mind just constantly spins with those matters of culture and history, but I won't dump it. I am writing this thought just to say that one or two things are common to the saints in any context - it's love and joy. You see a bunch of people for the first time, but you get this common trait with them - God's Spirit, love and joy. Other things as well, of course, but these stand out nicely and they are easy to detect even in the short few days. *Please pray for the short range missions here. It's happening and it seems that there is always need (white harvest etc. - quite obvious at times...). Even a simple fellow like myself can see it. As long my tent is able to host the soul of mine I want to carry on. Seems that many people actually get the idea and want to be doing missions as well. My mind gets jammed occasionally, however. There is also obstacles of many sorts and I greatly need help and prayer. Mostly prayer, but other helps as well. I think that any average Christian is smarter, more capable and more fit for the multitude of things I see. If you are the one seeking God's face and knowing God's will - please come on! Let's do it!

I just made a new great friend (two). A brother and his wife from Ecuador. Their names are Carlos and Yolanda. They are just so cool. I had to seat for a minute and look for a right word. Cool! HOT! Carlos is 75 and he just keeps pushing it so strongly. He taught a class in the Bible college prior to my own. He goes from country to country teaching the Bible and helping church leaders to be more biblical. He goes to places that are jungles, snakes, piranhas and other blood suckers and teaches those who don't have visitors. Ah, I can not tell it all. I don't know it all. But it is so inspiring to me to see a couple like that. God willing I can join Carlos in his next jungle mission in August. Actually I also have an invitation to come teach with another great brother in Africa. So, if you would pray with me I would appreciate it greatly. Noble prise I do not have, but I do need money for these trips is such is God's will. May the Lord confirm and provide.

Resurrection celebration is coming in few days. Let's pray for many people to be saved. Let's keep praying for the rulers of this world to be saved, to be wise, to have the fear of the Lord, to have good counsellors!

Please pray for my family. It is not an easy season with two teenagers. Well, one just crossed the line, like I said earlier. Hopefully the cloudy season is over...? Took him to the hospital today. High blood pressure, headaches. Army has been trying to get him for service since he dropped the history studies at university. But because of blood pressure he can not officially be in the military. They think he is faking it. He isn't. He has had headaches all his life in and out. Hospital is supposed to help him or something... at lease to confirm it. Army has been doing for two years now. I had to do my own medical tests as well. Just a check up. Few things are found. Small... but gotta buy meds and eat them instead of normal food. Not a best way to waste money.

So, your Russian friend is like that. Still alive by God's grace, still kicking. IN need of your prayers very much.

SHALOM!

MARANATHA!!