

Good day dear saints. Grace and peace to all who love the Lord. A gift of a quiet Summer day is given to this soul, so I will attempt to write an update before urgent things crowd the mind.

I greatly cherish my friends who help carry the needs to the Lord in prayer. I miss seeing all of you because it has been a long time since we had a chance to fellowship personally. Your faces and phrases come to mind on daily bases and I do offer prayers to the Lord for you. The body of Christ is connected in the mysterious ways. This life is abundant and fruitful. We pray for people and events far away from home and the Lord hears and answers. Then we hear of things done and persons thrive and we bless our Lord's name for that. Truly, this is the life of saints in this world. The more we pray the more prayers are answered. We should not lose heart if some prayers are not answered, or answered with delay. Most of people I know are not perfect (read all), so what we say to the Lord isn't always perfectly matching God's will. However, if it is in Jesus' name, for His glory, may we confidently leave it at the Father's feet. This was on the heart to express. Even if it is just a reminder to myself. Pray we must, as there is no good alternatives.

I want to thank all of you who allow your self to include our problems and goals in your prayer list. Thank you so much for carrying our burdens and giving them to the Lord along with us. Many wonderful things have happened since the last writing. And though we live in a dark world and walk close to the valley of death, we see the shadows and actual death up close, we do not lose heart. The Lord strengthens His people and continues to save souls and is definitely building His church. So, I am going to share a few stories that are testimonies of God's interest and blessing upon people. And I will attach few prayer requests to the stories. And so, again I will say that we appreciate your prayers greatly.

Though pastoring a church here in Vladimir is my main duty still, much of the heart is taken by people of the Donbas region. We continued monthly visits to the region and the Lord has faithfully provided the means and plentiful resources for our humble team of dozen or so people to carry meaningful Christian ministry in the place. We come along to help the heroic local servants and reach out to the needy souls with the Lord's supervision. No trip happens without a number of miracles and wonderful provisions. Good thing is you can not get used to it. Things are always new. Though the context of this lasting story is dark and sorrowful, each soul that the Lord reaches down to is a story of grace. Eternity reaches the senses and thoughts of people in a very serious way. People are not just willing to talk about such things, they are very open and eager. And although you have to sort through a host of wild ideas with them you actually have the honor to present Jesus Christ to people. That is the most wonderful thing. I have to drop some details in this short writing, but on our last visit we were able to meet some high people and with their approval continued the work in one particular city. A whole new group of folks heard the Gospel. They are waiting for us to come back and want to hear more of Jesus. They said they will bring more friends and neighbors to the next meeting and want to make barbecue for us. We used to cook large pots to make meals for couple hundred people to help them survive, but at this stage in this particular place they want to treat us. It is little more stable and peaceful. Homes are being rebuilt and

people are more at peace. Many people are retiring to the cities and villages to rebuild the life. A little young church of a dozen or so folks is doing well. So we pray that more souls are saved and join the fellowship. Specifically we pray for youth - because many kids are roaming the streets as school is over and there is no internet. Let us pray for them to see Jesus and to fall in love with HIs and HIs teaching, We do not forget the elderly as they were the majority of the folks that stayed in the city and refused to leave - even in the hottest of battles' time. Their homes are burnt and not much of the funding is available to put things back together. So, on each of our trips we try to help folks in this way also. Our next trip will be with the groups and we put our efforts in restoring a couple of the apartments of the believers. We hope to collect enough means so the living quarters are actually livable and people can use it. In many cases folks ended up living in someone else's homes because they lost their own. So, if the Lord speaks to your heart in this specific need, you can partner with us on this. We will be bringing some electrical, plumbing materials, also stuff for cosmetic repairs, mold killers, used stoves and washing machine etc. Whatever can be obtained, installed and utilized with one crew. The state is actually rebuilding homes quite rapidly. Contractors are advancing ahead of the plans. They rebuild the main structures, put roofs, walls, doors, windows (of good quality) and run plumbing and electrical wire to the apartments. Also natural gas line. But all the work inside homes has to be done by the owners. This is where we come. Please let me know if you want to help.

There are other needs closer to the front line. Cities and villages that are in the close proximity of battle (on this side) have no water, no food oftentimes. So, some brave saints took it upon themselves to set up bakeries and help missions where people come and obtain a little help. The resources aren't huge. Some churches put stuff together, some makeshift humble shops and vehicles, all is used to help in the great need. So we get involved also at some level and share what we have with them. A small team of there is on their way to deliver a supply of food to one of these cities as I write these lines. As the Lord provides the opportunity we hope to be part of these answers to the suffering folks' prayers. We pray for the provisions and bold willing folks to come along.

Domestically we have had two impactful seminars. One apologetic for kids and parents. Connected to this is our prayer for more printed and video resources in Russian language. Also we started regular classes for kids where they will study God's creation and assigned many parents as teachers of these classes. Please pray for the advancement of God's Kingdom here and for the Biblical worldview to be prevalent in society - as many official statements claim that. We know it is not the case, but we want to do our part in raising such generation. The other big event was a celebration of the completion of NT commentary translation. The author of those - David Guzik has actually visited and partook of the event which we were really excited and blessed in.

Did some outreaches on «Easter» - i.e. Resurrection celebration. Eastern world celebrated it on May 5. Much later than the western calendar had it. However the substance is more important than calendar. We were able to minister to people of our cities and refugees who live in our city. In one particular suburb we had a tent with tea,

candy and the Gospel. Folks stopped by to talk about Jesus' resurrection - even though it was one day late, i.e. May 6. From that came another interesting thing. A convalescent home director has invited us to speak to their 72 grandmas when we would find time. So we did a couple of weeks later. Did not get to see all the 72 because some are bedridden and our team had a limited time. But the 30 or so that came heard the Good news and some prayed to receive Jesus in their heart. That is glorious! I thought of these poor souls who have lived a long life without Jesus and perhaps never heard a Gospel presentation in 7,8, 9 decades of their existence in a godless society. And here close to the end of their life they hear the Gospel loud and clear. Anatoly our assistant pastor has done a wonderful job. The door seems to still be open for us. Other folks want to get involved in that ministry. It is a good sign. But, please pray that we would do all in God's Spirit and that all hear the Gospel there and be saved. Few of our gals are doing an orphanage work each week. This is not very advertised work. The orphanage does not want a circulation of different faces. So the few that minister to them are faithful and humble and consistent. Amazing heroes as well! We pray for them to go on strong, for children to see Jesus in them and for staff to give their hearts to the Lord as well.

There are multiple kids camps, outreaches in Abkhazia and local that we have made plans for. I believe that all good things start with prayer. God has to approve of our ideas. Though anything we can call good truly originates in His mind anyways, He invites us to pray and seek His will. So we gladly come to that task.

If you have kindly read to the end of my scroll, please pray for my wife and I to go on strong in the Spirit, in faith. The kids are all gone from home. Please pray for Tim to fall in love with Jesus. He just lives and works now. Alisa loves the Lord, serves in Tbilisi Georgia. She needs wisdom, vision, inspiration, some extra physical health. We hope to see her in August. Please pray for our visit with Alisa. We hope to obtain a US visa, so we could visit our son and some of our friends in the US some day. Also for some international mission work I do have to have a US visa because of flights and connections. There are some invitations pending, though I have a hard time imagining when and how that could happen. Getting visa is an important, though a side issue in itself, anyways. So we pray it is granted. God has all nations in His plans and loves all people for sure. The Gospel will be preached to all nations and then the end will come.

Thank you my dear friends for your partnership in the good works that God invited us to do and has made us partners in them, as well as the partakers in the glorious rewards that are already shining their rays through the clouds.

May the Lord bless you abundantly! For His glory we live, for His glory we serve.  
Brother Pasha. Joe 5 - 2024