

November 30, 2017

Peace and Grace to you from the Lord, dear friends and co-workers in the field of God!

We have lived through another month of our service in Moldova. This month has completed our first year here. Exactly one year ago, on November 30, 2016, we left America and on December 1st arrived in Chisinau to serve at the local Christian university *Divitia Gratiae* and to help, as far as possible, the local churches. The past year we have experienced God's blessings in our lives and ministry. It was a year of hard work. It was a year of pleasant experiences connected with the return to the homeland. It was also a year when we were separated from our children and grandchildren for the longest time in our lives. At the end of these 12 months in Moldova, our hearts are filled with gratitude to the Lord for the opportunity given to us to be part of His great work in this small country. We hope that He will not deprive us of this opportunity for a long time.



Now for some important events that took place in our ministry during November.

Saturday, **November 4**, marked the grand opening of a new building on the territory of the university. This time it was not an educational building, but a residential building. A nice, modern, four-story building is intended for guest lecturers, for part-time students who come periodically to sessions, and for participants of various conferences. Up to 64 people can be accommodated in the cozy rooms of this building. On such a big event, many sponsors of the university arrived, as well as those who were



participants in the foundation of this educational institution. Among them—brothers Ion Miron, Fedor Mokaň, Mihai Malancha, and Sergei Namestnik. After the traditional ribbon cutting process in the presence of all the staff and students, Ion Miron, the Secretary General of the Union of Baptists of Moldova, prayed for the dedication of this building to the Lord. Then all went to the neighboring building, the construction of which was completed last year, to participate in a lengthy service. This event was a clear testament to the special mercy and blessings God has shown to this institution. During the last two years, students and guests of the university received two wonderful new buildings for study and living. Praise God for this wonderful gift!



On the **5th of November**, Sunday, a very important service was held in our church of *Bethany*—the annual baptism. Nine new souls entered into a covenant with the Lord and joined the church of Christ. Among them are four young people and five of those who have already entered the golden autumn period in their lives. The service was

solemn and joyful. At the end of it, communion was observed. Two people responded to the altar call at the end of the service, coming forward for prayer.

From **7th to 9th November**, the University hosted a conference of the organization ABWE International (Association of Baptists for World Evangelism). About 60 missionaries from different countries gathered in the university for fellowship and prayer for three days. They settled in a building that was officially opened only a couple of days before this conference. During these days, it was possible to hear testimonies of missionary service in Western and Eastern Europe, as well as in China, Iran, Israel and other countries. I had the opportunity to attend several general meetings of this conference and it brought me encouragement in service and a deep appreciation to those who carry the message of the gospel, regardless of the dangerous circumstances in those countries.



On **November 10**, Friday, Nina had the opportunity to participate in a women's conference that took place in the church of *Isus Salvador* (Jesus the Savior). About 1,500 sisters from different parts of Moldova were gathered for this event. The solemn singing of the choirs was alternated

with an exhortative word, which the sisters shared both from Moldova and from other countries. For Nina, as for all those present, this conference was a great blessing.

On **November 11**, Saturday, Nina and I visited the parents of brother Anton Provorny, who died in a car crash on August 28th. They live in the suburban village of Baltsata. The purpose of our visit was, on the one hand, to

encourage the parents who are still mourning for their son, and on the other hand to help with the work in their garden. Together with Anton's father, Sergey, we dug up fruit trees, preparing them for the winter frosts.





Also, Brother Sergei allowed me to look into the beehives and see how the bees are preparing for the winter. It was a pleasant day of fellowship with friends—a day of memories of their son and consolation in the Lord through joint work in nature. For me it was especially pleasant, because already for a

year I have not held a shovel in my hands and did not work in the garden, which I really missed.

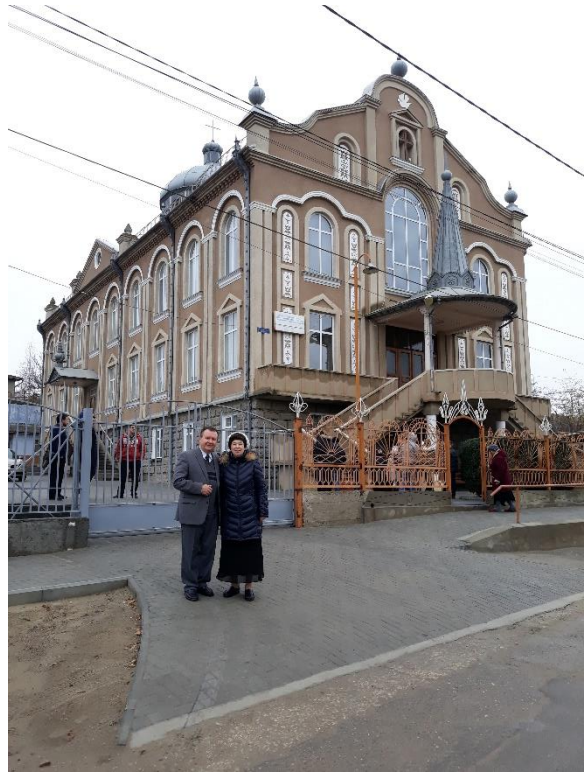
An unusual meeting took place in our church of *Bethany* on the **18th of November**, on Saturday. About 300 pensioners and disabled people filled the house of prayer. Most of them were here for the first time. They came at the invitation of the church for the evangelistic event, organized by the mission of Luis Palau, the famous American evangelist. Similar events took place in these days in many churches of Moldova. The mission of Luis Palau sponsors the organization and conducts these events. Many older people had the opportunity, on the one hand, to hear the preaching of the Gospel and on the other hand,

get a package with food at the end of the service. Many of those present live very poorly and therefore were very happy with such help for them. I was very pleased to see so many people in the building of our church who still do not know the Lord as a personal Savior and who have heard of His love for them in this



service. After the service, I had the opportunity to talk with some of the visitors and to hear words of gratitude to the organizers of this event.

The next day, on Sunday, **November 19th**, Nina and I left early on a misty morning to the city of Ceadir-lunga, which is about two hours away by car from Chisinau. We were driven there by one of the brothers who was born and grew up in this city. The purpose of our trip was to visit the church of *Golgotha*. This is one of the largest churches in Gagauzia, which is an autonomous territorial entity in Moldova. Many families emigrated from this church to the United States. For some of the brothers well known to us in America, Chadyr-lunga is a native city. Among them are Mikhail Antonovich Kioroglo, Leonid Kyoroglo and others. They are remembered in this church.



Nina and I were in this city and church for the first time. The congregation has a large building. The church performs various services aimed at both spiritual growth of the members of the church, as well as rendering assistance and spreading the gospel message among the local population. We were pleased to see the hand of God in the life of this church. New members and ministers have filled the place of those who left and have continued the service in new

political and economic conditions.

The Sunday service in which we took part was full. A lot of singing, choral and solo. Active participation of children in the ministry both by singing and recitation of poems. I shared the preaching of the Word of God. After the service, we had fellowship with the family of the Senior pastor of the church, Sergey Kursursuz, who is also the leading presbyter throughout the Gagauzia region.



Interesting feelings filled our hearts in the days when America celebrated Thanksgiving in November. Because of our life in the U.S., we are already accustomed to this holiday. We know well what great importance is attached to it in that country. However, nothing



resembled this in Moldova. It's just another day. While our children gathered together at the house of one of our sons in Fresno to celebrate this special day, we were far away from them on this holiday, being in a country where this holiday simply does not exist. It was unusual, unnatural for us. It is interesting to note that a holiday like Halloween paved its way here and is celebrated here. Even Black Friday is practiced in stores for a week at the end of November. But Thanksgiving does not exist here yet 😞.

On Sunday, **November 26th**, I preached in our church Bethany. This gave me a good opportunity to tell the congregation about the origin and significance of Thanksgiving in America and to draw our attention to the fact that Scripture convincingly teaches us the importance of the spirit of gratitude for the spiritual growth of Christians.

The month of November, as local residents testify, is the most depressing month in terms of weather. A lot of cloudy and rainy days. It is damp and uncomfortable. The days are short. It was our first November here, and we had the opportunity to be convinced of the fairness of this assessment of this month. This is really a sad month, if we talk about the weather. Already we are anxious to have snow and winter.

Thank you very much to everyone who remembers us in prayers! Please continue to pray for us. We need this very much in order for us to be fruitful in serving our Lord.



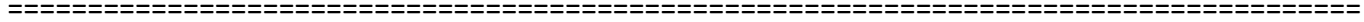
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May our Savior bless each of you abundantly!

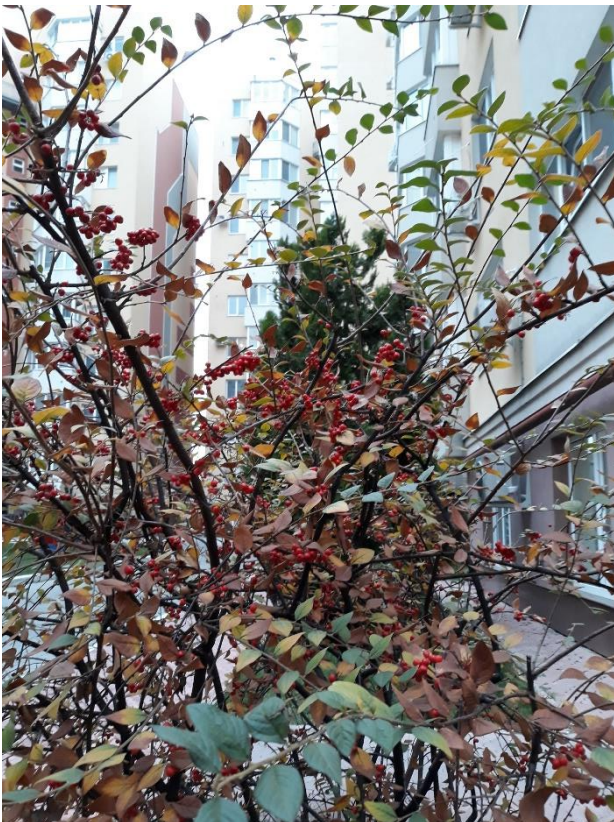
May the words of the prophet Isaiah be an encouragement for you: ***"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."*** (Isaiah 40: 28-31)

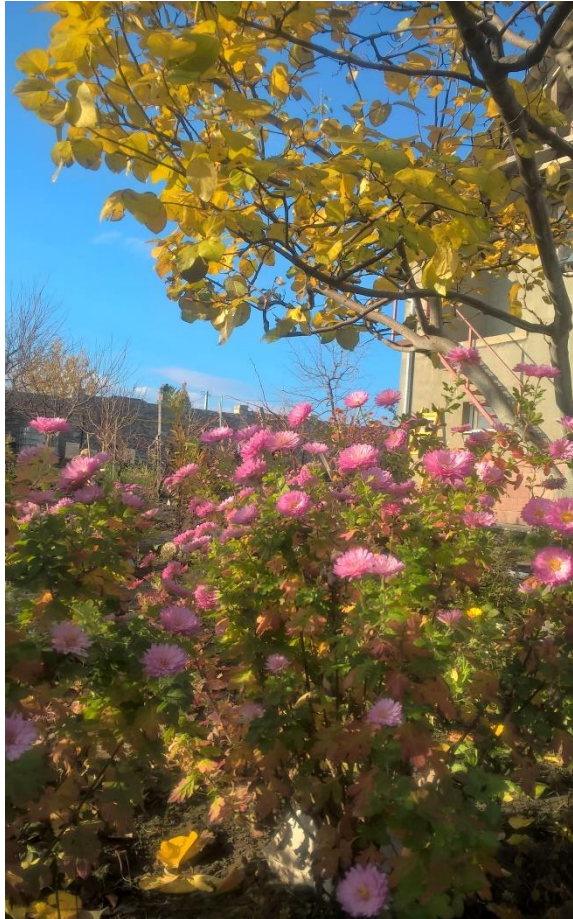
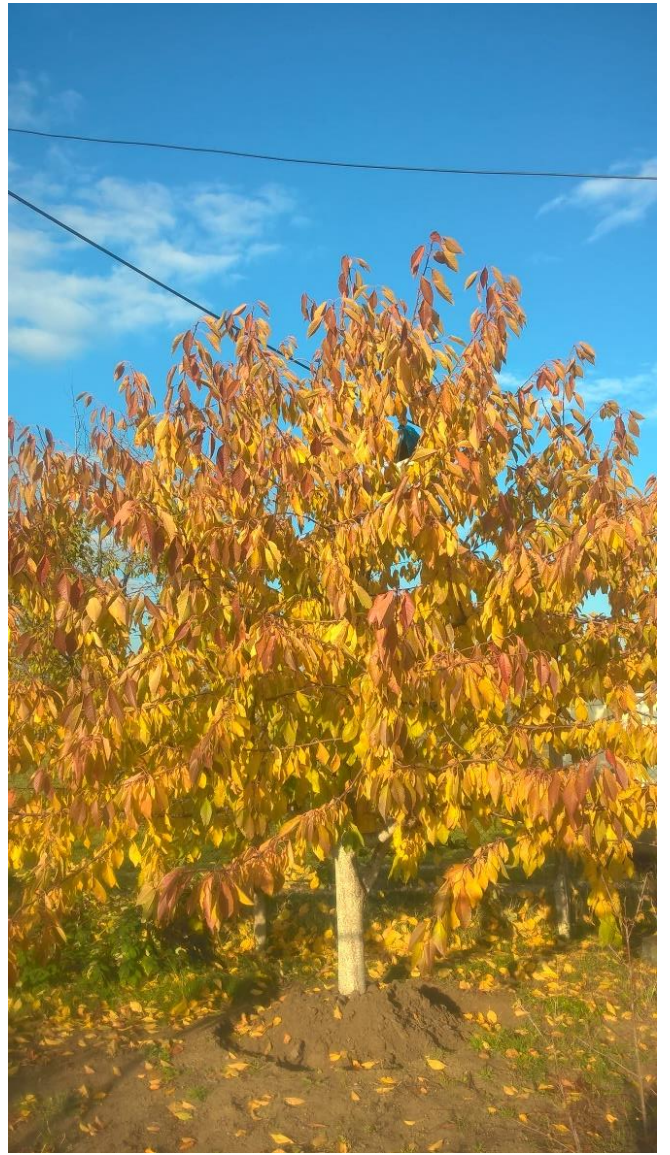
Your co-workers in God's Kingdom,

Vyacheslav and Nina Tsvirinko



Here are a few pictures taken in November. I hope you will like them.





These pictures were taken on a rare sunny day in November when we visited our friends in Baltsata.