



Go Forth *Missions*

Saying to those who are bound, 'Go forth,' To those who are in darkness, be free.' Isa 49:9

Autumn 2003

Kharkov, Ukraine

God News

Greetings Fellow Pilgrims,

"Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who alone works wonders."

"And blessed be His glorious name forever;

And may the whole earth be filled with His glory.

Amen, and Amen." (Psa 72:18-19 NASB)

Dreams come true.

"But the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."(Dan 11:32 KJV)

Have you ever noticed that sometimes in the same season of your life you can be having dreams come true on the one hand, and terrible heartaches, disappointments, and difficulties on the other.

Although on a day to day level we seem to be struggling against the negative and the difficult constantly, but God is making more than one dream come true. He has raised up a company of people here with us who know their God in an extraordinary way, and they are doing extra-ordinary things.

Whether it is out in the villages or in the city, or in Israel, or even in the USA, these people are moving in the power of God. We ourselves struggled so long and hard to even begin to move in the anointing and power of God, it amazes me how quickly these people have begun to do so. Jesus said to have the faith of a child. They have it. They are terribly needy, but they believe. God responds. *"Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands." Acts 14:3*

On your faces... God is here

Do you remember the couple we wrote about who are starting a center for Alcoholics. I was talking with Egor and told him, "You watch, you will see that if you do what God tells you in starting this ministry, you will see that God Himself will start doing miracles all around you."

The presence of God manifests so strongly sometimes in their meetings that incredible things happen. In Kharkov a man came into the meeting and felt the power of God so strongly that he immediately fell on his face and repented without a word being said to him.

In Lubatine, near Kharkov, they are starting a new center. The leaders were late getting to one of the first meetings because the commuter train was late. They wondered if maybe the people would give up and leave. When they arrived all the people were on their faces worshipping and repenting. Vera, the leader began to think that maybe it was not genuine because they are all alcoholics and maybe they were under the influence, and being emotional. Then, just as she had that thought, the power of God hit her and she was knocked backwards several feet. She said, "Well I know that I'm not drunk, so this must be the power of God."

God spoke to her in a dream... "Go to Bill"

Vera's mother, Lydia, had a dream, in which God told her, "Go to Bill in Kharkov."

They moved to Kharkov from Siberia, but she puzzled over the meaning of the dream, not knowing what “Bill” meant. (Just so you will know, very few people here know me by any other name than Bill)

Well, one day she heard some people in a subway station talking about a man named Bill who pastored a church and the things that happened there. She asked them and they told her how to find the church. Her life has not been the same since.

Just the other day she thanked me again that we came here, because she has been so blessed by God through the ministry here. I understand now, why they always stared at me so strange when they first joined the church- Who is this “Bill”?

*"Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing:
thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;" (Psa 30:11 KJV)*

The story does not end with finding the church. She had a radical transformation recently at one of the retreats that we conduct. She received deep emotional healing from things related to the fact that she was abandoned, and grew up in an adopted family. She received so much freedom, everyone was saying she is a different person now. Although she is quite elderly, God healed her of things that troubled her all her life. Joanie, who led the retreat, said it was funny to watch such a serious, old-fashioned, rather religious-looking, old lady dancing with joy.

When she came from Siberia she hoped to be allotted an apartment, but only received a room in a worker's dormitory. Most people cannot just buy an apartment here, they have to wait to be allotted one by the State. Nearly all property is owned by the State including Apartment buildings. Private homes are rare, though on the increase. Hardly anyone has enough money to buy the few apartments that are for sale, so they wait for one to be allotted to them. I know people who waited twenty years! If this was not bad enough, her children, who are all middle-aged were given nothing, so they all have to live with her. Her unmarried daughter, her unbelieving son and his family and until recently, her believing son and his family all in one room, sharing toilet and kitchen facilities with everyone else on the same floor! What is amazing to me is that as she shared about this she was rejoicing, because after her heart was healed, God started working through her among the people in her building. Nearly the whole building is alcoholic, and that is exactly who she wanted to minister to.

First a man who had troubled her a great deal, came to her with a serious ailment seeking prayer. She was amazed that he would come to her, But God healed him on the spot. Now many are coming to her for help, getting healed and repenting.

We have a lot to learn from those who are doing something right.

Maybe you do not have the same problem, but I often get into a spiritual rut and do things the same old way I have for years and fail to consider that maybe there could be a better way. This is especially true in areas where I had difficulty arriving at a certain spiritual level; I do not think of going beyond that. Some examples would be healing and deliverance. Since we prayed for a long time before we saw very many people getting healed, and we were thrilled when we started to get some results, it did not occur to us to try to take it to the next level and do group healing. Deliverance is something that always seems so supernatural and powerful (not to mention messy and weird sometimes), that it certainly never occurred to us to do mass deliverances. More so with emotional healing, it is a sensitive thing and people are so vulnerable when they go through it, that it just seemed that it was necessary to minister to people one by one.

Well, God is gearing us up for a greater harvest. I was in Columbia early this year to visit the fastest growing church in the world, and I observed they do most of these things in very large groups and mostly on weekend retreats. We have a lot to learn from those who are doing something right. Although they do essentially the same things we do, they are having much more fruit. Their values are the same in terms of soul-winning, healing and emotional healing, ministry to the poor and so on, but

they have found a much more efficient way to do things. They also showed me a model of giving all for the Kingdom of God that I have rarely seen.

As a result we modified our Alpha retreats for new believers. Now we bring people to an encounter with the Cross, deep repentance from sin, healing of major emotional scars, deliverance, and filling with the Holy Spirit- all in one weekend. When I heard about it, I did not think it was possible, but seeing is believing.

Annie was with me in Columbia, and we tried to learn all we could, so we could improve our work here. We each participated in an "Encounter". I saw a motley crew of rough new Columbian believers, including one fellow who had been a cocaine chemist in one of the jungle laboratories, transformed into shining new witnesses of the power of Jesus Christ. The change in each person was clearly obvious and the testimonies were dramatic. Glory to God for pouring out His grace in a such a greater measure.

Several years ago Randy Clark told me we have a lot to learn from the South Americans, it looks like he was right. Since my return from Columbia we also have seen dramatic results.

Encounter weekends...Some Testimonies

There have been many healings, I could not remember them all but here are a few. The healings are not as a result of direct prayer usually, but as a result of repentance, emotional healing and/or deliverance. Epilepsy was healed, bronchial diseases, womens disorders, heart disease, hypertension etc. A woman who suffered for over 10 years with a hip problem making it difficult to walk, walked away from the weekend without difficulty.

A lady who smoked for 15 years stopped immediately. Her husband was shocked, she no longer wanted to smoke with him. When she explained what she learned about salvation from the weekend he began to understand for the first time although he had been attending church for some time. He could not wait till the next meeting to give his life to the Lord. Although a beautiful woman, she was also delivered from feeling ugly and unwanted all her life. She is now radiant.

The youth have been greatly impacted. Especially the nominally Christian who come to church because of their parents. A number of them have come into a genuine relationship with the Lord and are on fire for Him now. They have started evangelizing friends and classmates. Friends are getting saved and coming to church.

One of them even cast a demon out of her unbelieving step-father. Now he wants prayer every day!

A pastor's son who was lukewarm and jaded, got really on fire like never in his life and is really excited about God now. He began to connect emotionally to his parents as well.

One fatherless boy, in my son John's group was always depressed. He said that after he wrote his list of the hurts he experienced in life, during the emotional healing session, he felt something supernatural happen to him like as if in an instant all he had written down was totally lifted off of him. He got very happy! His mother had come to us for prayer because he was a school drop-out. After the weekend he started school again.

Many have had this experience of darkness lifting off of them and have not been the same since.

One man who followed his wife to church for many years but was always very withdrawn and passive came home from the weekend all excited, telling his wife about all the wonderful things Jesus did for us on the cross. She had been preaching to him that same sermon for years but it was as if he never heard it until then. He had been very badly physically and emotionally traumatized and abused as a child. He was deeply touched during the emotional healing and is now coming out of his shell. He is socializing and getting together with other men now. His wife said all these things are a first and answers to years of prayer. Above all, there is a lot more love in their home now.

Communism...

One thing we stumbled across when we started doing this was God revealing to us to pray for people to be freed from the effects of Communism. It came about because people told us they felt there were still strongholds in their minds and hearts from their upbringing here that were hindering them spiritually. We began to pray along these lines and the results were very encouraging. Communism was a very anti-Christ, anti-love, anti-human set of values and practices. After prayer people begin loving their families more, loving people more, and are more free, especially from fear, control, jealousy, and cruelty. **God is Good.**

Encounter... with a big pig

Have you ever wondered why sometimes when it is going so good, bad things have to happen. And more so when you think you are doing the very things that you think God wants you to do that terrible things happen. *"The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly."* (John 10:10 NASB) While Jesus is giving life on the one hand the Devil is trying to thwart us on the other with his stratagems. Recently Joanie and her helpers were driving home from one of the "Encounters with God" rejoicing in all the great things God had just done. It was late and they had to travel down a dark country road. As they entered a forest, a wild boar ran in front of their car. The timing was so that they squarely hit the boar broadside, His eyes looking at Joanie's, totally smashing the front end of the car. You should have seen the damage, it had to be one biiiig pig. The local hunters tried in vain to find it afterwards, but said from the hairs on the bumper that it was full grown.

The girls were unhurt, thank God. They said they did not even really get afraid, although there was glass and metal flying and smoke and steam everywhere, not to mention the ghostly apparition of the Boar, and the sudden stop they experienced. They were so much in the presence of God after the day's ministry, they said that they floated right through the trouble. Although they were out of cell phone range, God arranged for a group of soldiers to come by immediately and help them. When they got into phone range, I got roused from my bed with one of those calls you never want to get.

The thief comes only to steal... Jn. 10:10

As if that was not bad enough, a couple weeks later, I entrusted some money we scraped together to get another badly needed car for our ministry here, to my new son-in-law. Because I was so busy, I let him handle the whole affair. Well, he got all the money stolen from him, and we got nothing. Since this is a land of thieves, we need to be thankful that this sort of thing has not happened to us more often, but it does happen, and it still really hurts when it does. We have been robbed, and stolen from many times here but never this much. You could pray for us because we have had a rash of material setbacks lately that hinder us from what we are here to do. *"But Satan hindered us." Th 2:18*

If you want to help...

We did find out recently that we can ship cars here from the States at a reasonable price. So if anyone is interested in donating a vehicle, it is actually a good idea. The only hitch is that in most cases the vehicle has to be five years old or less. The reason that it is a good idea is that the import tax doubles the cost of cars here, but foreigners(us) do not have to pay this tax if they import the car rather than buy it here. So in this way it becomes more economical for us to import cars than buy them here. On the other hand if you do not have a car to donate, but want to help in this area, we sure need the help right now. Just designate your gift for ministry vehicle. Besides the accident and the theft, all our vehicles are old and in constant need of repair which is a financial and manpower drain. So please pray for us in this area and help if you can. *"How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? "And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW*

BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET (WHEELS) OF THOSE WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS! (Rom 10:14-15 NASB)

The man in the black cape...

Last Sunday as I called people to repentance, I was reluctant to stop because I felt there was one more person to my left who needed to come forward. Finally, one young woman came running to the front. I could see that she was going through an internal struggle, but I did not know the extent of what was going on in her life. We have mentioned to you before that there is a lot of witchcraft here, this testimony reveals God's power.

Several months ago she had a dream in which she saw a nice looking young man, dressed all in white, with white hair, but in a black hooded cape. The man said he was going to take her life. Some time later while at work, a man came in who looked familiar, light hair, pleasant face, but she could not place him. Soon he came in again. This time he began saying nice things to her, which she liked. He asked her if she had dreams. She said, "Doesn't everyone have dreams", at that moment she recalled the face, it was the man in the dream, her heart froze. She changed jobs not telling anyone why. He found her at her new job. She changed addresses- he found her there. He told her, "I can take one of your hairs and know everything about your life and destroy it." In the next conversation he invited her to join him in his black magic. When she refused, He said, "You will regret it."

After this she became very sick. At the age of thirty she felt physically like an old person, very ill. Soon she had a number of illnesses. In desperation she came to church. During the altar call she wavered, she felt ashamed. Then something happened and she stood up and raced to the front, as if someone had brought her there. She only came to herself when she was on the stage. She gave her heart to Jesus.

The next day God would heal her headaches, kidneys and other illnesses. God gave her an apartment with a telephone for a great deal. (As I have said before, it is sometimes more of a miracle to these people to get an apartment or a telephone than to get a miraculous healing, although she got both.) She asked for prayer to find a job. She was offered two good jobs for more money than she dared imagine to ask. She has totally given her heart to Jesus, is totally fallen in love with Him, and is preaching to everyone. *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" (Col 1:13 KJV)*

Our new child...

When Joanie and I were courting we agreed to have more children that we actually had, and we agreed to adopt after we had our own children. But because our last child was handicapped we never fulfilled our plans. Since we started ministering to the street kids, we had wanted to adopt some of them, but our first attempt nearly brought on disaster for our handicapped daughter.

God was working with Joanie. Here it is in her words- "Well to cut this short, the Lord melted my heart with more of His love. Our fifth child started living with us last summer. His name is Egor, I rescued him out of the village where I regularly preach and minister. Egor is 12 and a very sweet little boy, he has been malnourished all his life; even the neighbor lady nursed him in his infancy, so it is a miracle he is alive. He looks the size of a 6 yr old. His mother is a severe alcoholic, much like you find in a gutter in America on skid row. Her gas, electric and water have all been shut off, clouds of flies hover around her. All Egor ever knew was filth, starvation, and getting yelled at or having bricks thrown at him etc.

Our whole family has benefited since Egor came to live with us, like a fresh new wave of sweet love swept upon us all. I feel alive again with new surges of that sweet motherly nurturing stuff that makes you glad you are a woman. Please pray that now as we start legal procedures all goes well, we are trying for legal guardianship because adoption is not an option under the circumstances." Now he is one happy little boy.

Well there is so much more I wanted to put in this newsletter I decided to do a long version this time, but still this just scratches the surface. Like the other day when a woman came up to me, and said, "Do you remember me." She looked familiar, I thought perhaps I had prayed for her once. She said, "You prayed for me eight years ago for an issue of blood, and I have healed ever since." Glory to God! I understand now what John meant when He said, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written." (John 21:25 NASB) We are not ready to fill the world yet with newsletters, but it is true that when Jesus is working there is no way you can tell all that He is doing. Praise God!

It occurred to me though that I could at least send you a list once a year or so with all the ministries and names of the villages and the needs of the ministries and so on. Although I do not want to become irritating to our friends by making these letters just a pitch for money, which they would be if I had to share the needs of every ministry, it is nonetheless important for you to have the opportunity to sow into this part of Kingdom of God. So I realized I could just send you a list of all the ministries, and include in italics whether that particular ministry needs support or not. You could look over the list so as to pray for the ones that burden your heart, and so you can remember to give to the ones that you are moved to help. So be sure to look over the enclosed list and keep it handy.

Just so you will know, four new village fellowships have been started recently. Ministry to Israel is going great, with more and more churches wanting us to come. I could write a whole newsletter just about ministry to the poor. We are building a homeless shelter. We now have legal aide for the poor, which was badly needed and much more.

This is the Place...

To close out this letter I thought I would paste in a portion of a talk my Mother prepared about her recent trip here. I think it is an insightful and amusing window on what life is like here.

I liked being with family and seeing my grandchildren, but a week in the gray and bleak city of Kharkov was enough. Why does my son continue to live where conveniences like screens at windows are rare and flies and mosquitoes are always with you. Where trash and garbage are not picked up for weeks, possibly months, all over the city. A city of 2 million! Some people began burning the mounds of trash and it was hard to decide which scent was worse. Life is not easy in former Communist countries. Work is scarce. Most of the people are at poverty level. Vodka can be bought for less than the cost of a loaf of bread. Alcoholism and prostitution are a way of life. Helping many turn from these vices and restore their lives and their family's lives is the reason Bill continues to work there.

True, but even more than changed lives we want to see, eternal lives. There is only one answer to the problems facing all men, everywhere, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

In Him,

Bill, Joanie, John, Tanya, Annie, Max, Christie, Sarah, Egor and all the others in the harvest with us

P. S. Check out the Web Page for pix.

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