



Go Forth_{Missions}

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

End of Summer 2004

Kharkov, Ukraine

God News

There were those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death...

Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble; He saved them out of their distresses.

He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their bands apart.

Let them give thanks to the LORD for His loving kindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men!

For He has shattered gates of bronze, and cut bars of iron asunder. Psalm 107

Hi Friends,

Big News, Big changes.

First, on the home front the BIG news is the birth of our first grandson, Elisha, to Annie and Max. This year we have been blessed with both a granddaughter and a grandson, so we are praising God for both of these little blessings. When I recall how many times I could have perished in my lost youth before I came to Christ, and how the Lord preserved us through so many adventures, I know that every child of mine and every grandchild is here by God's mercy and grace. Praise His Holy Name!

Bosnia is ready to hear the Gospel

God shook us up recently calling us to go to two new countries- **Bosnia and Afghanistan.** Quite unexpectedly the Lord spoke very clearly, revealing that the people of Bosnia were now ready to hear the Gospel. The troubles they have gone through have opened their eyes to see that what they had believed is not producing the right fruit. They can no longer believe in the old things, but they do not yet know where to turn. Many hearts have been prepared and they are ready to receive. They need Jesus Christ, The Prince of Peace, the healer of broken bodies and broken hearts.

Many of us had sensed the Holy Spirit was indicating that new things were in store. We should have realized what was coming, because He was giving us understanding from God's standpoint, that the wars, crises and conflicts were having the effect of opening many hearts to hear the Good News. After what we experienced in Russia and Ukraine, by coming at the right time on God's timetable, it is exciting to think what could happen if we follow God's leading and we arrive in the right place at the right time again. This could just mean we are going from "Glory to Glory".

We have already done some research, and it looks like we will be going back in time again, and facing another situation in which there is little hope, little money, and little promise for the future. Where the comforts of life are few, and where troubles and heartaches are many. It is the nature of humankind, unfortunately, that this is the kind of situation that opens people to the Gospel.

Afghanistan

Not long after that as I was still trying to absorb all the implications of starting a new work in Bosnia, I was awakened by a dream at 5:22 am. In the dream a man spoke to me who seemed to have governmental authority and seemed to have been sent by some higher authority to give me a communication. He said, "Right now there are many opportunities and many open doors for the Gospel in Afghanistan." Then as he began to turn away, almost as an afterthought, he said, "And by

the way, there is a degree of danger.” Then I woke up. Realizing that this was important, I decided to get up and write it down even though I had had little sleep. As I groped around trying to wake myself up I realized that this was not just something of interest to write down, but it was a message from the Lord, this was a call to go. In the days that followed I got a confirmation from the Lord almost every time I read my Bible in the morning. Not the least which was Paul’s response to the dream that he had about Macedonia. He went immediately.

To say the least, the implications of all this shook us up a little, but we are ready to do whatever Jesus calls us to (at least we hope we are, we have not tried everything yet). If you have seen the news reports you can probably imagine the brokenness, pain and darkness that must fill the lives of these people. It is incredible to think that God would call us to such an important task, but this is God’s heart, to bring good news to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to set at liberty them that are bruised and the like. Can you imagine how broken-hearted and bruised these people are? Jesus has what they need, and we can be the means to get it to them. This is great!

Relentless Pursuit of the Great Commission

When I began to share this vision with the brothers and sisters in the church in Kharkov the response was incredible. They are ready to go. The wisdom of God is apparent now, having us focus on discipleship and training leaders from the start. This will enable us to start new works in more than one place at a time. The only thing we can see that is lacking at the moment is finances. We have laborers for the harvest, we have leaders, we have evangelists and musicians and drama teams, we have people who are filled with the Holy Spirit and power, and we just need to give them the means to go.

At the heart of everything we are doing here is the mandate that we have from the Lord, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations." We believe this encompasses saving souls, and then working with them till Christ is formed in them, teaching them His ways, words and works. The fruit has been a group of people who move in His compassionate works, who are creative in winning souls, and who preach His word with power. We should not be surprised that obedience to His word brings forth fruit, but I am still constantly amazed. Somewhere in my heart there is the thought that our inadequacies will forestall God’s work, but God’s word is true, and He just gets more glory by working through us. If you plant good seed you get a good harvest. If you do what He says, the fruit comes.

We want to take the disciples we have made here to go with us and make disciples there. We just need help to get them there and support them there. I would like to ask you who love the Lord and want to see the people of Bosnia and Afghanistan see the goodness of God; you who cannot go or will not go yourself, to seriously consider helping us go, by sending a generous gift to get us started and then continuing to support this work regularly, so that together we can fulfill the great commission. If we had inside information that enabled us to invest at the right time in something that would produce huge profits we would be the losers if we failed to act. How much more should we act promptly, if we have information on the timing of an incredible spiritual opportunity? Let’s just do it!

We’ll See Miracles...

It is true that the Gospels only contain a small amount of the miracles that Jesus did, as John said, ‘the world could not contain the books’. Although we do not have the same success rate as Jesus himself had, we still see him working through us and it would be impossible to tell of all He is doing. A woman with severe cataracts was healed after the third try when I prayed for her. It is an encouragement that Jesus had to pray twice for the blind man that saw men as trees walking; now I know I can keep trying and go through progressive stages to get to a full healing.

The village evangelists seem to have the most miracles, in one village a young lady who had received prayer for THREE YEARS was healed of epilepsy. In Lubatine a woman passed many, many stones and a large amount of tissue and was completely healed. There are many, many more signs and wonders in the villages, but this gives you the idea of the kinds of things God is doing.

The ministry to the hopeless TB patients has grown to have its own church. Several have been healed, one who had two holes over one inch in diameter in his lungs was pronounced by the Doctors to be totally healed. His comment was, "Why would God want to heal me, He knows what a sinner I am?" He celebrated by getting married. Another man has had TEN such holes on his lungs healed! Common diseases and ailments are being healed in great numbers. There have been numerous healings of problem pregnancies and babies in danger. God's kingdom is increasing, not decreasing. *But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. Psa 86:15*

Touch the Needy and Shake the High Places

Several years ago the Lord gave me a vision that showed us that if we would minister his mercy, grace and love to the lowest people in society, that the powers at the top of the pyramid of power in the city would be shaken, and the foundation of evil could be removed by removing the poor and needy from their oppression. Now after years of ministering to the poorest and most broken we can, we see that doors are opening to us in government, industry, and business as well.

A good example is the Alcohol and Drug Deliverance and Rehabilitation Center that is going strong in our church. One notorious drunk from a nearby factory began attending the Re-hab meetings. He said he received an instantaneous deliverance from alcohol after one prayer.

The news went like wild fire all over the factory that he stopped drinking, which in this part of the world NEVER happens. The director got wind it, called him into his office and Yuri told him his testimony and about the re-hab center. The director invited the people from our Re-hab center to do the program with all 6,000 factory workers, because almost all are drunks, but when he heard how small our building was, he asked if we could bring the program to the factory.

During the first big presentation people began to shout criticisms and antagonistic comments about religious sects, and American influence. Keep in mind, that the factories are the biggest strongholds of Communist thinking and influence. Our Re-hab Center people were getting pretty discouraged when a woman stood up and started defending our church, saying "What do you all know anyway, do you really know what happens at that church." Although she was not a believer herself she began to tell how her girlfriend's daughter got off drugs at our church and of people who came to our church and were healed, even of cancer. This caused an about face and the people began to ask for prayer, to plead with our folks to help them and asked for permission to come to the meetings and so on. This factory 'Turbo Atom' produces turbines for atomic reactors and is one of the largest of its kind in the world. God appears to be starting a chain reaction. This is continuing to develop. Please pray for this ministry, and if the Lord puts it on your heart, we really need help with costs of this ministry too.

City officials ask for help...

Janna Bickov our administrator's wife was like many women in Kharkov, very skeptical at first about her husband's radical conversion to Christ. She came to church and was even baptized, but rather grudgingly and only for her husband's sake. As time passed and he changed, and their marriage and family changed she began to really believe. After attending an Encounter Retreat she was ignited and fired up and wanted to do something. She wanted to find a way to help families. The obvious place to start would be to introduce them to the cornerstone of their own marriage recovery, the chief

cornerstone himself. She and Sergey her husband put together a team whose marriages were transformed by the Gospel. While they were still in the planning stages, word somehow got to the individual in the city government who has responsibility to try to do something about the crisis affecting marriage and family in this city. She asked to have a meeting. When she heard what Sergey was doing, she asked if he could come to another meeting in which she wanted to assemble her counter-parts from the seven administrative regions of the city.

At that meeting the couples from the team each shared testimonies of how the Lord had saved their marriages from adultery, violence, corruption, alcoholism, indifference and so on. As they shared, some of the officials wept, others hung their heads. The response was overwhelming, these City officials wanted to do anything they could to help and they wanted to start sending people to our program for help. Later when Sergey inquired when they wanted to start sending people to the program the city official told him that the first group would be those who were in that meeting, they all wanted help themselves. Just think of what this could mean if we can lead these people to Christ and disciple these people. This is all the more poignant because Sergey grew up fatherless himself.

Get our DVD/Video

Over the time we have been here so many ministries have started that it is hard to share about them all. We had some people here make a video of some of the ministries for you. You can see some of the people, places and things you have been hearing about. To receive a copy just check the box on the response card and return it in the enclosed envelope, and we will send you a video or DVD. If your heart is moved to enclose a gift to help us get started in Bosnia and Afghanistan that would be a huge help, but it is not an obligation, the video is free for you to be blessed, and see what God is doing.

Valley of Gold

*There in front of me,
A valley of gold I see.
Their eyes look up to me,
Their faces are longing-
They want Jesus from me.*

*This is all I see
This is the world to me
All that I live for
All that I want-
These are riches to me.*

*There in front of me
A valley of gold I see.
So vast and so widespread,
Multitudes crying-
These are riches to me.*

*I'll take my gold to the King
Every soul I'll win
I'll be so happy
He will be proud-
These are riches to me
These are riches to me!*

Be strong in Faith, Grace be with you,
Bill, Joanie, Christie, Sarah, Igor, John, Tanya,
Ariel, Max, Annie and Elisha

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