

June 30, 2019

Greetings to you, dear co-workers in the field of God, relatives and friends!
Peace to you and grace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!



Another month of our ministry in Moldova is over. June was hot this year and passed quickly. Here are some of the highlights in our ministry this month.

The culmination of a three-year university study for each student is graduation, which this year took place on the **1st of June**, on Saturday. More than 50 graduates received diplomas from the *University of*



Divitia Gratia. This was a joyful and at the same time sad event. During the years of study, students became friends with each other and with their teachers. It is difficult to realize that in the next academic year, those who have completed their studies will no longer be with us. For Nina and me, this is the third graduation celebration in which we participate. We thank God for giving us the opportunity to be participants in the lives of these young people.



On Sunday, **June 2nd**, in the church of *Bethany*, a kind of graduation ceremony also took place at the end of the morning service. In this case, the graduates were teenagers who regularly studied in the *Amigos* group. Adult members of the church conducted classes with them. Now these teenagers are



moving into the youth group of the church. They were awarded certificates of completion of classes in *Amigos* and certificates of admission to the group of young people.

Perhaps you read about the events that took place in Moldova from the 8th to the 15th of June. A political crisis has developed in the country. After the parliamentary elections that took place in March of this year, the transfer of power was to take place on June 9th. However, this did not happen. The “old” government did not want to give way to the newly elected parliament, justifying it with certain reasons. There was a situation when there was a dual power in the country. The churches of Moldova prayed that this did not lead to bloodshed. Thank God, this did not happen and on June 16th everything was normal. We are very happy about it and thank the Lord for it.



Unusual service took place on Sunday evening, the **9th of June**, in the church of *Bethany*. At five o'clock in the evening only men were gathered in the church — about 60 people. The purpose of the meeting on the topic “You are strong” was a discourse on the calling of a man in the family and the church. Pastor Alexander Girbu led this conversation.

Along with spiritual food, the participants were also offered physical food — rice pilaf, which was prepared by one of the students of our university. It was instructive and tasty!

For the third year in a row, during the summer break, the university holds a two-week missionary school, to which ministers from the churches of the countries of the former Soviet Union are invited. About 40 people came from far away to take part in this gathering. I was one of the speakers at this mission school. On **June 12th and 13th**, I conducted two seminars on ministry among immigrants and the challenges Christian families meet in transferring faith to their children in the context of immigration.

In the evenings, the participants in this school had the opportunity to share a testimony of their ministry. The testimony of pastor Alexei Bogdanov was memorable. Together with his wife Lyudmila, they moved from Kazakhstan to Tobolsk, to the north of Russia, 25 years ago to plant the church. They planned to spend only a few years there. Today, after a quarter of a century, they still live there and serve in the church they planted. Alexei and Lyudmila have many unusual stories of people turning to God. One of them, Alexei shared with all the participants during the time



of sharing. He told about how a tragic incident happened once: the husband of one of the members of the church Alexei was pastoring was mercilessly killed. The killer was arrested and convicted. While in prison, this man heard a testimony of Christ and repented. He was baptized while still in prison. After the completion of his sentence, he was released and came to the church of Alexei, in Tobolsk, with a request to accept him as a member of the church. This was a difficult situation—the wife of a man murdered by this person was still attending Alexei’s church. After some time, a meeting took place between the killer, who is now a Christian, and the widow of the man he killed. He sincerely asked for her forgiveness, and she forgave him. This is possible only through the grace of God, that is transforming the hearts of people.

The holiday of the Trinity was celebrated this year in Moldova on **June 16th**. I participated in this festive ministry in the *Bethany* church by preaching the Word of God on the theme of the holiday.

On Sunday, **June 23**, I held a lesson about the Trinity of God with a group of people who accepted Christ as personal Savior in our church and who are preparing now to receive water baptism. I was glad to have a meeting with those who are just starting their Christian way. Among them were both young people of 17, 18 years old, and older people - 60 years and older.

On the last Sunday of this month, **June 30th**, we had guests from Texas visiting us. A group of brothers and sisters arrived in Moldova in order to preach the gospel in the village of Holerkany. In this village, the Church of Bethany founded a daughter church. For a whole week, the members of this group, together with some members of our church, will walk from house to house, handing out Christian literature and talking to residents. At the end of the service, a special prayer was made for the blessing of personal evangelism in the village of Holerkany over the coming week.



A pleasant event during this Sunday service was the repentance of a young woman Svetlana. She went before the church and bowed her knees to repent. She asked the Lord for the forgiveness of her sins and that He would help her not to return to her former way of life. Three weeks ago, on the 9th of June, her husband repented at our church. Needless to say, he was glad that his wife also took this important step towards meeting the Lord. Of course, for the whole church, the conversion of another sinner to God was cause for joy and encouragement.



We want to sincerely thank those who pray for us. We pray that the Lord will richly bless each of you. Let the words of Apostle Paul, written in Philippians 2:14, serve as an encouragement for all of us: ***“Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.”***

With love in Christ, your co-servants in the work of God,

Vyacheslav and Nina Tsvirinko