



Preparing for Russia

One week from today, Eleanor and I board a plane bound for Russia where we will spend the next seven weeks ministering to churches across the greater St. Petersburg area as well as in Tyumen (Siberia). God used the month of January to refresh our spirits for this new year of service to Him as we met with ministry partners in Texas and Oklahoma, and now our hearts are eager to once again unite with our Russian brothers and sisters in Christ! Read on to learn more about this trip and how you can join with us through your prayers.



"Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You..."

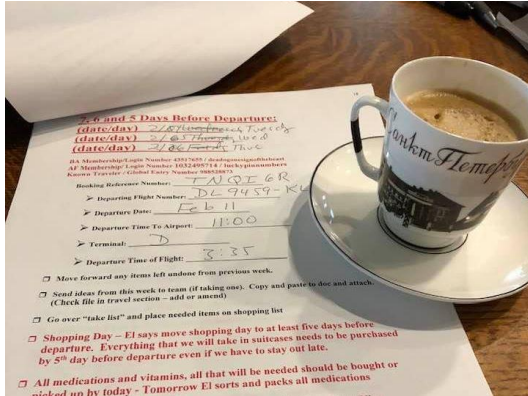
Our time in St. Petersburg, Russia will be divided between teaching at the Evangelical Seminary of St. Petersburg and partnering with Pastor Oleg Volkov of the Reformed Church of St. Petersburg to bring the Marriage Covenant and Family Discipleship Seminars to churches in the greater St. Petersburg metropolitan area. I have known Pastor Oleg (pictured bottom left) since he was a student at the seminary in St. Petersburg, and it is always such a privilege to

minister with this faithful servant of the Lord.

In March we will travel across Russia to reunite with members of the Reformed Church of Tyumen led by Pastor Ravil Kunakaevs. Although Pastor Ravil will be meeting with sister churches in the US during our visit, church Elders Pavel and Kiril will serve as our hosts. I've known these godly men since they were high school students and look forward to spending time in ministry together this winter; Eleanor, too, is anticipating once again ministering with their wives, Ana and Sofia (pictured bottom right). In addition to filling the pulpit for Pastor Ravil, we will host a series of conferences for local churches covering marriage, child-raising, key doctrines of the faith, and evangelism.



Join us in prayer this week!



For Eleanor's visa to arrive in Houston on time

"The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes." (Proverbs 21:1)

For safety in travel both to and within Russia

"In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for You alone, O Lord, make me to dwell in safety." (Psalm 4:8)



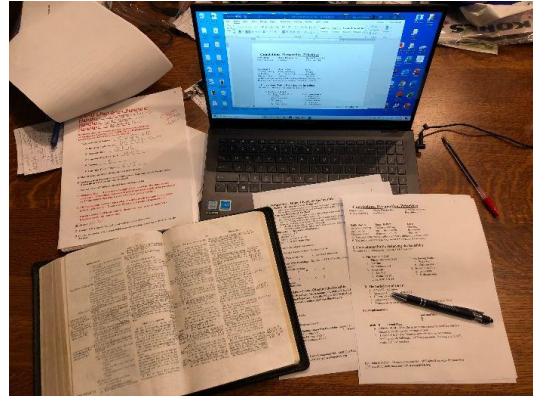
For God to open hearts to the Gospel message

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16)



For physical, emotional, and spiritual stamina

"Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary." (Isaiah 40:31)



For God's continued provision of all our material needs

"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

***...and let those who love Your salvation say continually, 'Let God be magnified.'*" (Psalm 70:4)**

As we speak at conferences and churches on the weekends and meet for small group Bible studies, one-on-one discipleship, and evangelistic home dinners on the weekdays, the next two months promise to be a fulfilling time of building up the local church in Russia. We tell our hosts that we come full and want to leave empty, having labored hard in the harvest fields of whatever country in which we find ourselves teaching and preaching Christ as Lord. But such service on our end

depends upon the faithful prayers and financial support of ministry partners such as yourselves. Thank you for joining with us to preach the Gospel in Russia this winter!

If God has been moving you to give towards this trip, it's not too late! Simply click on the donate tab below to give electronically via PayPal, or you can send a check to the address at the bottom of this dispatch. As always, you can keep current with our ministry by following us on [Facebook](#) (@gciweb). Lastly, sermons from our 2019 trips continue to be posted on our Sermonaudio webpage [here](#).

Again, thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Grace Community International. May the Lord magnify His name through our joint service to His kingdom!

Preparing for Russia,

Rev. John S. Mahon
2 Corinthians 4:1

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