



THE MORRISONS' UPDATE

CALVARY CHAPEL SVITLOVODSK

FALL 2011

Our Eternal Hope

This fall was a time when the Lord renewed us as a body in our expectation of being with the Lord in glory. For the larger part of this fall, we were studying the resurrection and our eternal hope in 1 Cor. 15. It is so easy to get caught up in the day-to-day that we easily lose sight of the heart-swelling joy of our future with Jesus. Truly, without that hope, Christians would be the most miserable of all people. We do not follow Christ for a comfortable life (if that is our goal, we are likely not following Him.) But the hope of eternal, overflowing joy in His presence is that which fills our hearts with joy now. It was truly encouraging to see the Lord reminding our hearts of this truth. Below are a few highlights from this fall and, as always, we thank God for your prayers and support.



Christ in All of Scripture

Beginning in October, we went through a 9-week course that I titled "Christ in All of Scripture." This course was a condensed and simplified version of a course by Tim Keller and Ed Clowney. The big idea is summarized in Lk. 24, where we read that Jesus "interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." Too often we look at the Bible primarily as an instruction manual for living, a book of wise, moral principles, etc. Though these aspects are present and true, the first and primary goal of the Bible is to show us Jesus. If we think about the fact that Jesus Himself is the eternal Word of God, it shouldn't surprise us that the written Word of God points primarily to the eternal Word. This idea is called Christocentricity. Though many of our people have long sensed this approach in the teachings at CC Svitlovodsk, this course was transformational in helping them to study the Word for themselves in light of this truth. The course was designed primarily for those who teach in some capacity, and it has been really eye-opening for them and helped them to grow in their ability to present Jesus to others in the Word (most of our Sunday School teachers attended the course). The Lord has also provided an opportunity, in partnership with In Lumine media, to create a condensed, video version of this course. This is currently in production. We hope to get that out soon so that many in the Russian-speaking church might grow in seeing and enjoying Jesus through the teaching of His Word.



Speaking and Travel

The Lord has been opening doors to share in all kinds of churches in various cities of Ukraine. The material that I've been sharing most often is a seminar on the false teachings of the "Word of Faith/Prosperity Gospel". I believe this seminar is much needed in the body in Ukraine, as the cancer of this false teaching has infected many churches, regardless of denomination, and causes great spiritual (and sometimes physical) damage to those who are ensnared by it. As the majority of the people in our church in Svitlovodsk have come out of this movement, I've seen that damage firsthand. I'm grateful that God has provided a partner, Sergei, who shares this concern and has been setting up most of the speaking engagements for me. (on left in pic) I've had the chance to share at churches of various denominations, including baptist, pentecostal, reformed, charismatic and non-denominational. Recently we had the opportunity to film this seminar in HD video and hope to release this soon as well. Pray for the many churches and Christians in Ukraine who are in the bondage of this false teaching to be set free and for God to use this seminar to that end.



Testimony

In each newsletter, we ask a member of our church to share in their own words how God has worked in their lives since coming to Calvary Chapel Svitlovodsk. This is Oleg and Ira's testimony:

"Our family came to the Lord 5 years ago. But because of various problems with work and a finding a place to live, we weren't really seeking after God. But He was seeking after us. About 2 years ago, the Lord miraculously led us to Calvary Chapel and our lives have radically changed. We started to seek God and His will for us. We began to consistently abide in the Word and in fellowship. We met many new friends and found in them brothers and sisters with whom we can experience community, uphold each other in prayer and worship God together. In learning to really study and dig into God's Word, we began to understand the essence of the Gospel more deeply. Now that we've seen God's great grace, we're no longer trying to earn our salvation through good works, but simply seeking Jesus and His will for us. Every day we see more how imperfect we are and how deeply we need God's presence, love and grace in our lives. And we wouldn't get by without the encouragement, support and loving conviction of our brothers and sisters." Please keep Oleg and Ira in your prayers. They've had a very hard time finding consistent work the last year. Oleg had a burden to minister in the orphanages, but because of their current work situation, he is unable to be involved. Pray for God's timing and leading in this.



Our Family

In September, Lena and I celebrated 8 years of marriage. Hard to believe it's been that long! I am so thankful to the Lord for such an amazing wife who is the perfect fit for me. In many ways, we are in a sweeter season in our marriage than ever, despite the challenges of more-than-full-time ministry and having 2 little ones at home. Lena and I were able to get away for a couple days to celebrate. We went to a nearby city, Poltava, and enjoyed checking out some of the historical sites and just having time together without the kids (which doesn't happen very often at this stage.)



Three days after our 8th anniversary, Abby turned 5. She is growing up way too fast and I'm considering imposing a moratorium on birthdays for her. (just kidding. :) She had her first "real" birthday party this year with a handful of her little friends. The main attraction of the party was her Barbie cake. The girls were all ooh-ing with delight. Isaac just said, "cake!!!" Abby is learning to write now and has a great desire to learn. We are still praying on what way to go with her education. This coming fall is pretty much the deadline to decide. We also had a great time celebrating Thanksgiving with some missionary friends in Poltava.

We are planning a trip back to the States this fall, Lord willing. It will have been 3 years since we were there as a family. We have lots of documents to get done (we're hoping to start Lena's US citizenship process). Also, I hope to deal conclusively with my back problems so that it's not a constant distraction and hinderance. We'd really appreciate your prayers for all the these decisions and for God's provision. May Jesus fill your hearts with the beauty of His grace!

-Benjamin, Lena, Abigail and Isaac Morrison

Financial Support info:

If the Lord has put it on your heart to financially partner with us, you can make checks out to: "Horizon Ministries" (leave memo line on checks blank) and send to:

Horizon Ministries
7702 Indian Lake rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46236

with a note enclosed: "for the Morrison" (all donations are tax-deductible. 100% goes to us). **OR** donate by credit card or electronic check here: <http://bit.ly/wm7Ysj>

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Prayer Requests:

- For our church's final steps for re-registration. The problems have been solved. Thanks for praying!
- For God to establish and heal the new members of our church from previous false teachings they were under.
- For a few people who have stopped coming to fellowship to repent and return.
- For God to bless the video projects in the works now and that they would be used greatly for Jesus' glory.
- For the many travels and speaking engagements I've had and for God to continue to open doors.
- Pray for God's leading in evangelism for spring and summer. We desire to go out a lot this year and spread the Good News. Pray for a heart for the lost in our church!
- For God to raise up men in the church as leaders and for conviction for those who are playing games.
- For God's provision in monthly financial support: we are currently at 50% of our long-term support goal.

