

Calvary Chapel Novosibirsk October Prayer Letter

Hello everyone! We hope you are well. Our autumn was short, lasting about two weeks. In that time we went from the 70s to below freezing, and it has gotten a little colder each day since. There is now over a foot of snow on the ground. Kind of early this year. Thanks for continuing to pray with us. Here are the latest requests.

Ania's Bible Classes

As with past school years, Ania is giving Bible lessons to children in a private school. This year, while the parents and school administration have given their permission, the school staff has been somewhat less supportive. Along with that, there has been greater opposition, spiritually, this year. In the hours before the lessons, Ania has been experiencing headaches and pressing anxiety. The children, though, still get excited about the lessons. Each lesson is done with a flannel graph, teaching a specific Bible event, and thankfully, Ania has complete freedom to speak openly about Jesus Christ. Ania is also hoping for opportunities with staff and parents.

Outreach

In the last letter we mentioned a desire to get involved with social programs in the city. We found the government organization that oversees a number of these programs and have been in contact with them. So far, it's been a time of wading through bureaucracy. Typical - back and forth then wait - kind of stuff. Even so, it seems we should persevere to see where it leads. Our desire is two-fold. First, we have been praying about a fresh avenue for outreach with the church. Practical help for those in need would no doubt lead to plenty of opportunities to show Jesus and talk about Him. Secondly, a good witness before the government is important. Our city government has never really seen churches as threats that need to be attacked. Unfortunately, churches are seen as much worse. They are simply seen as irrelevant; organizations that add nothing to society.

Church Retreat

At the beginning of November we're having our annual fall retreat. This year, four of our men will be teaching, along with a couple of men from Calvary Omsk. The theme is, "Faith" We're hoping to not just talk about what faith is – but what it looks like in our daily lives.

Paulina

Paulina seems to be doing well. This is her last year at the Bible College, and she is currently thinking about coming back here to intern for a while after that. Aside from studies, she's helping lead worship some at the college and serving in the children's ministry at a church in a neighboring city called, Peck. This weekend she's also heading to Ukraine to be part of a 10 day outreach. This December, on winter break, will be the first time we've seen her in a year.

Hall

I truly wish there was something to report on this. It's been frustrating. It's hard to know if the problem is lack of good options or too little effort on my part in seeking them. Honestly, with this issue, I have a fear of being like the guy who buried his one talent in the ground, because he was "wicked and lazy". Over the years, the church has set aside a part of the offerings towards buying something. That amount is pretty significant at this point. I would hate to stand before the Lord and have Him ask me, "Why did that just sit in the bank?" And yes, the church already helps financially with various benevolence and missions' projects. Maybe we need to do more??? Maybe I need to look harder for a hall to buy???

How to pray

Pray for Ania's Bible classes for children. Pray that God would shine His light into the staff and turn them to Jesus. Pray for continued, even increased, interest among the children to know about Jesus. Pray against the spiritual attacks Ania has been experiencing before the lessons.

Pray for open doors as the church seeks to get involved with local social programs. Pray for favor with the government. Pray for direction, that we could truly help people and share Jesus with them. Pray for Volodya, the man from our church that is working through the details with the government.

Pray for the retreat and preparations for it. Especially pray for those teaching. Pray also for receptive hearts. We'll be in different facilities this year, so pray that all the logistics would go smoothly.

Pray for Paulina's 10 day outreach to Ukraine, starting this weekend. Pray for her trips to Peck, Hungary to help with the children's ministry. Pray for her studies and trip home this December.

Pray for direction concerning decisions on a hall and the issues about my own heart in that.

Thanks for praying for us. May God bless you greatly!

In Jesus' love,

Bill for us

As always: Financial support can be sent to, Calvary Fellowship, PO Box 128, Mountlake Terrace, WA, 98403 (or just dropped into an offering box at the church). Please make your check out to, "Calvary Fellowship", earmarking it, "Bill and Ania Shepherd".